

Context

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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Article Linker Streamlines Journal Searches



The Dalhousie Libraries provide access to millions of articles from over 15,000 electronic journal titles, all searchable through dozens of databases. However, the process of searching for journal articles online can be complex and time-consuming. The Libraries have just implemented a new tool to help you obtain individual articles faster and more efficiently than ever. Article Linker, from Serials Solutions, Inc., matches database records with our electronic holdings so that you don't have to track down location information. This is a tremendous time-saver—now there is no need to copy out citations, then search through one database after another to get that perfect article!

Once you have performed a search in one of our subject- or discipline-focused databases, Article Linker uses OpenURL-compliant link resolving technology to present you with all the options available for obtaining individual items. Full-text is often just a single click away, but if it isn't, Article Linker will lead you to the Novanet catalog, our document delivery service, or put you in touch with library staff for further assistance.

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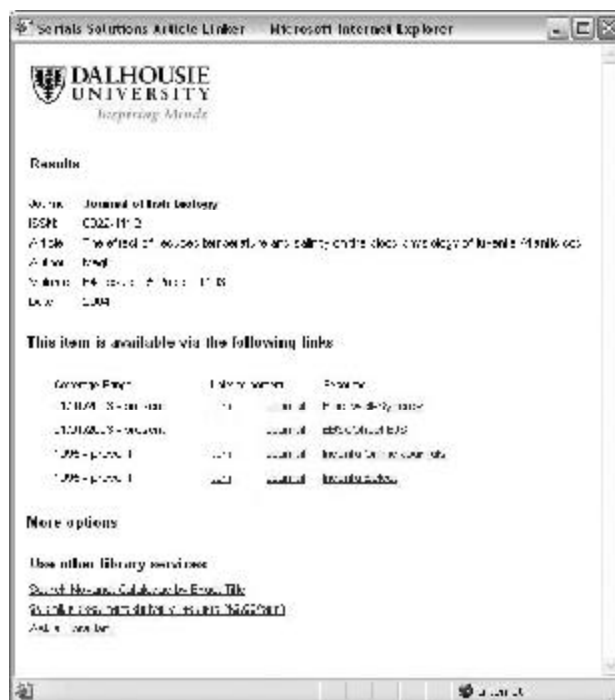
Depending on the database you're searching, you may find a textual or graphical link to Article Linker resources embedded with the search results. Look for links named "Find a copy" or "Find a copy of this article", or the clickable



"DalLink" logo (we're working on making this uniform, but we have limited ability to

change these links). In many cases clicking on these links will take you directly to the item; sometimes a window like the one at right will appear, listing the various options available. Clicking on 'Item' in the "Links to content" column will take you to the article. Clicking on 'Journal' will lead you to the main journal page.

Article Linker is just one of many new tools the Dalhousie Libraries are implementing to help you find the information you need quickly and easily. Watch for major improvements to our website this year, and stay tuned for the introduction of federated searching, which allows users to search across multiple databases simultaneously, thus reducing search time and effort even more. Combined with Article Linker, this is sure to be a big hit! Look for further news in the next issue of *Context*.



A sample of the search options available via Article Linker

Food For Fines: Our Annual "Win/Win" Campaign



In 2002 the Dalhousie Libraries initiated a library-based food drive which has blossomed into an annual event, now participated in by all 10 of the Novanet libraries across the province.

"Food For Fines" works this way: patrons owing fines for library books can donate food items instead of paying their fines. For each food item donated, the libraries reduce fines by \$2, to a maximum of \$20. Cash donations are also accepted, of course, and all food and cash collected are given to local food banks. Everyone wins—library patrons, the food bank, and the libraries.

The Food For Fines campaign has proven so popular that library users begin asking about it every fall. Last year nearly 700 people made donations, and the Novanet libraries waived a total of \$6,321.36 in fines. Food For Fines usually runs for one week in February, just before the study break.

LibQUAL Provides Valuable Library User Feedback

In February 2005, the Dalhousie Libraries are running a major campus-wide survey to determine how our users perceive the quality of the resources and services we offer.

LibQUAL is the first total market survey developed for academic and research libraries. Since its development in 2000, it has been used by over 500 libraries; it is expected that 210 will participate in 2005. The goals of LibQUAL are to:

- foster a culture of excellence in providing library service
- help libraries better understand user perceptions of library service quality
- collect and interpret library user feedback systematically over time
- provide libraries with comparable assessment information from peer institutions
- identify best practices in library service

The Dalhousie Libraries will make the web-based survey available to all Dalhousie faculty, students and staff. The survey includes 22 core questions which cover three dimensions: “Affect of Service,” “Library As Place,” and “Information Control.” The statistics are crunched by LibQual, and within two weeks they provide a summary of results in *pdf* format (participants will also be able to view results in MS Excel format).

The Libraries are planning to make the LibQUAL survey at least a biennial event. We are committed to continuing to meet the ever-changing needs and expectations of our users—we count on you to let us know what these are!

Dalhousie Libraries Welcome New Assistant Map Curator



The Dalhousie Libraries are pleased to welcome Jennifer Milne, who has assumed the position of Assistant Curator, Map and Geospatial Information Collection, effective December 1st, 2004.

Jennifer Milne comes to Dalhousie from the GIS and Cartography Section of the Department of Natural

Resources, where she held the position of Cartographic Technologist. She graduated from the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS) in Lawrencetown, N.S. with a Diploma in Cartography / Digital Mapping. While attending COGS, Jennifer was the recipient of cartographic achievement awards in both her first and second years, as well as an award for excellence in thematic mapping. She was involved in student government, representing her peers as Student Council Vice President. Jennifer also holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Honours) from Acadia University.

Adult education is another professional interest of Jennifer's. She is currently enrolled in the Certificate in Adult Education Program offered by Dalhousie's College of Continuing Education. She hopes to use these skills and knowledge to enhance her role at the Killam Library.

Outside of working hours, Jennifer's interests cover the spectrum from fine arts and classical piano to skiing and hiking. She is often found with her nose buried in a book or her eye behind a camera lens. She meets the challenges and opportunities of her new position with excitement and enthusiasm.

Out there

■ “Google Scholar” It!

Google Scholar, a new enhancement to the Google search engine, enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, pre-prints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, pre-print repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.

Like the Google Web search, Google Scholar orders your search results by how relevant they are to your query, so the most useful references appear at the top of the page. This relevance ranking takes into account the full text of each article as well as the article’s author, the publication in which the article appeared, and how often it has been cited in scholarly literature.

■ Project Will Post Historical Newspapers Online

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress will digitize millions of pages of American historical newsprint and make them searchable online. The first of what is expected to be 30 million digitized pages from papers published from 1836 through 1922 will be available in 2006, replacing the current system of microfilm records of old papers.

Newspapers printed before 1836 will not be included because earlier typefaces cannot be read effectively by optical scanners; newspapers published after 1923 are covered by copyright restrictions.

■ Google to Digitize Millions of Books

In the largest project of its kind ever attempted, Google is launching an ambitious scanning project which will make full text digital copies of some of the world’s largest university library collections available online. The project could span years, and involve scanning and indexing more than 10 million books and periodicals, some of the texts dating back centuries.

Stanford, Harvard and Oxford universities, as well as the University of Michigan and the New York Public Library, are participating in the program.

Nova Scotia Doctor’s Medical Library Online



In 1864 Dr. Charles Cogswell, a prominent Halifax physician, left Canada to take up residence in London, England. In that year he donated a substantial number of books and some journals from his private collection to the Medical Society of Nova Scotia, with the recommendation that a medical library be established. This collection formed the basis of one of the

earliest university medical libraries in Canada. In 1868, the library went to the newly created Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University, and in 1875, the collection became the Library of the Halifax Medical College. In 1911/1912 the collection, which had become known as the Cogswell Memorial Library, moved back to the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine.

In his will dated 1892, Dr. Cogswell bequeathed money and more medical books from his collection to the Halifax Medical College Library. One of the stipulations of the will was that a catalogue of the library should be prepared and printed. This was finally accomplished ten years later, in 1902. This catalogue survives (and is available on the Cogswell website). In fact, a large number of the pre-1864 books from Dr. Cogswell’s original collection remain in the possession of the Dalhousie University Libraries. These are located in Special Collections, on the 5th floor of the Killam Library.

A Hannah Development Grant from Associated Medical Services made it possible to catalogue extant volumes from this collection, and in fall 2004 Tim Ruggles, librarian at the Kellogg Health Sciences Library, completed an online catalogue of the medical books available in 1864. The catalogue offers a unique view of a 19th century physician’s medical library in pre-Confederation Canada. One can browse the collection by author, title, subject, publisher and date. The collection is also searchable. A short biography of Dr. Cogswell, a chronology, and a history of his legacy are also included on the website.

www.library.dal.ca/kellogg/Cogswell_Library_1864/index.htm

Who You Gonna Call? The Conservation Expert!

On November 23, 2004, a large volume of water was accidentally released from a pipe in the machine room on the fifth floor of the Killam Library. Water was soon pouring down through the ceiling over the government document collection shelved on the floor below.

Unfortunately, scenarios like this occur all too frequently in many libraries. How do we handle such situations, and what do we do to protect and repair our collections?

In the case of the flooding at the Killam, staff members from all areas of the library went into action immediately. Wet and damp books were quickly segregated from dry ones, some of which were removed “just in case,” and plastic was spread over the affected area of the stacks. Tables were prepared in the Bindery and Conservation area, and damp books were set up with pages fanned out in front of fans retrieved from all over the library. Staff began to interleave pages of wet books and pamphlets with paper towels, being careful to give top priority to items with clay (i.e., glossy) paper. If the pages of these are allowed to dry unseparated, they will stick together forever and the item will have to be replaced.

As the magnitude of the situation began to be apparent, Library Administration contacted a cold storage facility. Eleven boxes of books and pamphlets were shipped to Atlas Cold Storage in Burnside, staff having first placed wax paper between items and inside covers to keep them from sticking together, and to prevent bleeding of colours. At Atlas the wet materials were frozen to prevent mould and stored until library staff were able to deal with them. Dalhousie Facilities Management was asked to keep the temperature on the fourth floor as low as possible during the next several weeks, also in order to minimize the danger of mould growth.

This story has a relatively happy ending: although many items will continue to show the “scars” resulting from this incident—cockled pages, staining, etc.—relatively few actually had to be rebound and none had to be discarded. The quick action and hard work of staff prevented a major catastrophe. So if some day you find yourself in the stacks wondering “What’s that dripping sound?”, please alert us immediately and we will spring into action again!

Damage control during the flood...



Head of Systems Terry Nikkel, standing under the worst of the flooding, puts plastic sheeting over the book stacks

...and afterwards



Head of Conservation Susan Harris sorts books and government documents just returned from cold storage

People

A Work Day in the Life of...



Mary MacDonald
Head of Circulation
Kellogg Health Sciences Library

Ask Mary MacDonald about any aspect of her job, and you'll lose count of the number of times you hear the words "interesting" and "fascinating."

Since she began working at the Kellogg 24 years ago as a Circulation clerk, Mary has seen the library metamorphose from a place with a few data-entry-only computers to the home of a thriving Learning Commons and an ever-increasing number of electronic resources and services.

Not only has Mary kept pace with the changes—she relishes them. As Head of Serials for 15 years, she honed her skills in dealing with electronic delivery and access. But it's in her current position that Mary is happiest, and she enjoys the public service aspects of her job the most. "You get involved with everything," she says, from Dalhousie's Open House to helping organize an anniversary tea for alumni in the library. "It makes you feel you're part of something greater."

Mary is kept busy working on the Kellogg Reference Desk, selecting materials for several medical subject specialties, supervising Circulation staff, and acting as the much-valued "go to" person for day-to-day technical glitches in the Learning Commons. Twenty-four years at the Kellogg? "I find it fascinating—because you're always learning something!"

Did You Know...?

Instructional Programs

The Dalhousie Libraries offer full instructional programs for both students and faculty, including course-related sessions, drop-in workshops, online and print research guides, and interactive web tutorials on information literacy (for example, check out the online tutorial on *RefWorks* at www.refworks.com/tutorial/).

Faculty can request that a librarian conduct a course-related lecture designed around a specific class assignment. The lecture may be supported by instructional handouts listing important resources, and/or by demonstrations of specific databases.

For details about our instructional sessions, to take a web tutorial, or to make arrangements for a class session visit the "Library Instruction" page on our website at:

www.library.dal.ca/how/instruct.htm#tutorials

Ask Us! Live Chat Reference

Use the Novanet "Live Help" online service to ask a reference question without leaving your computer. Live Help is a chat-based reference service that lets you ask questions and get answers in real time!

Hours of Operation (Atlantic Time):

Monday 1:00 - 5:00, 7:00 - 9:00

Tuesday-Thursday 1:00 - 5:00

Friday 1:00 - 5:00, 6:00 - 9:00

Saturday *No service*

Sunday 6:00 - 9:00

Click on the "Ask Us" link on our home page at www.library.dal.ca/