



## NCSU Libraries Information System Continues to Mature

**T**he NCSU Libraries Information System's menus, introduced in 1993, are being modified to accommodate changes in technology and increases in the number of resources available and to provide a framework for continued growth. A second interface to the catalog is also being added. The new menus, databases, and interface were introduced October 15, 1995.

### THE NEW MENUS

The main menu will continue to offer Library Catalogs as an initial option. The Other Library Catalogs sub-menu features

North Carolina Library Catalogs,  
Cooperating Raleigh Colleges,  
Center for Research Libraries (CRL),  
Library of Congress, and  
Library Catalogs Worldwide—Geographically  
Arranged.

Library catalogs for all of the UNC system schools, except Elizabeth City State, are accessible through the North Carolina Library Catalogs section. NCSU faculty, staff, and students can obtain borrowing privileges for the sixteen UNC system schools, Cooperating Raleigh Colleges, and Duke by consulting the library's Circulation staff, in person, for borrowing cards. The NCSU Libraries is a member of CRL, from which materials may be borrowed through the library's Interlibrary Center.

U.S. Government Information is a new section of the menus that will offer a variety of information sources pertaining to federal publications. The U.S. Government Documents Catalog, formerly part of the Library Catalogs section, will now be available through this option. GPO Access, introduced in the NCSU Libraries Database Project this summer, provides access to full-text databases from this new location. Two federally produced bibliographic databases will make their debut as well—*Selected Water Resources Abstracts* and *Department of Energy Reports Bibliographic Database*.

The Journal Article Indexes section will be merged with most of the databases that have been

featured in the library's database project for the last six months to form a new section: Journal Article, Newspaper, & Technical Report Indexes. This section features twenty databases in both topical and alphabetical arrangements. Five topical groupings provide easy access to multidisciplinary, agriculture and life sciences, business, engineering and physical sciences, and humanities and social sciences databases. Some of the databases will not be fully implemented until later this semester.

The new menus also reflect the ongoing transition from gopher to World Wide Web technology by offering both the NCSU Libraries World Wide Web and the North Carolina State University World Wide Web using the text-only browser Lynx. Lynx can display both gopher and WWW resources.

### THE NEW INTERFACE

The online catalog and many of the databases will be offered with a choice of at least two user interfaces. The command mode interface that users have employed since the introduction of the DRA system will be supplemented with a new menu approach to searching. Not to be confused with the navigational menu described above, the new menu system offers distinct advantages when searching in the online catalog for materials that have been placed on reserve for a course. If you have questions, you may call Research and Information Services staff for assistance at ext. 5-2935. ♦

### GPO ACCESS

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) now provides no-fee public access to many important federal documents via the Internet. As a GPO Access Public Gateway, the NCSU Libraries provides electronic access to the following databases:

Federal Register 1994—Regulatory documents issuing from federal government agencies. Updated daily.  
Unified Agenda 1994—Regulatory activities planned by federal agencies. Updated in April and October.  
Congressional Record 1994—Activities of the U.S. Congress. Updated daily.

Congressional Record Index 1992–Biweekly index to the *Congressional Record*. Updated biweekly.

Congressional Bills 1994–U.S. House and Senate bills. Updated as bills are released to the public.

History of Bills and Resolutions 1994–Traces legislative histories. Updated biweekly.

United States Code—General and permanent laws currently in effect as of January 24, 1994, for the U.S. Updated irregularly.

Public Laws 1995—Text corresponds to “slip” laws issued by the Office of the Federal Register when new laws are printed. Updated irregularly.

GAO Reports—Text of “blue book” reports containing the General Accounting Office’s evaluations and analyses of government programs and activities. Reports available two business days after their public release.

## TO CONNECT TO GPO ACCESS

If you have a direct Internet connection, you can connect to GPO Access databases from the Libraries’ information system. Telnet to: [library.ncsu.edu](http://library.ncsu.edu) and log on as LIBRARY. Select U.S. Government Information and then select GPO Access. To connect to GPO Access via a web browser such as Lynx, Mosaic, or Netscape, open the URL:

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/stacks/gpo/>

For more information, call the Documents Department at ext. 5-3280 or the Research and Information Services Department at ext. 5-2935. ♦

## Book Check Out and Renewal Made Easier

The NCSU Libraries is pleased to announce three new services that make checking out and renewing library materials much easier. A new 3M self-check unit has been installed in the D. H. Hill Library lobby. This unit enables library users, on their own, to check out and renew circulating materials. The unit reads data from the user’s library card and from the barcodes in library books and then—in one operation—charges or renews the item, desensitizes it so that it can go through security gates, and prints out a transaction slip with the due date.

This month the Libraries is also introducing two additional ways of renewing library materials. A module has been added to the DRA system that allows users with a touch-tone telephone to renew items they have charged out. By dialing ext. 5-6065 and following the instructions given by the com-

puter, users will be able to renew items that are not yet overdue, check on overdue items and/or current fines, and determine whether there are any items on hold for them. This service requires an ID number and the barcode number of each book to be renewed. In addition, Access Services has a new e-mail address to which users can send requests for renewal of materials:

[library\\_circulation@ncsu.edu](mailto:library_circulation@ncsu.edu)

Materials must not already be overdue, and requesters’ e-mail messages must include their names, an ID number, brief book titles, and barcode numbers of items they wish renewed. Questions about any of these services should be addressed to the Access Services Department at ext. 5-3364. ♦

## wwwWorld

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides “Executive Summaries of Consolidated Plans”—community information for selected areas across the U.S. Plans are available for Goldsboro, Jacksonville, Rocky Mount, and Wilmington. Additional cities—including Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill—will come online over the coming months.  
<http://www.hud.gov/states.html>

The U.S. Geological Survey’s North Carolina District Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Resource Page furnishes links to general GIS information sources and N.C. data sets.  
[http://ser1dncrlg.er.usgs.gov/docs/gis\\_ncgis.html](http://ser1dncrlg.er.usgs.gov/docs/gis_ncgis.html)

Time-Warner has mounted the Unabomber’s Manifesto, a chronology of the bomber’s attacks, articles, and other related information.  
<http://www.pathfinder.com/pathfinder/features/unabomber/index.html>

Poly-Links is an Internet index for polymers and plastics. Its indices cover commercial polymer sites, academic departments, polymer chemistry resources, plastics engineering links, toxicity data, and many other polymer topics.  
<http://www.polymers.com/>

Pope John Paul II’s visit to the United Nations and the United States is being documented on the web. His itinerary, biographical notes, press releases, and transcripts of his speeches are included. Additional links lead to Catholic resources on the net, texts of John Paul II’s encyclicals and speeches, and the papal news service from the Vatican. The pages are cosponsored by the United States Catholic Conference and ITP Paulist Communications.  
<http://www.clark.net/pope/welcome.html>