Language, Literature and Compact Discs
by Laura Fuderer

The application of electronic technology to literary texts and research has existed for many years. Most scholars have been aware of the advantages of an online search of the MLA International Bibliography of Books and Articles on the Modern Languages and Literatures (MLA), for example. Similarly, the conversion of the records of the Libraries' holdings to machine-readable form (resulting in the so-called "OPAC" or online public access catalog, called "UNLOC" at Notre Dame) has vastly increased the intellectual access to those holdings. More recently the availability of various kinds of literary databases on CD-ROM amounts to another step in the application of electronic technology to the humanities. The literary CDs available in the Hesburgh Library now include the MLA, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the Eighteenth-Century Short-Title Catalogue database (ESTC), and Wordcruncher (a CD that contains a variety of full texts).

Two of the major reasons for using electronic databases are speed and convenience (once the software is mastered). The four CDs mentioned above have complete or partial print equivalents, but the computer access allows their use in ways that would take a team of researchers hundreds of hours if not many years to achieve.

The functions of the four CDs are essentially the same as those of their print equivalents. The MLA lists books and indexes periodicals; the OED answers questions about semantics of English and its mother languages; the ESTC lists all books printed in the 18th century in any language in Britain and in English elsewhere; and Wordcruncher allows the searching for specific words in texts in the manner of a "KWIC" (keyword-in-context) concordance.

The MLA CD has rendered virtually unnecessary the need to ask a librarian to do an online database search. The CD contains all citations listed in the annual bibliographies since January 1981 and is updated quarterly. It is searchable in three modes: the "Browse" mode is the simplest but also the least flexible because it allows only a simple subject or name search. The "Wilsen" mode is the default mode which the user automatically sees upon activating the system. Being menu-driven the "Wilsen" mode is also very simple, but it allows the user to combine terms with "and" and "or" and limit or extend the search to subject, author and keywords. The third mode is "Wilsonline," which must be activated by the user. This mode is the most flexible and rewarding because it allows the type of sophisticated keyword search.
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20th century and the theology of suffering and death.

In 1988, Scott began working with his mentor, Martin Marty of the University of Chicago, on a major interdisciplinary, cross-cultural study of worldwide religious resurgence. As co-director of The Fundamentalism Project, sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Scott recruited 150 scholars from five continents and seven religious traditions and organized ten public conferences over five years. He helped to conceptualize the various phases of the Project, edited the six scholarly volumes published by the University of Chicago Press and co-authored two popular volumes presenting the findings of the Project to the non-specialist public. In 1992, he was consultant to an NPR radio and PBS television series based on the Project entitled "The Glory and the Power: Fundamentalisms Observed."

In addition to completing The Fundamentalism Project, Scott co-directs two Lilly Endowment projects related to his interest in the inner vitality and public presence of contemporary Christian churches and communities. The Valparaiso Project on Education and Formation in Faith, directed by Dorothy Bass and consisting of three large working groups, attempts to discover, describe and analyze historical and contemporary examples of successful Christian efforts to advance what Alasdair MacIntyre calls "the Christian argument" -- the ongoing effort to convey the Christian tradition in terms and symbols which resonate with the contemporary community of believers and potential believers. Scott directs the group plumbing American history for such examples.

With Mary Jo Weaver at Indiana University, Scott currently directs another Lilly project entitled "Mapping American Catholicism," an attempt to assess the state of the American church 30 years after the Second Vatican Council. The first volume of the study, to be published in 1995, focuses on "conservative Catholicism" and includes essays by Appleby, Weaver, George Weigel, the president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, Joseph Komonchak, historical theologian at Catholic University, James Hitchcock, historian at St. Louis University, Helen Hitchcock, the founder of Women for Faith and Family, James Sullivan, an official of Catholics United for Faith, Alan Deck, a specialist in Hispanic theology and history, and Benedict Ashley, O.P., moral theologian.

Scott hopes to continue to pursue his various areas of interest as director of the Coshwa Center. Recognizing that his plans are ambitious, Scott's first decision as director was to hire Barbara Lockwood as his assistant. A very capable and talented woman, Barbara worked closely with Scott on The Fundamentalism Project and was responsible for its day-to-day management. Barbara will continue to perform many of the same duties for the Coshwa Center -- balancing budgets, answering correspondence, planning conferences and assisting in the preparation of the newsletter.

As far as future plans are concerned, Scott intends to continue all of the programs, seminars and fellowships initiated by Jay Dolan and to obtain additional funding for some of the many Coshwa Center activities. Eventually he hopes to extend the work of the Coshwa Center to include comparative studies of religion and culture. He also plans to sponsor systematic, interdisciplinary discussions of the unity, diversity and public philosophy of the Catholic Church in the United States and of the church's role in ecumenical efforts to fortify the role of religion in the public sphere. As this plan unfolds over the next several years, the Center will remain grounded in the historical study of religion and retain its focus on American Catholicism.

Author of several books and articles, Scott recently published Church and Age Unite! The Modernist Impulse in American Catholicism, a revision of his doctoral dissertation which won the 1991 Notre Dame Studies in American Catholicism Award from the University of Notre Dame Press. With Jay Dolan and others, he co-authored Transforming Parish Ministry: The Changing Roles of Clergy, Laity, and Women Religious published by Crossroad in 1989. Scott has contributed articles and essays to a number of journals, including Foreign Affairs, Harvard Theological Review, American Journal of Education, Church History, Christian Century, and U.S. Catholic Historian. Scott continues to lecture on modern world religions.

Scott leads a full and busy family life as well. Since 1982, when their first child was born, Scott and his wife Peggy, a 1978 graduate of Saint Mary's College, have been raising a family which now numbers four children; all of them attend Christ the King School in South Bend. We are very pleased to welcome Scott and his family to Notre Dame and we wish them the best of luck in the years to come.
The installation of compact shelving in the Hesburgh Library basement would solve the collection storage problems of all libraries on the Notre Dame campus for at least 10 years, by which time technological advances may offer other approaches to library space issues.

Libraries have other functions beyond storing collections. One of the most important from a student’s point of view is the provision of a suitable atmosphere for study. A survey was sent to 647 randomly selected students to determine the uses they make of Hesburgh Library. Two thirds of the 271 respondents reported coming into the building at least once a week, usually to study using their own materials. Although Hesburgh Library is open until 2 a.m., a sizable number do not find the Library’s hours to be adequate to fully meet their study needs. It is clear that the provision of reader space is an important function which cannot be neglected.

An examination of national standards indicates that the number of seats presently available to Notre Dame’s students is adequate, but just barely so; none can be lost. Beyond sheer quantity of seats is a qualitative issue of ambience, and here Hesburgh Library is sorely lacking. Much of the reader space is concentrated on the second floor, which can be crowded and very noisy in the evenings. Seating which is dedicated to the special needs of graduate students is in short supply. The chairs available in the reading areas are, by and large, those that came with the building when it opened 30 years ago. A comprehensive rearrangement is recommended which would break up some of the large and noisy reading areas, add more rooms for group study and provide an enlarged and enhanced area tailored specially for the needs of graduate students. A section of the basement could be set aside and made available for study on a 24-hour basis. Replacement of the 30-year-old chairs is essential both for looks and for comfort.

An extensive study was done of current working conditions of the Library’s employees and a comparison was made with national guidelines. About 24 percent more space needs to be allocated to bring staff working areas up to acceptable standards. Relocation of some departments would allow for easier access by library users and/or increased efficiency of workflow for employees. The Task Force report offers several alternative layouts for the first and second floors and the basement level and makes suggestions regarding some relocations to Tower floors. It is strongly recommended that a professional library space planning consultant be engaged to review the work of the Task Force and to make recommendations regarding the most appropriate future use of space.

All of these plans hinge on the Library’s ability to assume nearly full occupancy of its building. Since an extended sequence of external relocations would have to occur, the time frame to implement any such scheme is likely to be three to ten years. Still, it is necessary to
reach overall conceptual agreement on a plan which then can be implemented in stages as space becomes available. Failure to do so will force the Library either to transfer materials to a remote storage location or to remove reader seating.

A copy of the full text of the Final Report of the Library Space Planning Task Force is available at the Reserve Book Room of Hesburgh Library. The Task Force was chaired by Marsha Stevenson and its members included Bart Burk, Dorothy Coil, Janis Johnston, Pamela Nicholas, Robert Ringel, George Sereiko and Nancy Thomas. Questions or comments are invited and should be directed to Marsha Stevenson in the Reference Department, Hesburgh Library, 631-7665.

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searching similar to that in UNLOC. If you have mastered UNLOC you can do advanced searching in the MLA CD with little difficulty. An instruction booklet is available at the Reference Desk in the Hesburgh Library.

The OED on CD gives you instant access to the entire 20 volumes of text in the second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary. This means that one can search and combine subject words, terms from the definitions, parts of speech, etymological derivations, authors and dates of quotations used in the etymologies, or terms from other fields. Obviously this permits a type of use that is impossible using the print volumes. For example, one can retrieve all the quotations from the works of Aphra Behn and discover interesting sidelights such as her usage of the sarcastic epithet "his dogship" long before John Ruskin thought of it.

Unfortunately, users must be aware that this particular CD presents problems, a major one being the complexity of the "Windows" software. Unless you are an old hand at using "Windows" you may have to resign yourself to spending some hours reading the manual (available at the Reference Desk). The other big problem, the absence of any print capability, may be resolved by the time this article is published. The appearance of a "new improved" version from the publisher, Oxford University Press, is imminent.

The ESTC CD is a bibliographic database which, like many bibliographies, offers a great deal of information about its subject in addition to providing citations, "Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue" actually can refer to any of four distinct creations. One is the online electronic database available through a national network called RLIN; at Notre Dame a search of the online ESTC must be provided by an intermediary in the person of a librarian. Another manifestation is The Eighteenth Century: Guide to the Microfilm Collection, a seven-volume print catalog that was published in 1984. This is available in the reference collection but the obvious shortcoming is that it includes none of the records that have been added to the online database for the last 10 years. Thirdly, ESTC may refer to "The Eighteenth-Century Collection," a microfilm collection of the actual texts listed in the database. Hesburgh Library holds one portion of the literary unit of this collection and should complete that unit next year. The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor is one of the few institutions in this region of the country that may be purchasing the entire microfilm collection as it is issued. The fourth possible referent for ESTC is the compact disc that was issued in 1992 and is the subject of discussion here.

The ESTC on CD contains the 305,000 records that were input as of December 1991. Records include titles published in any language in Great Britain and its colonies from 1701 through 1800 and titles published in English anywhere else in the world during that period. Pamphlets are included, but serials and ephemera, such as playbills, are not.

The software for this CD is wonderfully uncomplicated, yet sophisticated enough to allow extensive keyword searching. The menu-driven format with help notes on every screen makes this database hospitable to both the experienced and the beginner, although the latter may need a little coaching at first. Searching the ESTC, like the MLA CD, can build on the user's familiarity with keyword searching of UNLOC. Names and terms can be searched in all the fields of the bibliographic records or they can be restricted to particular fields or combinations of terms and fields. These include author, title, imprint, notes, language and holding locations, among others. One major lacuna to remember is the absence of any subject headings, which is a critical difference from searching UNLOC. Subject access is thus restricted to keywords in titles and notes.

A few brief examples will demonstrate why scholars studying the 18th century are excited about this powerful new resource. I personally became interested in the extent of women's involvement in printing and publishing in past centuries after discovering examples by women printers in Notre Dame's Rare Book Collection. One instance is an impressive folio edition of Fables de La Fontaine published "A Parme: De l'Imprimerie de la Veuve Bodoni" in 1814. To identify English examples of widows as printers I did a simple keyword search of the ESTC CD (nw=widow, where "i" limits the search to the imprint field and "w=" specifies the word you are looking for). This search resulted in 166 records, which I could then either print or download. Other possible searches include combining "Pope" and "Warburton" (to find all records where one mentions the other or a third party refers to both) or locating any records using terms such as insanity, Bedlam, or other variants (to trace the use of psychological concepts in the 18th century). The Department of Special Collections has downloaded all 765 records that Notre Dame submitted to the ESTC up to the time of the CD's publication.
Wordcruisher, like the OED, is full-text. It contains a variety of works including the Riverside Shakespeare (1974), a series called "Introduction to American Literature" that includes Moby Dick, Walden, The Call of the Wild, Leaves of Grass (the 1855 and 1891-1892 editions), The Scarlet Letter, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and Poor Richard's Almanack. Another series called "Library of America" includes selected works by Franklin, Jefferson, Emerson, Whitman, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Cather, Faulkner, Twain, London and James. Finally, the CD offers the King James Version and the New International Version of the Holy Bible. This CD can function like a KWIC concordance, permitting a search for single terms or combinations of terms. It does not search all the texts at once, but just the one selected by the user. A word of caution: like the OED this software has its peculiarities. Among other things, the menu choices are either bilingual or solely in French. Hence it is useful to know a bit of French computer jargon, such as "tapez" for "enter."

If you have not yet tried these CDs, please do. The reference staff can answer basic questions common to many CDs; I might be able to assist with more difficult operations. At worst you will feel like the cartoon character Calvin, who vengefully pulls the plug on his manicured computer. At best you will discover some extraordinary new avenues for researching the literatures of the world on the MLA CD and English and American literatures on the other three.

PACSearch: Another UNLOC Enhancement
by G. Margaret Porter

Since August 1987 when the University Libraries brought up their online catalog, UNLOC, library users have become accustomed to regular enhancements and additions to the Libraries' online system. The capability of using keyword searching and Boolean logic was added only a month after the basic functions of author, title and subject searching, and by December 1987 ninety percent of the records for the Libraries' monographic collection had been converted to machine-readable form and entered into UNLOC. After the circulation component was brought up in 1989, users no longer had to fill out slips for each item to be checked out and the circulation status of a title was displayed on the screen. The user could also tell whether a title had been ordered or if it was in process. In January 1991, the DWIL component was added. DWIL allows for the searching of selected journal indexes online using the same search protocol as in UNLOC; in addition, a connection is provided to the Libraries' journal holdings so the user can select articles available locally. Searching by call number is another function which has become available during the last few years. In 1993, UNLOC was enhanced further when the online catalogs of three local institutions were added to the system. The user could then choose to search the catalogs of Saint Mary's College, Holy Cross College and Bethel College. In the spring or early summer of 1994 another enhancement will become available through the addition of PACSearch.

What is PACSearch? How does it work and how will it benefit the Notre Dame community? NOTIS Systems Inc., the corporation responsible for the online system at Notre Dame, announced the development of PACLink (PAC = Public Access Catalog) in September 1992. PACLink has two components, PACSearch and PACLoan. While PACLoan is still being tested and developed, PACSearch is a reality at several universities and has been tested and used by other libraries in Indiana. Much of the testing and development has been done by the Indiana University and Indiana State University libraries. The graduate centers of the State University of New York have also been heavily involved in the testing and refining of this product. The PACSearch software allows users to connect to the online catalogs of other institutions at remote locations. While this has been possible for quite some time by using telnet or "gopher," those methods both require passwords and logon procedures as well as different search protocols for different catalogs. PACSearch lets the user select from a menu of available catalogs and online services and the connection is made without separate logons, sign-ons or passwords. After a menu choice has been made, the system responds with "Connecting to remote library...". When the connection is complete, the search protocol is identical to UNLOC.

How does this differ from the access provided to the Saint Mary’s, Holy Cross and Bethel College catalogs? These three databases are housed at Notre Dame, whereas PACSearch allows you to go beyond local access without additional steps. It links online catalogs and other online services in a "seamless" fashion, requiring the user only to wait for the connection to be made. While the initial menu choices will be limited to Indiana academic libraries, other libraries and databases will be added in the future. Currently, in addition to Indiana and State University of New York libraries, institutions in Utah and Oklahoma are linking up with PACSearch. Ultimately, it will be the decision of each local institution as to which catalogs and services to access among possible choices. Even with only a few academic libraries available initially, PACSearch will mean expanded access to resources in a "user-friendly" fashion. Because the search interface is the same, it is easy to move between catalogs and services. The search executed in one catalog can be transmitted and executed in another catalog without rekeying. For example, a library user at Notre Dame can
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construct any type of search in UNLOC, locate all locally available sources, select another library such as the Purdue University Libraries, execute the search without rekeying it, locate available material, then move to the Indiana University Libraries' catalog for additional sources. This is especially helpful since material at each individual campus of the IU system is listed, so sources available at the Indiana University South Bend library can be easily identified.

In order to accommodate the menu choices that PACSearch will make available, the introductory UNLOC screens will be redesigned. However, the design will be such that the user will be able to move easily among Notre Dame's catalog, catalogs of other libraries and a selection of indexes and search services that will be added in the future. PACSearch is a critical step in giving the user access to a variety of information resources while eliminating the need for specialized knowledge of search protocols or logon procedures.

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