

# Research time cut down by e-books

**Michael Cooper**  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

A myriad of reference books are available as of the end of October thanks to the library's newest tool in providing students with research material: e-books.

A total of 1,100 books were purchased and are now available online by way of the college's online catalog, Cougar Cat (library.clackamas.edu). Fifty-three of these volumes are also in the library's Reference Center, and can now be keyword-searched all at once. The remaining 1,057 titles are only available online, so there is no physical copy on the library shelf.

The online checkout period is 24 hours, and the book can be read page-by-page on any computer in the world.

In order to search Cougar Cat for the e-books, a student must be registered at a computer on the CCC campus. Once registered, one can do research at any time, from any computer with Internet access.

The one drawback of this technological advance is that once a book is checked out from Cougar Cat, another student cannot check that same book out until it is checked back in. This is done either automatically at the end of its 24-hour period, or by clicking the "check-in book" button on the website.

"We're on the cusp of human his-

tory where no one's ever been before...It's like Star Trek!" said Reference Librarian Terry Mackey, who coordinated the purchase of the new e-books.

The company that the e-book service was bought from, OCLC, gave the library a good deal, according to Mackey. The company's purpose is to serve librarians.

Their product, NetLibrary, costs roughly \$7,000 a year to subscribe to, while the e-books themselves cost a total of \$950. That means that each book cost about \$0.83 each to buy, and \$6.36 each to subscribe to for a full year.

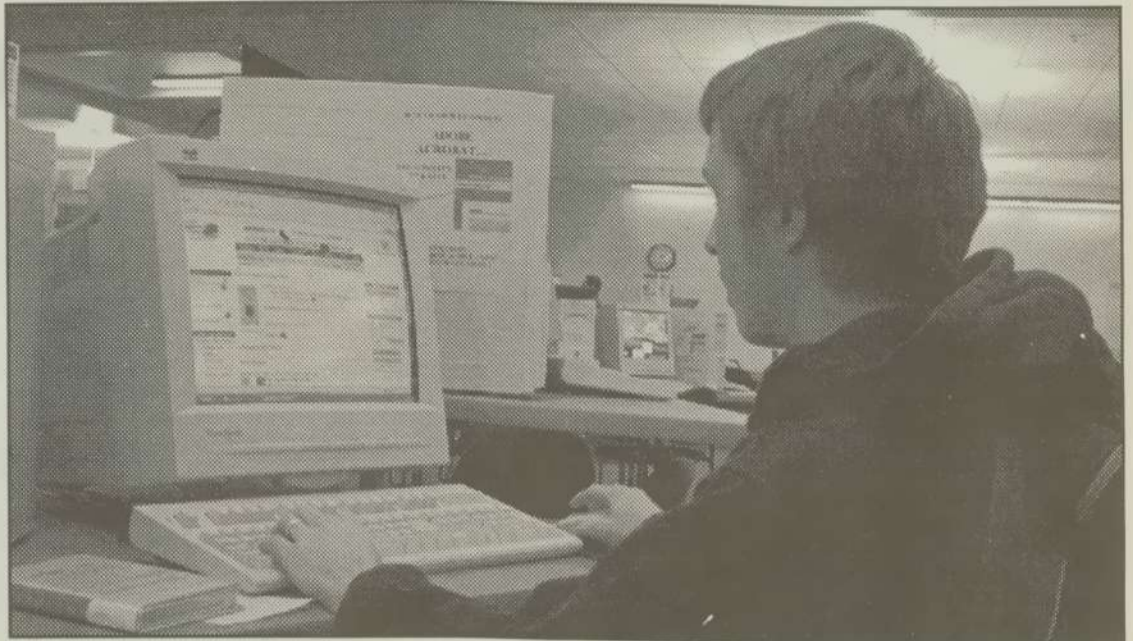
All things considered, this service is quite a bit cheaper than buying physical copies of each book.

The funding for NetLibrary came through a decision package last year for the library. If the college decides not to grant another \$7,000 to the library at the end of this year, the service will disappear.

"We [would be] on the brink of human history for one year, then fall off [if the service is not renewed]," said Mackey.

The genres of books available through NetLibrary range from business to poetry, from computer texts to essay collections. A keyword search can bring up much more than one might think on a simple subject.

For example, while a reference librarian might refer a student to a book on the history of American



CORY PRICE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Student Chris Oestman was quite interested in the idea of using e-books when he learned about the new research method while working in the library on Wednesday.

broadcasting to research censorship, neither librarian nor student may think to look in a book on feminist theories or cinema studies. The computer, however, would make that connection. Mackey sees a lot of potential in such a search.

"One book, one piece of information. Now the book [itself] isn't

important: it's the idea," she said.

With a full text search of 1,100 books of all different types and subjects, a student can now find a vast amount of relevant information on any research topic.

"You're getting it from all these different angles," said Mackey.

According to Mackey, NetLibrary

has provided the college with more books than they paid for. With the purchase of the new e-books came access to even more free research material.

"We're just hitting the tip of the iceberg...There are actually 62,000 books [available online]!" said Mackey.

## Students express concern regarding use of U.S. military in Iraq

**James Tombe**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Despite the lack of a large military presence in this state, many Oregonians have some connection to the armed forces, whether through relatives, friends or personal experience.

But where do the students at Clackamas stand on events involving our military in Iraq?

Student Casey Knight has strong ties to the military, with five consecutive generations of West Point grad-

uates in his family. His grandfather is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Army. Knight's views show a concern over a military that is possibly spreading itself too thin.

"I think the U.S. tries way too hard to be the international father and peacekeeper," said Knight. "We should mind our own business."

Many other students seem to reflect this opinion as well.

"I think we're doing good things, but for the wrong reasons," one student claimed. Another admitted that

the situation was a lot more complicated than most realize.

"I do not think that war is a good thing," she said, "but I do believe that this conflict was necessary in the beginning and don't believe that we could pull out now without putting ourselves in danger of more home-front and overseas attacks."

Others are more apprehensive about the actions of the United States government and its methods of gaining and keeping control, like student Adam Balyamwalla, whose father earned his U.S. citizenship by fighting in the Vietnam war.

"As a half-Pakistani, I am very concerned with the military campaigning that is occurring in that part of the world," Balyamwalla said. "I also worry about our country's actions, as well as their execution of these actions."

Balyamwalla went on to express his concern about automated missile systems causing accidental misfires, fratricide and the spread of radioactive materials in nuclear testing, such as Strontium 90, which mimics calcium and is absorbed into the bones when ingested.

Some students are concerned about creating definite goals before sending out the military, like Peter Shmeer.

"The U.S. is generally sticking its nose where it doesn't belong," Shmeer said, echoing several other students' concerns. "Our government comes up with weak excuses for military action. 'Terrorism' becomes an end-all explanation."

Student Jake Carpenter, like many others, feels that the war on terrorism is a double-edged sword and a source of confusion about our government's



MORRY GASH ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jose Valero marches with others at the national anti-war rally on Feb. 15, 2003 that took place in Wausau, Wis.

objectives.

"When the Twin Towers in New York fell, it caused the war on terrorism to begin," Carpenter said. "Now we're after Saddam, but what about bin-Laden?"

Carpenter described his theory that American military actions are playing right into Osama bin-Laden's hands.

"What were bin-Laden's demands?" Carpenter asked. "U.S. troops out of Afghanistan—done. He wanted Saddam out of power—done. And his last request is a holy war between Muslims and Jews, which good ol' G.W. seems to be working on right now."

Although there are American troops currently in Afghanistan, the worry still exists that the United States is playing into the hands of terrorists by getting involved in the

Middle East.

However, by focusing on the politics of military actions, there is the danger of losing focus on the human element of war: neglecting the individual Iraqi citizens trying to care for their families, or forgetting about the soldiers separated from their own families by thousands of miles of sand and water.

"Get the heck out!" advised Clackamas student Trevor Rauch. "We are getting Americans killed even after 'mission accomplished.'"

Whether United States foreign policy or the rules of engagement will change due to events unfolding in Iraq, remains to be seen. Students' concerns about the use of the military may or may not be answered satisfactorily. But one thing is certain: they are watching.



GRANT M. HALLER SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

During the war in Iraq, a soldier painted this sign of patriotism on an F-18E Super Hornet on the Lincoln.

### Veteran's Services at Clackamas Community College

**Work-Study Assistance Program**

-Pays minimum wage, \$6.90 in Oregon, but it's tax free

-Variety of schools/government agencies are available

-Wide range of jobs are available on a term-by-term basis

-Must be going to school at least three-fourths of the time

-Must be currently eligible for the educational program (GI. Bill)

**Educational Program GI. Bill**

-Up to \$985 per month (\$282 for reserves) for up to 36 months

-It's as easy as a phone call each month to receive benefits

-Expires 10 years after separation from service (or 14 years after becoming eligible for reserves)

-Veterans Affairs sends the funds each month after school starts.

To get started on either of these benefits, just bring in a copy of your DD214 (DD2384 1 for reserves) and current class schedule.

NOTE: Dependents of deceased/100 percent disabled veterans may also be eligible for these benefits.

For more information, contact Sharon Pellham, veterans services coordinator, at ext. 2554 or by email: [Spellham@clackamas.edu](mailto:Spellham@clackamas.edu).

### A NEW CLUB??

Have you returned to college after many years of working, playing and living your life? Are you sometimes lost, not sure of where to turn during your new venture at CCC?



If so, become part of forming a new club here on campus!

For more info, email Earl England at [olderccc@yahoo.com](mailto:olderccc@yahoo.com)