

Library evaluates full-text database services

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Staff Writer

Starting April 7 and running through most of spring term, the library will be running a test and evaluation of four full-text database services of which one will be chosen for use by students and faculty on the campus computer system.

Available at the library will be the database providers, Pro-Quest, Electric Library, Information Access Company (IAC), and Elton B. Stevens Company (EBSCO).

Shannon Stiles, reference librarian, said, "The database providers we are testing have full text articles ranging from popular magazines to scholarly and professional journals."

The database can be accessed through any of the on-campus computers and at home by students taking part in the distance learning programs.

The data services sometimes provide more than just the full text of articles. They can also provide summaries and citations of journals and magazines that they don't have in their services.

Stiles said, "EBSCO says that it has 1000 journals and magazines in full text, but they also have as part of their database 3000 more journals and magazines that are available in summery or just the citation. If we have an index that will give us access to titles of articles in publication then we can go about trying to locate the full text. Using the same tools we always use, checking to see if PSU has it, checking to see if the University of Oregon has it, we can do inter-library loans."

The library budget allows for only one of the services to be purchased, so at this time the four services are undergoing evaluation by the library staff as well as students and faculty who use any of the four now online on the computer system.

"We want to get as much feedback as we can on the usefulness of each service," said Stiles.

The main purpose of the full-text database is to provide access to magazines and journal articles that students otherwise wouldn't have ac-

cess to.

"It's not intended as a replacement for magazines currently subscribed to. In many instances the article provided by the services are text only and do not include charts, graphs, photos or advertisements."

"The college is moving toward providing distance education to students, providing online courses. We need to be able to provide library support for those kinds of activities," said Stiles.

"We have recognized that the assignments that instructors are giving their students are requiring them to go beyond what we have traditionally have in the library," she added.

Doris Munson, cataloging and systems

librarian, has been the person contacting the database providers and arranged for the free trial at the library.

Evaluation forms are available in the library that students and faculty can fill out to help the librarians choose which service we will use.

"We have a wonderful opportunity this term," she said. "Never again, as far as I can see, will we have four full-text databases services side by side, available to our patrons."

News Briefs

Spring term Authors' Night will feature Portland area writers Tom Spanbauer, Joanna Rose and Chuck Palahniuk. The authors will discuss and read their work Wednesday, April 29, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the McLoughlin Hall Theater.

Garden plots are now being reserved for the annual Green Fingers Community Garden Project. The college prepares the land, assigns gardens and waters them twice a week. First pick on plots goes to gardeners who participated the previous year. The gardens open in mid-May and remain open through mid-November. For more information or to register for a plot, call the Community Recreation Office at ext. 2211.

The Clackamas Collegiate Review, a journal of academic thought, invites submissions from students. Political, social, philosophical non-fiction topics are welcome. MLA citation rules must be followed. Turn papers in to the office of Dean Darris, M214. The deadline is April 16.

Synesthesia Writing Competition: The on campus literary magazine, Synesthesia, is holding a writing competition. Students may submit as many as three poems and one short story, up to 2,000 words, with a cover sheet that includes student's name, address, phone, social security number and a one-paragraph biography. On the entry itself, include only the social security number on each page. Deadline is April 15 at 5 p.m. Turn submissions in to Kate Gray's office, M232. Include a hard copy and a copy on disk.

The college's first annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by ASG, will be held on April 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children from birth to sixth grade are welcome to attend the event at the Community Center.

Student Government and Instructional Services sponsor College Conversation, students chance to "ask the president" questions and bring up concerns. The conversation with President John Keyser will be in CCI27 Tuesday, April 14, 12-1:30 p.m.

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