

Texas A&M libraries rank fourth in electronic access in North America

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

To Kim Archibeque, a senior chemical engineering major, going to the library to find a journal article is the last thing she wants to do, especially when she can find it from the comfort of her room online via Texas A&M's new LibCat card catalog.

The catalog, which replaces the NOTIS system, is now on the web at library.tamu.edu.

"I never go to the library unless I have to," Archibeque said.

"Sometimes it is hard to find things. If it was online, I would do it at home."

This new and increasingly valuable access helped earn Texas A&M a fourth place ranking for electronic access in North America from The Association of Research Libraries, Dr. Fred Heath, Dean and Director of Evans Library, said.

Harvard University, North Carolina State University and the University of Michigan comprise the top three institutions for electronic access.

Wendi Arant Kaspar, coordinator for the Electronic Reference Service in Sterling C. Evans Library, said the constant improvement in technology is valuable to students who wish to make the most of their school's resources.

"The [LibCat] is a big improvement over the old [NOTIS]. You can also renew checked out books online and link to the databases remotely," she said.

"You don't have to come into the library."

More than 200 databases are available on the catalog, offering full-text versions of articles from over 3,000 journals.

"With 42,000 students, plus distance learning, and because it is hard to park on campus — it is nice to be able to do research at home," Kaspar said.

"It is certainly an improvement," Dr. James Harner, English literature professor and frequent user of the library's research services, said about the new LibCat system. "NOTIS was a dinosaur."

Harner said the new systems are becoming increasingly easier for students to use as they adopt interfaces which resemble tools often used by college students, such as search engines.

"The remote use is an advantage, to save time if nothing else," he said, although he does not plan use the new system as a replacement to coming into the office by accessing it from home.

In 1998, the annual budget for A&M libraries was over \$20 million.

Of that, \$5 million comes from the Library Access Fee (LAF). Thirty percent of this year's LAF will be spent on electronic resources, according to a report by library officials.

"And that percentage will become a bigger wedge of the pie as time goes on," Heath said.

"It is not like buying one book for the entire campus that people will fight over. You have to think of [spending money] differently, because once you buy a site license, all the students can use it at the same time. And that benefits large universities."

DATA COLLECTED DURING 1997-1998

- 1) Harvard
- 2) NC State
- 3) Michigan
- 4) Texas A&M
- 5) Arizona State
- 6) British Columbia
- 7) Pennsylvania
- 8) Johns Hopkins
- 9) Duke
- 26) Texas

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CARS

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your stolen property back if it is recovered, because many times UPD will locate stolen property and not be able to return it because there is no way of knowing who it belongs to.

If a suspect is convicted of burglary on campus, which is a Class A misdemeanor, and is a student, their case is brought before someone from Student Conflict Resolution Services. A person will review their case and decide on a punishment to fit the crime.

Baron said this can range from community service to expulsion from the University.

If a non-student is caught on campus, criminal charges are filed with the county court. If convicted, a Class A misdemeanor carries the punishment of up to a \$4000 fine and up to one year jail time, Baron said.

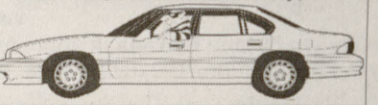
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- 1996 - 46 reported cases
- 1997 - 99 reported cases
- 1998 - 49 reported cases

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- 56 and 62 (Fish Lot),
- 40 and 88 (by southside garage),
- and 30 (behind Davis Gary)



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Kristen Sachtleben, a sophomore civil engineering major, who was on a first stack swing, picks up her sweatshirt, pliers and pot from the Bonfire Advisor Assistant Patricia Wehner.

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THE BATTALION

Marium Mohiuddin
Editor in Chief

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