

The NCSU Libraries Newsletter

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New Catalog Search Features

In January the NCSU Libraries implemented a major new search interface to its online catalog. Now, when submitting a keyword search, catalog users are presented with a list of matching results ranked by relevance with several navigation refinement options based on characteristics of the result set. The navigation options include: topic, genre, material type, format, library, and availability. For example, it is now easy to filter a search result list to display only items available electronically. Result sets can be resorted by publication date, title, author, call number, or popularity. Improved relevancy ranking for keyword searches, as well as new spell correction and “did you mean?” features will help users find all books and other resources of interest and find them quickly. A second search box on the catalog page lets users who are looking for a known title or author go directly to those items.

Another new feature is the first of its kind for a library catalog. “Browse” offers the ability to view the entire NCSU Libraries collection organized by Library of Congress classification (i.e., subject) without having to start with a search. Also on the Browse tab, users can view all new titles added to the collection within the past week.

To support these new catalog search features, the Libraries acquired software from Endeca Technologies that typically is used for major e-commerce Web sites such as Barnes & Noble and Home Depot. The software enables the library to leverage the many decades of its investment in detailed cataloging and classification and at the same time provide catalog users with a simple, easy-to-use search interface.

The catalog may be accessed from the Libraries’ homepage or directly at <http://catalog.lib.ncsu.edu/>. Comments or questions about the catalog can be directed to Andrew Pace, head of Systems, by sending an electronic-mail message to andrew_pace@ncsu.edu. ♦

Feast Your Eyes Exhibit To Open

The NCSU Libraries will host the exhibit *Feast Your Eyes: The Unexpected Beauty of Vegetable Gardens*, developed by the Smithsonian Institution Horticulture Services Division in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The exhibit will run from February 4 through April 2, 2006, in the D. H. Hill Library. The exhibition brings together images from the Smithsonian Institution’s Archives of American Gardens (AAG), as well as images and documents from other museums and repositories, to chart the history of the vegetables’ exclusion from ornamental gardens to their surprising comeback during the past twenty years.

Creative landscape designers and amateur gardeners appreciate the visual appeal of vegetables in addition to that of flowers and manicured lawns. *Feast Your Eyes* traces the visual appeal of vegetable gardens across centuries, continents, and cultures, from the floating gardens of the Aztecs and the highly manicured potagers of Louis XIV’s Versailles to the emergence of World War II victory gardens in America. The exhibition will open at the D. H. Hill Library on February 4, 2006, remain on view through April 2, and then continue on a national tour through 2007. As always, it will be free and open to the public. ♦