Library without Walls – Palm Desert’s Electronic Library
by Stacy Magedanz

If you walk into the library at CSUSB’s Palm Desert Campus (PDC), you might be surprised to find yourself in a large room full of sleek computers with only a couple of bookshelves standing against the far wall. But the PDC library can still offer students and faculty thousands of magazines, newspapers, scholarly journals, research indexes, and books — all electronic. As a branch of the CSUSB library, PDC has access to all the online library resources and services available at the main campus. And when only a physical book will do, a copy can be delivered from main campus by courier within a couple of days.

Coordinator Bonnie Butterfield and half-time assistant Janeen McClain keep the Helene A. Hixson Information Center humming. While they don’t shelve many books, they do everything else you’d expect from a library: introducing students to the basics of researching and writing papers; providing library instruction to help library users make the best use of online resources; and helping faculty get their class notes, assigned readings, and other course materials into the Electronic Reserves, with the valuable help of Pfau Library’s Sylvia Cardenas.

The PDC library is equipped with the latest instructional technology, including a ceiling-mounted LCD projector, wireless keyboard, and cordless mouse. This and the 27 computer stations allow the PDC library staff to provide customized, hands-on library instruction for an entire class. Because the Hixson Information Center facility doubles as a computer lab, Bonnie and Janeen help students master the finer points of office software. The library regularly offers Coyote OneCard photo sessions for PDC students who wish to have a campus ID card. A jack-of-all-trades, Bonnie has also designed and maintained the entire PDC Web site for seven years.

Bonnie comments, “I love seeing the transformation of a new student who comes into the Electronic Library with long-standing ‘computer anxiety,’ and who later graduates as a confident, tech-oriented person. They become valuable additions to the high-tech schools and businesses throughout the Coachella Valley.”

One Search to Rule Them All – ExpertSearch
by Brent Singleton

Have you ever had to perform the same search across several databases and wished you could search them all at the same time? ExpertSearch might help you do just that.

In conjunction with a CSU system-wide initiative, a committee of Pfau Library librarians has implemented a new database-searching service called ExpertSearch. ExpertSearch is the name of the metasearch product distributed by Ex Libris, which has been customized specifically for our campus. This new database service allows users to search up to ten databases simultaneously. Users can define the databases that they want to search, or search predefined database sets by subject. There are several database types that are searchable, ranging from subscription article databases, such as EBSCOhost, to library catalogs and free government sites. Unfortunately, not all of the databases to which the library subscribes are currently searchable in ExpertSearch because some database vendors do not use the z39.50 search protocol.

Over time you will notice that more databases will become searchable in ExpertSearch as the vendors meet basic metasearch standards.

Other features of ExpertSearch include the ability to search for databases by title or subject, or by browsing alphabetical listings. Users can also search or browse for electronic journals subscribed to by the library. Every user with a valid Coyote OneCard can establish a personalized account, which allows for saving user-defined searchable database sets, specific searches, and groups of records. In addition, search alerts can be established that will periodically run user-established searches and email the results to the user automatically.

ExpertSearch is accessible from the library’s Web site at: http://www.lib.csusb.edu/
In 1963 there was no California State University, San Bernardino. There was, however, President John M. Pfau. Dr. Pfau appointed Arthur E. Nelson to be college librarian on the first day of April, 1963. Since no library existed either, the library had its start in a warehouse on South Lugo Avenue in San Bernardino. Nelson began building two identical collections simultaneously, for the new campuses at San Bernardino and Dominguez Hills, both of which were slated to open at the same time.

The initial 50,000-volume library was moved to the new campus during the summer of 1965, in the south end of what is now Sierra Hall, and opened its doors in September with the start of first academic term at California State College, San Bernardino.

The first librarian hired by Nelson in 1963 was the late James Segesta, who soon left to join Cal. State, Bakersfield; he was followed in 1966 by Marty Bloomberg, the first head of technical services. The first reference librarian, the late Jeanette Bernthaler, was hired in 1965; she became head of public services.

Construction on a permanent library building began in 1968, and the structure was finally occupied, after a year’s delay due to bad weather, in the summer of 1971. The structure was named for Dr. Pfau, founding president of the campus, upon his retirement in 1982. Cal State officially became a university in 1984. The library began cataloging books online in 1978, adopted its first automated circulation system in academic year 1982/83, and finally replaced the old card catalog with an electronic system in academic year 1989/90.

Art Nelson retired as library director in 1988. He was followed by Dr. William Aguilar from 1989-1993, under the new title of university librarian; after Aguilar’s promotion to vice president of the newly-created Information Resources & Technology (IRT) Division, Johnnie Ann Ralph, his associate director, assumed the reins. An annex to the main building, now called “The Wedge,” was completed under her direction in 1994.

The initial library collection has grown from its modest beginnings in 1965 to 750,000 physical volumes in 2005, plus 70 electronic databases and 24,000 online journals. The current staff includes the university librarian Johnnie Ann Ralph, 11 library faculty members, and 26 support and technology staff members.

Michael Burgess is the head of collection development. He has observed and participated in the remarkable changes on the campus and in the library during the last 35 years.
**Timeline Facts**

April 29, 1960 – Governor Brown signs legislation creating a state college to serve San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

February 1963 – College site chosen from 26 sites originally considered. The original name San Bernardino-Riverside State College, was changed to California State College at San Bernardino.

August 1963-August 1965 – Library collection was being assembled and stored in warehouse at 731 South Lugo.

December 1, 1964 – Groundbreaking begins on the initial buildings for the new Cal. State campus.

September 28, 1965 – Cal. State’s doors open to the pioneer class of 293 students.

September 1965 – Library opened in one of three initial buildings.


May 4, 1966 – Dr. Pfau is inaugurated as Cal. State’s founding president.

June 10, 1967 – Fifty-nine students become Cal. State’s first graduates.


June 1971 – With construction completed on the five-story library/classroom building, the library collection is moved to the campus’s newest, largest structure.

**Library Goings On**

- William Aguilar, vice president of Information Resources and Technology (IRT), 15 years of service. Dr. Aguilar will assume the position of vice president for University Advancement. An acting vice president of IRT will be announced by March 1, 2005.
- Lisa Bartle, reference librarian, is the coordinator for the CSU/ETS Information Competency Testing Project.
- Iwona Contreras was hired as Administrative Analyst Specialist on Oct. 1, 2204. Iwona maintains library budgets in collection development and library administration. Iwona received a B.S. degree in Health Sciences from CSUSB and comes to this position from working in the College of Extended Learning.
- Shaun Geer, operating systems analyst, celebrates 10 years of service.
- Lois Hill, library assistant III, celebrates 30 years of service.
- Annie Hopkins, library assistant III, has been reassigned as of Feb. 1, 2005 to the special cataloging department, performing database maintenance and cataloging.
- Carrie Lowe, library assistant II, celebrates 10 years of service.
- Johnnie Ann Ralph, university librarian, is serving on the university’s task force to review the university’s strategic plan.
- Madeline Terrazas, library assistant III, celebrates 20 years of service.
The Library Associates was founded to promote the relationship between the University, its library, and the community, increase public awareness of the resources and services of the John M. Pfau Library, and sponsor cultural programs such as exhibits, lectures and other events. Members of the Library Associates make full use of the library, including borrowing library materials on the same basis as CSUSB students, reference assistance, and low cost interlibrary loan service.

Categories of membership:

- Single/Family: $30.00 per year
- Business: $50.00 per year
- Life Member: $250

Membership applications are available at the Pfau Library Circulation Desk, or call (909) 880-5090.

Larry Sheffield will discuss the colorful 150-year history of Colton, California. Known as the “Hub City,” Colton is the only place in the United States where the Union Pacific and the Burlington, Northern and Santa Fe railroads cross. Virgil Earp served as Colton’s first marshal. Larry has published three books on Colton, is an active member of the Colton Area Museum, and a contributor to both The Sun and The Colton City News. Please join us for fascinating insights and pictorial history of Colton’s many contributions to the history of San Bernardino County.