Tuma's Wondrous Web World

Those Were the Days
What happened on this day in history? Find out at this site. In addition to newsworthy events, you'll find lists of who was born on this date, and even a list of chart toppers, for a musical stroll down memory lane. A charming extensive list.
http://www.440.com/twtd/today.html

Maps of Countries
All of you who are parents should know about Yahooligans, the award-winning metasite for kids that Yahoo established. Yahooligans also has some features that are handy for grownups, too, like this site of maps that are easy to locate and view. The maps vary in detail and coloration, but for a quick reference, this is an excellent choice.

Personal Growth and Development
Newsweek says this site offers "instructions on all of the life skills your parents forgot to teach you." Learn2.com features hundreds of tutorials on everything from cleaning your computer to changing your oil to correctly performing the Heimlich maneuver. Topics may be searched by keyword or broad topic category.
http://www.learn2.com/

FOLDOC
The Free On-Line Dictionary of Computing. This searchable dictionary is comprehensive! In the words of the maintainer, Denis Howe, "FOLDOC aims to provide a one-stop source of information about all computing terms and includes many useful cross-references and pointers to related resources elsewhere on the Internet." The next time you need a computer-related definition, FOLDOC is the place to go.
http://wombat.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/index.html

Congratulations!
The Index is Done!

Dear Tech Services Web Team:

Congratulations! The long discussed/awaited index to our Library Web site is finished; all pages are indexed that need to be indexed (not including the Intranet, which will be indexed separately). Our index is now almost 178K in size, and the headings list alone is over 16 pages long when printed out.

You all worked very hard on this, and I hope you will take some time to look over the finished results and do some browsing. This should be a major timesaver for our users and will make many pages accessible that previously were buried several layers deep in our site. I hope to send out a libraryall message about the index early next week, once I've had a chance to scan it over more closely.

Thanks for all your hard work,
Lamont

Kay Tuma
"To the person with a hammer everything looks like a nail."

PC Mechanic
Breaking Down Walls

As the DOS tide ebbs away, it leaves in its wake indescribably loathsome debris, stinking in the sun like a seven-day-old rotting mackerel. (No, I haven't really lost my mind, but I always wanted to write a really dreadful opening line like that for one of these articles.) But seriously, folks... Well, let's start over.

One of the legacies of the DOS era is a mindset, formed as a result of two factors. First, unless you were willing to tinker with some really shaky and unreliable software, you could only run one program at once. Second, every DOS program seemed to be different, with its own file format, commands, and user interface. As a result, we tended to automatically think in terms of programs, not information.

What has changed? Today it seems as if every program is capable of reading every other program's files (except when you really need it to, of course). Although it's a bit much to expect a two-year-old program to read files from another program fresh off the press, you can usually work in the other direction without problems.

Not only that, but in the Windows environment you can easily run two, three, or more programs simultaneously. You can usually cut and paste information on the screen from one program to another even if the programs don't understand each others' file formats.

The key here is that it isn't the programs that are important, it's the information you're working with. That information can move from one program to another as easily as an eel through Lake Erie (uh oh, more fish metaphors...).

Let's look at a real-world example. Microsoft Access is a database program which you can purchase separately or as part of Microsoft Office. For creating a database, including generating data entry forms, sorting, searching, etc. it's one of the most powerful and user-friendly ones on the market. What it's not all that friendly about is creating anything other than the crudest reports, unless you're willing to spend a considerable amount of time studying its less obvious nooks and crannies.

Microsoft Word, on the other hand, is exceptionally friendly when it comes to creating the kind of reports frequently encountered in an office setting, such as mailing lists, form letters, etc. But for creating any kind of large database, it's clumsy at best.

Bad news. Can't have it all. Gotta make a hard choice. Well, actually, no, you don't. Create your database in Access, use its easily created data entry forms to enter and edit your data, and its powerful search capabilities to create subsets of your data (such as a list of everyone in your database who lives in Pahrump and has a last name starting with X). Then create your mailing list address labels, and form letters in Word.

That's right, Word will read your Access database just fine. Just give it the Access filename when prompted for the data source for your labels or whatever. "You can't do that! (Can they do that?)" Of course you can. But if you grew up with DOS it might not occur to you.

Every program has strong points and weak points (Actually, there are some programs that have only weak points, but let's not talk about that now). Knowing the tools (i.e. software) well enough to know which ones to use for which jobs is part of what distinguishes the artist from the dabbler.

Remember the old adage (here very freely paraphrased), "To the person with a hammer everything looks like a nail." If you can recognize that the task in front of you requires that you dig out four or five tools instead of just one in order to do the job more quickly and professionally you're a good part of the way there.

Kathy Rothermel

Technology Booklist


Lamont Dowas
Technical Services Web Team

Resources Now Online

The Technical Services Web Team has made its extensive collection of graphics (clipart, backgrounds, etc.) available to the entire Dickinson Library Community via the Intranet, as well as Web policies, links to helpful external sites, and other useful materials. You can access the TSWT home page at http://www.nscee.edu/unlv/Libraries/libstuffs/sect/tech/tswt/tswt.html (now there’s a mouthful!)--or choose Sections from the Intranet home page and then take the Technical Services Web Team link. (You can also get there via the Intranet’s new keyphrase index by clicking the Index button at the bottom of the page.) In addition to over 1600 graphics files, with just about every imaginable background, line, border or whatever, ready to use in your own pages, you can access sites such as Colormaker (which lets you see how different colors of text and backgrounds interact), online HTML manuals, an HTML page template, and other goodies. The TSWT home page also provides the Library’s policies on making pages accessible to the visually disabled, broken links, and other issues you should be aware of if you’re creating pages for your section or unit.

Drop in for a visit when you get a chance!

Lamont Downs

Intranet NEW Section
& Intranet Index

A ‘NEW’ feature has been added to the libraries’ Intranet page. Now, when you connect to the Intranet home page you will see a short list of all the latest postings, complete with links to them. This list will change frequently, usually one or more times a week, so you can always see what has been added since you last checked. You are provided with a direct link to the newest additions. When items drop off of this list, they will still be available via their respective areas of the home page, and with the addition of the Intranet index, finding pertinent material is greatly enhanced.

But the TSWT brings you even MORE! A NEW ... Intranet index!! ... Now you can go to any page of our Intranet site and find a button at the bottom which will take you to the Intranet index. This is a computer generated keyword and keyphrase list of topics to be found on the site with hot links to the pertinent pages. No more having to move through the heirarchy of pages to try and find material on a particular subject; a quick click on the index button and you can easily see what topics are covered. Come try it out and see if it doesn’t make information retrieval easier.

By now you should all be aware of the new index to the Libraries’ Web site and how it has improved access to the information contained there.

Laralee P. Nelson

Nevada Newspaper List on the Internet

This database was created as a convenient reference and access tool for the microfilm collection of the Nevada Newspapers. There are four sorts to this database:

- Nevada Newspapers by City
- Alphabetical index by title to Nevada Newspapers
- Nevada Newspapers by Title
- Nevada Newspapers by County

A helpful hint to finding what the researcher needs is to start with the Nevada Newspapers by City sort and select a city that is desired. All entries will come up chronologically by date in addition to giving title and holdings information. This was not possible with our paper copy version. This feature is vital to researchers. Please remember that we are adding backsets to this collection as well as new titles. The database will be adjusted appropriately to reflect the new additions.

The URL for this list is http://www.nscee.edu/unlv/Libraries/services/micro/nevnews/nevtitle.html

Chris Wiatrowski

"A NEW Intranet Index!!"

Page 3
Looking for a Nugget?

News Flash! Library Web Site has Index!

Yes, it's true. The Technical Services Web Team is proud to announce the addition of a key phrase index to the Library's World Wide Web site, making it much easier to find that nugget you were looking for without having to remember the (sometimes convoluted) path to get there. Just click on the Help/Search button (found at the bottom of virtually every page on our site) and then click on Index when the Help! page comes up.

This is not a "search engine," but an actual index computer-generated from key phrases assigned to each page when it's created or edited. If you don't find a search term you think should be present, or if you're not satisfied with the key phrases assigned to a page, please let the Web Team know by emailing me (downs@nevada.edu) or any other member of the Team. The index will be updated at least once a week as new postings require.

This index does not cover the Library Intranet, since we don't want the pages there to be accessible to the general public.

Lamont Downs

More Electronic Indexes Available

It's time for an update on our NEON Web system. There have been numerous changes since I last wrote something for TechNotes. There are now twelve NEON Web workstations up and running in the Reference area. This article will focus on the Indexes to Journal Articles page. The list of indexes to journal articles available via NEON Web has grown to nineteen! The following is a list of what is now available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Index</th>
<th>Subject(s) Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Index</td>
<td>art &amp; architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINAHL</td>
<td>nursing &amp; allied health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compendex</td>
<td>engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice Abstracts</td>
<td>criminology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECONLIT</td>
<td>economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERIC*</td>
<td>education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanded Academic ASAP</td>
<td>various subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General BusinessFile$</td>
<td>business &amp; trade journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOREF</td>
<td>geosciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOP Electronic Journals</td>
<td>Institute of Physics journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Literature</td>
<td>library science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MathSciNet</td>
<td>pure &amp; applied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDLINE</td>
<td>biomedicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLA International Bibliography</td>
<td>literature, language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTIS</td>
<td>linguistics &amp; folklore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAIS</td>
<td>U.S. Government sponsored research &amp; engineering reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work Abstracts</td>
<td>public &amp; social policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCOVER</td>
<td>social work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ERIC is no longer available via FirstSearch yet it is still available on the CD-ROM Lan in the main Reference area. General BusinessFile$ includes the database Company Profiles. The URL for accessing the NEON Web Indexes to Journal Articles webpage is: http://www.nvsece.edu/unlv/Libraries/neonweb/indexes.html. It will be exciting to have all of this available for students this fall! So far, the reaction of our users has been very positive! If you have any mathematics questions, please contact me or any of the bibliographers.

Susan Biggs