Accessing the Marine Sciences Collection of the University of Alaska

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ABSTRACT

The Institute of Marine Sciences library has been merged into the biomedical library, a branch of the Rasmuson Library of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The holdings have been added to the Western Library Network and the University's online catalog GNOSIS. This presentation will describe the collection and explain how anyone can access the Library's online catalog.

The University of Alaska is a multi-campus system organized into three regions. The northern region is centered at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) campus and includes the community colleges in that part of the state. The UAF campus is the flagship campus, with most of the graduate programs and a large research arm. UAF is a land-grant and a sea-grant university. The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is the center for the south-central region, and the University of Alaska Southeast (formerly University of Alaska Juneau) heads the southeastern region.

The Rasmuson Library at the UAF is the largest library in Alaska and, along with the State library, is the leader among the libraries in the state. All the libraries in Alaska work together, with the State library providing coordination, and the Rasmuson Library assuming the leadership role. Through this type of cooperation, the libraries of the university developed a computer system to serve their joint needs.

The University of Alaska libraries' bibliographical computer is named GNOSIS. GNOSIS is a Greek word that roughly means "knowledge." The VTLS software is used and runs on a HP3000 minicomputer. The computer is located at the Rasmuson Library on the Fairbanks campus. The database contains the bibliographic records for materials owned by UAF, UAA, and University of Alaska Southeast, as well as the nine community college libraries in the U of A system. These libraries input their holdings into the Western Library Network (WLN). The records are then transferred to the GNOSIS system either by a monthly tape load or by downloading, using a direct link between WLN and GNOSIS. Currently, only UAF is using the direct link to download; the rest of the libraries depend on the tapeload.

The GNOSIS system functions as an automated circulation system, a reserve room control system, and an online patron access catalog (OPAC). The Rasmuson and Bio-Medical Libraries at UAF have been circulating on GNOSIS since January 1986. The Stratton Library in Sitka began circulation use in September 1987. This past summer the library at the Ketchikan Community College started using GNOSIS for circulation. Valdez began utilizing the system last month.

All the titles held by the Bio-Medical Library have had their holdings input to WLN and, therefore, are represented in the GNOSIS database. Some items, however, have not been linked to their bibliographic record. Essentially all the monographs in the collection have been linked, and we are now in the process of linking the individual serials items. We hope to have the entire collection linked by the end of the year.

With the VTLS software each item in the collection has a unique bar code label. To link a piece to its bibliographic record, you locate the bibliographic record in the database by searching for it by title, author,
ISBN, ISSN, WLN control number, LC card number, or WLN card number. Once the record is found, the bar code is wanded by a light pen. At this time any other necessary information may be added or modified for that unique item record. After this is completed you can call up the item screen to check on the status of the item. You can find out if the item is checked out or available, on reserve, missing, or if it has a special location. The item screen will also indicate how many times the item has been checked out and the date that it was last checked in. There are five different levels of sign-ons. The amount or type of information available varies with the sign-on options, as well as what you can do with the record.

You may be wondering what this all means for you? How is this going to help those of you located in Texas, Halifax or Monaco, know if Alaska has a title you need? The answer is, you can access our computer. If you can dial a TYNMNET node, you can connect to our GNOSIS system at no cost to you (unless it is a toll call to the node).

The GNOSIS database is easy to use and there is extensive online help. The logon procedure is as follows:

1. When you are communicating with TYNMNET:
   
   At 300 baud, a message will ask you to enter your terminal identifier.
   
   At 1200 baud, garbage will appear on the line. At any point after this appears on your screen, enter an "A." You will be welcomed to TYNMNET and asked to log on.

2. From the "Lower 48" states and Hawaii enter: GNOSIS-USA
   
   From other countries enter: GNOSIS-INTL

3. When asked for a password:
   
   From the "Lower 48" states and Hawaii enter: 466747-872
   
   From other countries enter: 466747-4685

4. Press the return key once or twice until a colon ":" appears on your screen.

5. At the colon ":" prompt, enter the following command, with "location" meaning the name of your town or country. The location can be up to eight characters.

   \texttt{HELLO LOCATION,USER,GNOSIS}

   (e.g., HELLO SANFRAN,USER,GNOSIS
   or:
   HELLO DENMARK,USER,GNOSIS)

   This sign-on will provide access to the University of Alaska cataloged collection.

   Also on the GNOSIS system is a database called the "Bibliography of Alaskana Online." This is an index to articles in periodicals that are received by the Rasmuson Library and deal with Alaska. If you wish to access this file, at the colon ":" prompt enter:

   \texttt{HELLO LOCATION,SEARCH,CLAS09}

6. Once signed on to GNOSIS a prompted sequence will occur.

7. To LOGOFF: enter a /QUIT. The system will say "please log in." Break your connection.
In GNOSIS the usual ways to search are by title, author, or subject. To search by title, enter a T/ followed by the title. To search by author, use an A/ and to search by subject, enter an S/. To search by card number, ISBN or ISSN, enter 3/ and the number, including any hyphens or letters. You can also search by call number with a C/. This will give you a list of titles in call number order. Therefore, if you know the classification for a subject, you can search for it by entering the base part of the call number.

If you locate a record that has not been linked, it may be possible to determine which library holds that title. The level of sign-on which you use defaults to a card screen. If you enter MA, you will be given a MARC screen for that record. Go to the end of the MARC record by entering NS for next screen. If the last line of the MARC record is a 984 field, you can determine which library has the item. This field will have a four number code for the holding library. If that code is 0057, it is owned by UAF. Holdings at the Bio-Medical Library can be recognized by the call number beginning with BIOMED. The other code you would most likely see would be the one for the UAA. Its code is 0104. (See the Appendix for all the library location codes.)

Now that you know how to access our collection, I hope you will find it worth your effort to "check it out."

Since I am somewhat new to the area of marine science libraries, I really can't rate our marine science collection. We, of course, have an emphasis on northern latitude and cold regions. With the merger of the Institute of Marine Sciences Library into the Bio-Medical Library, a better picture of marine science holdings is possible. However, there are also marine science materials at the Rasmuson Library. These items will eventually be moved to the Bio-Medical Library to further consolidate serial holdings which are now split. Currently there is no timetable for this move. The primary problems are the availability of personnel to transfer the materials and the shelving capacity at the Bio-Medical Library. I have been working on transferring the fisheries materials for about four years. The majority of the remaining materials are serials waiting to be moved.

In general I feel that our collection is fairly good. It seems to meet the teaching needs of the campus and supports PhD programs in marine biology, fisheries sciences, oceanography and physiology. As weaknesses are found in the collection, I attempt to fill the gap. We heavily utilize the IAMSLIC Duplicate Exchange Program for this purpose, as well as to dispose of our duplicates.

The library at the Seward Marine Station in Seward, Alaska, is also now my responsibility. At present its holdings are fairly much a secret to the outside world. I hope to begin entering the collection into GNOSIS within the next year. There is still work to be done to bring its records up to snuff. Progress will not be rapid, as I spend only two weeks a year in Seward. Most of the material in the Seward Library is duplicated in either the Bio-Medical Library or the Rasmuson Library.

The future for marine science and fisheries in Alaska looks good. The university has been restructured to reduce expenses and consolidate programs. At UAF a new School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences was created. This school includes all teaching and research in fisheries and ocean sciences in the university system. Fisheries faculty in Juneau and Kodiak are members of the UAF faculty, not the University of Alaska Southeast or the Kodiak Community College. Petroleum, tourism and fisheries are the main industries in Alaska. The state is finally recognizing that the university can and must make a contribution to the well-being of the fisheries industry. In his convocation address to the Fairbanks campus in August 1987, our chancellor said:

"...with the amalgamation of IMS, Juneau and Fairbanks fisheries faculty, FITC in Kodiak, Sea Grant and the Marine Advisory Program into a School of Fisheries and Ocean Science, we substantially strengthen the sea grant mission of the university and open new opportunities for program development and research which will benefit not only Alaska, but contribute substantially to a growing world body of knowledge.

"Consider, if you will, the participation in the economic development of Alaska's fisheries through a broad scale research and development program; that enhances Alaska's role in world fisheries. Consider the new and dynamic interactions which occur as faculty colleagues from across the state come to know and understand each other's work. By tapping a greater pool of knowledge, new thoughts and ideas can and will develop over time."
This summer the chancellor asked the library director to prepare a program planning document for the FY91 capital budget to include a request for funding to construct a 20,000-square foot science library facility. My department head, the library director, and I will be preparing this document for submission by January 1989. A committee which includes faculty from the different scientific disciplines has been formed to assist with the planning.

Planning for the science library, getting our records linked in GNOSIS, finishing the IMS merger, trying to transfer materials from the Rasmuson Library, and bringing the Seward Library into the world should keep me busy for the next few months.
## APPENDIX

**GNOSIS CODE SYMBOLS FOR ALASKA LIBRARIES HOLDINGS LOCATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WLN 384 CODE</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0104</td>
<td>University of Alaska Anchorage.  Consortium Library, Anchorage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0470</td>
<td>Kuskokwim Consortium Library.  Bethel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0107</td>
<td>University of Alaska Southeast.  Library, Juneau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0494</td>
<td>Ketchikan Community College.  Library, Ketchikan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0495</td>
<td>Kodiak Community College.  Library, Kodiak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0464</td>
<td>Matanuska-Susitna Community College.  Library, Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0483</td>
<td>Sheldon Jackson College.  Stratton Library, Sitka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0469</td>
<td>Kenai Peninsula Community College.  Library, Soldotna</td>
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| 0057         | University of Alaska Fairbanks.  Eimer E. Rasmuson Library, Fairbanks  
(Including Bio-Medical Library) |
| 0479         | University of Alaska Fairbanks.  Geophysical Institute Library,  
Fairbanks |
| 0451         | Valdez Consortium Library, Valdez |
| 0472         | Northwest Community College.  Learning Resource Center, Nome |