Electronic Studios

While the concept of the Electronic Studio has been discussed at Rice University for some time, the past year has seen increased development and use of online curricular tools in a variety of classes. The Electronic Studio provides the networked environment for faculty and students to use information technology to teach and learn. Fondren Library is participating in the development of the Electronic Studio, contributing its knowledge as a navigator and a provider of information.

What is the “Electronic Studio?”

The Electronic Studio is an educational computing metaphor drawn from the architect’s studio in which a variety of tools are close at hand. Similarly, the Electronic Studio provides research tools through electronic networks.

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Sample screens from Dr. Joseph Manca’s electronic studio.

Different disciplines require different tools. The sociologist may need a statistics program, the engineer a circuit design program, the architect computer modeling software, and the historian bibliographic research tools. The growing repertoire of computer tools will vary in each discipline and specific studios will be created accordingly.

One tool that has sparked a great deal of enthusiasm is Mosaic, a networked information discovery and retrieval tool. Mosaic is a hypertext system that facilitates individually directed searching and learning by incorporating “hot buttons” — words and images that link the displayed text to other related texts. Links can be made within the particular work or to related resources available on the Internet. Foreign language characters and type styles such as italics are supported by Mosaic. Development in this area is of special importance to scholars in the humanities, where the form of the text often conveys important information.

What Studios Exist?

The courses using the Electronic Studio tools range from an introductory biology lab to a graduate seminar in architecture. For another project, the Virtual Notebook System (VNS) is enabling students in Political Science to run simulations and prepare group projects; the collaborative nature of VNS permits the students to create their own electronic notebooks. In addition to course-specific tools and resources, students are using general-purpose information retrieval tools to work on assignments that require research.

(cont'd p.2)
Dr. Al Van Helden’s current work on Galileo is being formatted as a large hypertext “book” to be used in a Spring 1994 History of Science course. Under his direction, maps and timelines will be used as access points to the text, permitting students to direct their approach to reading. Students in this class will use a variety of online tools and resources to supplement more traditional class materials and assignments.

One of the most developed types of electronic information is the library catalog that acts as a conduit to remote library collections. Many of the indexes and abstracts that are integral to research, for the beginning student as well as the advanced scholar, are available in electronic formats.

One of the goals in the Electronic Studio environment is to make these resources available across the campus network. In the words of Kay Flowers, Electronic Studio project leader for Fondren Library, “… the library will emerge as an electronic gateway to information stored locally or remotely, acting as an organized clearinghouse for information access.”

Fondren Library has begun to provide this type of gateway with projects that provide access to information through the campus networks. The LIBRIS+ terminals in Fondren Library’s Reference, Fine Arts and Government Publications areas provide access to a variety of databases in addition to Fondren Library’s catalog. Several databases previously available only on CD-ROM are now accessible through the LIBRIS+ terminals. The technical and licensing issues attendant on allowing dial-in access to the CD-ROM resources are being explored.

Another important information access tool is RiceInfo, the campus-wide information system—our primary gateway to information resources around the Internet. The speed with which the Internet is expanding has made this global information network increasingly crucial to scholarly communication and research.

The information found on RiceInfo varies tremendously, reflecting the specific interests and needs of the different people who create and use it. RiceInfo is available across all of Rice’s networks, providing the same set of resources to the Rice University community.

The Studio Prototype at Rice

Online educational tools and resources are not new to Rice. In 1987, the School of Engineering established Owlnet (the campus-wide engineering network that has recently opened to all Rice students) to modernize and expand the educational computing facilities for engineering students. Owlnet was the first electronic studio and was created with the goals of ubiquity and comprehensiveness that continue to drive the creation of new environments.

Fondren Library’s Role with the Studios

The primary role of Fondren Library in the Electronic Studio project is to provide a window to the world of electronic information. The term “electronic information” conjures images of online books, electronic journals, digital images, and massive data sets such as the U. S. census.

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Editor: Kerry Keck
Newsletter Committee: Barbara Halbert
Barbara Kile
Kay McStay
Jane Segal
Photographer: Amy Spare
The Electronic Studio team is composed of a variety of information professionals from various areas of the university. It is led by Arun Jain, Director of Technology Transfer and Electronic Studio. Members of the team work with individual faculty members to create new forms of educational materials for classes, providing a multiplicity of tools that meet specific educational needs.

In several ways, RicelInfo is a model for the development of the Electronic Studio. A joint project of Fondren Library and Information Systems, it is a collaborative effort that draws on the talents of a wide range of information professionals. RicelInfo has been cited in the popular computer magazine, Wired, as an outstanding Internet navigational tool.

Resource support for the Electronic Studios frequently is tied to other computing initiatives, such as this year’s networking project. In addition, a Council on Library Resources grant awarded Fondren Library last Spring provided partial support for personnel and computing resources for the Galileo studio project.

The Electronic Studio aims to promote excellence in the application of computers to education. To ensure that new online resources meet the rigorous standards demanded by leading academic institutions such as Rice, scholars must shape their creation and determine their application. For this reason, the Electronic Studio depends upon the involvement of the Rice community and anticipates exciting results from future collaborations.

Elizabeth Burr
Electronic Studio Librarian
esb@ricevm1.rice.edu

Journal Service Revised

Fondren Library changed its journal-provider service this year in order to minimize the cost of subscriptions and to maximize the services we receive. This transfer has been in process since spring 1993 and will take full effect in early 1994. No significant disruption of journal delivery is anticipated, but the library staff are prepared to ensure your continued access to information where the need arises.

Fondren Library obtains most of its journals through a journals agent. The agent consolidates much of the “housekeeping” associated with journals: renewal payments, claiming of missing issues, etc. The service also may provide special subscription prices to the libraries.

Why Are We Doing This?

The changes Fondren Library is implementing will allow us to more fully harness the benefits of an agent at the best possible rates. Any time a major revision of library subscriptions occurs, the potential exists for minor delivery delays. We anticipate any difficulties to be minimal, but wish to point out the options available to the Rice community.

What if my journal is delayed?

Any time information is unavailable, whether it be a journal issue whose delivery is delayed or a journal title to which Fondren Library has never subscribed, we are committed to obtaining the article via the fastest means possible. We utilize various technologies (express mail, fax and Internet transmissions), which supply article delivery in 48 hours or less, to provide you the information needed. Any expense incurred is, of course, ours.

Table of contents service is available for almost all journals through RicelInfo. You also may send your requests for copies of books and journal articles through the RicelInfo system.

For assistance please contact the Interlibrary Loan office at extension 2284 or through the “Requests for Library Services” menu on RicelInfo.

Kerry Keck
Coordinator, Collection Development and Electronic Information Resources
keckker@ricevm1.rice.edu

Need an Article?

• Access RicelInfo
• Select Fondren Library Services
• Select Request Forms for Fondren Library Services
• Select the appropriate form

For further information contact the Reference Desk or Interlibrary Loan
The changing environment for publishing has been the topic of much discussion in both the academic and popular press over the past few years. The emphasis of that discussion frequently has concentrated on the changes in journal publishing and the impact of those changes on research in the sciences and social sciences. This concentration can overshadow the more subtle changes in book publishing that tend to impact more heavily upon the humanities.

Several factors contribute to the evolving experience of scholarly book publishing. These include: the changing nature of the commercial publishing industry, the increasing pressures on university presses, the evolution of academic and research library collections policies, and a shift in society’s valuation of humanities.

### Commercial Publishers

The independent, family-owned publishing house—once a major facet of the publishing industry—is now a rarity. Over the last few decades most publishing houses have been purchased by conglomerates or absorbed into the handful of publishing giants. Publishing currently is viewed as a lucrative business that is highly responsive to market demands.

The concentration of ownership is considered to equate to a concentration of editorial policy. This, in turn, is considered to limit the opportunities for humanities publishing. The New York Times, for example, recently published an essay by Nobel Laureate Octavio Paz that stated, “The market is not fond of literature or risk.”

### University Presses

American university presses traditionally have been a premium focus for publication of research in humanities and fine arts. The university press has served as an outlet for humanities researchers and has added value to the research produced. Libraries could rely upon these presses for quality humanities materials to build their collections—indeed the relationship between university presses and university libraries has been mutually supportive.

Expectations of our universities toward their presses, however, have changed radically. Most universities no longer regard their press as a service to be subsidized, but expect the press to pay its way if not provide revenue for the institution. Faced with the same spiraling costs and specialization of audiences as are pressing in upon the commercial publishers, the university presses have broadened their publication lists to include popular appeal material with the potential for mass sales.

As university presses diversify into more popular works, their commitment to publication of scholarly works in the humanities decreases, limiting the potential for publication of the scholar’s research. Presses are defining increasingly focused profiles within which they will publish — one major university press, for example, recently announced its intent to cease publishing in the fields of Italian or French literature.

Publication runs for scholarly publications have decreased as well. Press runs for scholarly titles are now one-quarter of the amount printed twenty years ago. This trend is in direct response to a decreasing demand for scholarly titles. The reduction in average print runs may limit the ability of a scholar or research library to obtain a title within a few months of its publication.

### Academic and Other Research Libraries

The economic factors facing all research libraries have been discussed widely in the literature of libraries, higher education and even the general


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine &amp; Applied Arts</td>
<td>108.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>102.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature &amp; Language</td>
<td>120.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy &amp; Religion</td>
<td>120.8%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Percentage Price Increases for British Academic Books (1985-1992)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>69.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>66.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>132.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percentage Price Increases for German Academic Books (1989-1992)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>- 6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature &amp; Language</td>
<td>- 1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy &amp; Religion</td>
<td>- 1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bowker Annual, 1993

A primary factor leading to the reduced demand for scholarly books is the same constraint operating against serials acquisition: rising costs. (See the accompanying table for examples of book inflation.) This reduction of consumption by a major market segment for humanities publications (i.e. libraries) encourages the shorter publication runs and discourages publication of “marginal” titles in these subject areas.

Value Placed on the Information by Society

Perhaps the fundamental cause of the threat to the depth and breadth of scholarly humanities publishing lies in the current attitude in our society toward humanities and fine arts. Preservation of traditional western culture, as well as enhancement of that culture and exploration of alternate cultures, area studies and gender studies, is not supported by our society—when we define support as contributing to the production of research and as consuming that research. The number and value of state and private grants in support of humanities has decreased; a resurgence of support appears unlikely.

The challenges facing the humanities scholar in search of a publisher and the research library seeking to build its collections spring from a common set of causes. These underlying issues are not simple, nor will be continued production and transmission of humanities research.

Kerry Keck
Coordinator, Collection Development and Electronic Information Resources
keckker@ricevm1.rice.edu

New CD-ROMs and Easier Access

Fondren Library continues to build its collection of CD-ROM sources of indexes and full text databases. Your access to CD-ROMs is improved by the networking of discs.

New Networked Resources

If you have used CD-ROMs at Fondren Library you have probably requested the disc from library staff and physically loaded it into the computer. These preliminary steps are no longer necessary when accessing discs that are networked. Discs that are networked are loaded at a central location and are accessible from a number of workstations, allowing more than one person to use a disc at any given time.

All public terminals in the Wright Reference Room, two public terminals in the Brown Fine Arts Library and two terminals in Government Publications are LIBRIS+ terminals and so allow access to resources besides LIBRIS. To use the CD-ROMs, select “Electronic Journal Indexes (CD-ROM Citation Databases)” from the main menu.

Recent additions to the LIBRIS+ menu include United Nations Index, Foreign Broadcast Information Service Index, National Trade Data Bank, and Oxford English Dictionary.

United Nations

Are you interested in human rights in South Africa or China? The economic boycott of Iraq? Technology transfer and economic development? You should consider including United Nations documents in your research.

The United Nations Index disc covers official records, documents, mimeographed items, and periodicals published by the United Nations from 1983 through 1993. Included on the disc is the full text of more recent resolutions and decisions. This disc offers two search modes: Level I for new users and Level II for experienced users. Printed search guides are available for each level. In addition, “help” screens are provided throughout the search process.

Most of the documents identified using the United Nations Index are available on microfiche in the Government Publications area in the basement of Fondren Library.
Did You Know...

Fondren Library’s latest book endowment, the Kauffmann Endowment, has been established to support acquisition of Latin American materials. The endowment, funded by Howard Kauffmann, Exxon and Pfizer, should begin providing revenue for acquisition of material in FY 1995.

The following humanities subject areas represent some of the largest sections of the Fondren Library book collection. The percentages given represent the relative standing of Fondren Library’s new collections in these subjects to the collections of other ARL libraries.

- German Literature: 110%
- History of South & Gulf States: 126%
- Post-Renaissance Philosophy: 109%
- Modern French Literature: 130%

Two public phones have been equipped with amplifiers to assist the hearing impaired.

News From Fondren is now on RiceInfo. It may be found under the menu item “Library Services/About Fondren Library.”

(New CD-ROMS cont’d)

Foreign Broadcasts

You know what the Houston Post and New York Times said about the Gulf war, Clinton’s election, and the threats against Salman Rushdie — but how are these events reported in other countries?

The Central Intelligence Agency monitors news reports in foreign countries and then summarizes or translates the stories. Fondren Library receives these documents on microfiche through the depository library program. To aid you in accessing these documents, we have purchased the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Index on CD-ROM.

The FBIS Index covers documents issued from 1983 through 1993. It has both a beginner and experienced search mode with plenty of examples and help screens as you go.

Trade Information

The National Trade Data Bank (NTDB) consists of two discs that are updated monthly. The NTDB discs contain over 90,000 documents, tables, and time series. Included on this disc is the text of market research reports, domestic and foreign economic data, import and export statistics, trade information, country studies, and a directory of businesses in foreign countries that are interested in importing or exporting with United States firms.

Other Networked Discs

CD-ROMs that have been on the network and continue to be ready for use on LIBRIS+ are PsycLIT and Compact Cambridge. PsycLIT is the electronic equivalent of Psychological Abstracts. Compact Cambridge covers biological, medical, and agricultural sciences from the 21 abstract journals published by Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

Other CD-ROM Resources

Many students and faculty were introduced this fall to the new CD-ROM index, Congressional Masterfile, available in the Government Publications area. The index consists of three discs covering a time span of over 200 years.

Researchers have used the Congressional Masterfile to identify documents on such diverse subjects as the Civil War, Lewis and Clark’s expeditions, the history of the Forest Service, the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act of 1966, and Garrison Keillor’s testimony in support of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Other new additions to Fondren Library’s compact disc collection include Properties of Organic Compounds and Oxford English Dictionary. The chemistry disc features physical data, spectral data and structures for over 27,000 organic compounds. The OED is an automated version of this standard linguistics tool, and allows for more creative searching of its content than is possible using the paper original. Both discs utilize Windows® technology and are ready for use at the Reference desk on the first floor.

If you would like further information on any of these CD-ROMs or other library resources, call Government Publications (extension 5483) or the Reference Desk (extension 5119).

Amy Spare
Government Publications Librarian
spare@ricevm1.rice.edu
Attention Audiophiles

Is listening to a new compact disc one of your singular joys? Have you learned to appreciate the tactile experience of the smooth planes and ridged grips of the jewel case? Do you find yourself meditating on the interplay of refracted spectrum and reflected image on the face of the disc? Despite understanding the technology, does it still seem magical to watch the disc glide into the player, to hear the subtle whir as it begins to play, and then music — no pops, no hiss, no skips — just music?

If your response to any of these questions is yes, then you may want to become more acquainted with the recordings and listening facilities available in the Brown Fine Arts Library on the third floor of Fondren Library. We have a substantial (and quickly growing!) collection of about 20,000 recordings, including 1,700 compact disc titles.

What's Available

The material in the Brown Fine Arts Library primarily supports the research and educational needs of the Shepherd School of Music; the collection is focused therefore on traditional Western art music. This scope, however, includes material that ranges from recreations of ancient Greek and Roman music to string quartet arrangements of "Purple Haze." There are also several small collections on LP covering topics such as indigenous music, jazz, historical popular music, and the spoken word.

Of special interest is the Scott Heumann Collection, which consists of recordings of complete operas, albums of opera and song selections, commercial video recordings, and audio and video recordings. In all, there are approximately 1,500 LP's, 500 compact discs, videodiscs, and audio and video cassettes in this collection. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. J. Roger Heumann who donated the music collection amassed by their late son, Scott Heumann.

If you need a break...

The recordings are available to all members of the Rice community for use in the Brown Fine Arts Library. The listening stations have been completely upgraded this year with additional compact disc players, shock-absorbent turntables, 78-rpm-capable turntables, and more comfortable and higher fidelity headphones. You are welcome to use these facilities at any time, although you might be wary when the music history listening tests are in progress. Students in these courses have priority access to the listening stations.

To find recordings in LIBRIS, try a keyword search using the word "sound" and lots of truncation for generic titles such as symphony, concerto, sonata, etc. For example, this search:

```
 k=mozart symphon? jupiter sound
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will find recordings of Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony. The search results display in reverse chronological order, meaning the first items on the list are most likely to be compact discs. Finding music can be tricky; please ask a library staff member if you have any trouble.

Can I take a recording home?

Normally, recordings circulate only to Shepherd School of Music faculty and graduate students for classroom use, but special arrangements can be made for non-music faculty should you wish to incorporate recordings in lectures or other projects. Because of copyright restrictions, the Brown Fine Arts Library cannot duplicate material.

Paul Orkiszewski
Music Librarian
orkis@ricevm1.rice.edu
Gift Honors Pioneer Educator

A gift from the Houston Endowment, Inc. will make funds available to Fondren Library to build a collection of material on current educational issues for the professional educator.

The $100,000 bequest, which honors Hazel Creekmore, a 1927 Rice University alumna and Houston teacher, will be used to purchase materials on curriculum, teaching, and the broad psychological and societal issues that affect the modern educational experience.

Hazel Creekmore

Each year, the focus of purchases for the collection will reflect current topics in the field and provide for a well-rounded collection. A yearly symposium will be held in order to publicize the collection and to highlight the year's theme. This year, materials purchased through the Creekmore Grant will focus on "understanding children."

The first Hazel Creekmore Symposium, scheduled for April 10th and 11th, will feature Vivian Paley as the keynote speaker. Paley, an author and teacher at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, was the first classroom teacher to be recognized with a "genius grant," formerly known as a MacArthur Fellowship.

Further information on the Creekmore Symposium will be made available in the Rice News and other campus publications.

Jane Segal
Social Sciences Librarian
segal@ricevm1.rice.edu

Fondren Library Locations and Frequently Called Numbers

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>285-5113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1st floor Fondren Library)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Fine Arts Library</td>
<td>527-4832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3rd floor Fondren Library)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Info. Center</td>
<td>527-6062</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1st floor Herring Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>527-4021</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1st floor Fondren Library)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Ref. Area</td>
<td>527-4076</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1st floor Mudd Laboratory)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fondren Express</td>
<td>527-8101</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Basement Fondren Library)</td>
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<td>Government Pubs.</td>
<td>285-5483</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Basement Fondren Library)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interlibrary Loan</td>
<td>527-8101</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Basement Fondren Library)</td>
<td>ext.2284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodson Research Center</td>
<td>527-8101</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1st floor Fondren Library)</td>
<td>ext.2586</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester and Holiday Library Hours

For information about regular and holiday hours, call 527-4800