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SPEED THE NEWS
by Wendy Shortridge

Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is a Web feed format that feeds updated web site content automatically. An RSS document, called a “feed,” “web feed,” or “channel” can contain a summary of content from a web site or full text content. Thus, a favorite news site or blog may have a feed that allows users to see the latest stories or posts. Researchers can create a feed from many different databases to get the latest citations on their research topics. Catalyst allows users to obtain feeds of the latest books added in a subject area. Even podcasts can have RSS feeds.

To get started using RSS feeds, users need to pick an aggregator. An aggregator combines desired feeds and puts them in special programs or displays. For example, an aggregator can take a feed from BBC News, a search on fuel cell technology in Compendex, and the newest books in technology acquired by the Library and put them in one place for users to read at their leisure.

To set up an aggregator, users must first sign up for a feed by simply clicking on the RSS symbol found on many web sites. Many aggregators have the ability for manually entering feeds. Some applications such as iGoogle, IE7 and MyYahoo! have built-in aggregators. Some aggregators can be downloaded and installed on computers such as Thunderbird, an e-mail system with a built-in aggregator or Songbird, an aggregator for mp3 files. Then, let the aggregator do the work. It will bring in any new content from your feeds instead of having to open each page for new content.
North American Mining Co. Report Illuminates the Edgar Mine

by Cathy Van Tassel

Every college or university library has its own distinct collections and focus. For more than half of its existence, the Arthur Lakes Library has primarily served students studying mining and metallurgy. Therefore it is not surprising that one of our crown jewel collections in the Russell L. and Lyn Wood Mining History Archive is the mine reports collection.

The Archive is home to more than 1,000 mine reports. While we call them all “mine reports,” the documents written and collected by consultants, companies, and interested individuals vary greatly from one another. Each reflects the mission and purpose for which it was written. Some are formally written as annotated documents prepared by companies for distribution to their stock holders or as advertisements to potential investors or lessees. Others are typed manuscripts or hand drawn maps with notations about a particular claim or mine. Whatever the document, the desire to view and research the mine reports collection represents a significant number of the requests received to use the Archive. Many of these items are unique to our Archive or are not accessible to the public at other libraries.

The mine reports are valuable to researchers because they may be one of the few remaining historical records of a mine’s configuration and production rates. The reports detail tunnels, shafts, stopes and ore bodies. Ancillary functions, such as transportation of ore to mills, drainage, power and machine shops are sometimes documented.

Reports may also identify other producing properties nearby.

One of the prime examples of a mining report in the Mining History Archive is:

**Sanderson, H.S.**

**REPORT of PROPERTIES of the North American Mining Co.**

**405 Interstate Trust Building**

**Denver, Colorado**

**December 20, 1927**

Part annual report and part sales pitch to potential lessees, the report examines the holdings of the NAMC including the Edgar Mine and surrounding mines in Clear Creek, Gilpin and Boulder Counties. The report provides historical information about the properties owned including the mining district, acreage and in some cases, the average gross assay value per ton. The report describes the Edgar Mine as “one of the prominent mines of Idaho Springs.” (p. 5) The report extols, “ore in sight, showing in five places…” as well as the value of the company’s locomotive which “can haul mill and smelting ore direct from the ore pockets in the mine on the tunnel level to the present milling center in the town…the cost of handling mill ore is unusually low.” (p. 6)

This report is an exciting part of our collection because, as some of our readers know, the Colorado School of Mines currently owns and operates the Edgar Mine. As an experimental mine, the Edgar provides an educational training facility for CSM students as well as industry, state and federal organizations. The Mine has a unique place in the history of CSM. Find out more about the Edgar Mine by visiting their website at: www.mines.eduacademic/mining/edgar_mine.htm. Or better yet, take a tour!

an emerging jewel

We have a wonderful mine reports collection; however, less than one half of the collection is cataloged and readily accessible. For a researcher to find an uncataloged mine report, they need to go through boxes of reports organized generally by state.

Will you help us catalog the remaining mine reports? Make a gift today in support of preservation and cataloging of this important collection.
Trains the Trainers in the American West
by Lisa Nickum

Three CSM librarians, Christine Baker, Lisa Nickum and Chris Thiry have been participating in the regional project “Government Information in the 21st Century.” Funded by an Institute of Museum and Library Science (IMLS) grant received by the University of Colorado at Boulder in summer 2006, the program has four goals:

1. To develop a group of government information professionals who are available to train and support non-government information professionals in their use of electronic government information.

2. To expand the base of library professionals and library workers who have knowledge of and experience with electronic government information resources among the five states involved in the project.

3. To increase the level of satisfaction with government information resources in meeting the information needs of their specific user communities.

4. To develop a new model for the support and training of participants of the Federal Depository Library in the 5 state region (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) that can be adopted nationally.

A survey with 22 broad government information categories was sent out to all government information specialists working in Federal Depository Libraries in the five state region. The intent of the survey was to identify which topics the specialists thought were most important to teach. The first ten topics were developed into lesson modules by June 2007 and the next ten by December 2007. Christine, Lisa and librarians from New Mexico and Wyoming developed one of the first modules, Energy & Natural Resources. This collaborative project involved defining the topic, organizing the different topical areas, and finally developing the module content by creating overviews, key resources, subject-specific information, and case studies/sample exercises. When the second round of module development began, Lisa worked on the Science & Technology module while Chris worked on the Maps & Transportation module; both collaborated with librarians from the University of Colorado, Boulder. All of these modules may be found at: www.webjunction.org/gi21

After the first round of module development, a Train-the-Trainers Conference was held. Approximately 50 government information specialist librarians, including Lisa Nickum, received training. The 2½ day conference offered attendees an educational environment, the opportunity to interact with colleagues from other states, and get excited about instructing others on the expanding world of electronic government information. Sessions included information on how to effectively teach adults, understand the basics of the WebJunction site, and use the newly completed first round modules. There was also time for attendees to network with peers from their state to plan upcoming training sessions. Over the next 15 months librarians will present at least 2 training sessions. The goal is to train at least 500 non-government specialist librarians and library staff by late summer 2008.

So what does all this mean for you?

If you’re stopping by your local library in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming seeking government information, you just might be served by a library staffer who has benefited from a training module developed through the IMLS Government Information in the 21st Century. Back in Golden, Lisa, Chris and Christine have always been sharing their expertise with our staff to ensure you receive the most complete service when you’re seeking government information. Their strengthened training skills and access to the tools, content and relationships developed through this grant, will continue to enrich services here at Arthur Lakes Library.

did you know

- At catalyst.coalliance.org you can access almost 40,000 electronic government publications.
- Recent print arrivals include: The Budget of the U.S. Government; Congressional hearings on clean coal technology, renewable fuels, and oil and gas development land issues; Defense-related publications; and new publications about U.S. national parks.
- Almost 30% of the collection consists of U.S. Department of the Interior publications.
Making an Impact on Life-Long Learning

by Kathi Conner

Longtime friends and supporters of Colorado School of Mines, Tom W. (GE ’53) and Mary Rollins, have been instrumental in many successes on campus. Their commitment to supporting CSM spans the breadth and depth of the institution, with consistently thoughtful gifts that directly impact the quality of the student experience.

With their gift to the Library in December 2007, Tom and Mary further demonstrated the value of lifelong learning by donating The Teaching Company’s collection of “Great Courses” educational videos. This exceptional collection of world-class lectures is the brainchild of their son, Tom, a Harvard-educated attorney who discovered the irrefutable positive impact of videotaped lectures delivered by a great teacher. The story goes like this: worried about his potential performance on a difficult law exam final, Tom crammed for the test, watching 10 hours of taped lectures by the quintessential expert in the field. The instructor was knowledgeable and captivating; Tom soaked up the information in sponge-like fashion and passed the exam with flying colors.

Young Tom went on to become Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. In 1990, Tom took his experiential evidence from his law student days to the next level with the formation of The Teaching Company. It was truly a revolutionary idea: pairing the passion of lifelong learners with the opportunity to explore interesting subjects, taught by some of the best educators in the world. More than a decade and a half later, lifelong education has become even more relevant due to the acceleration of scientific and technological progress.

With Tom and Mary’s gift, the Arthur Lakes Library has an incredible DVD collection that encompasses every discipline and interest. Wondering just what might interest you? There’s something for everyone! Check out: The Symphonies of Beethoven or maybe Robert E. Lee & His High Command is more to your liking. Is your high-school aged child or grandchild Mines-bound? Videos like How to Become a SuperStar Student or Algebra II might be just the ticket to gain an extra edge. Want to gain an appreciation for different religious experiences? Try Great World Religions. How about Philosophy? Lectures on The Will to Power: The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche or No Excuses: Existentialism and the Meaning of Life are sure to stimulate many a dinner conversation. Looking for videos that enhance the hard science curriculum at Mines? The collection of Great Courses includes titles like Particle Physics for Non-Physicists: A Tour of the Microcosmos, The Joy of Science, Zero to Infinity: The History of Numbers, Change and Motion: Calculus Made Clear, Understanding the Human Body: An Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology, The Nature of Earth: An Introduction to Geology.

This gift is certainly Making an Impact – for all members of the Mines community. In the Library, we’re excited about the Books That Have Made History: Books That Can Change Your Life course. Discover your “lifelong learner” in The Teaching Company collection of Great Courses - available at the Arthur Lakes Library or through your local library via interlibrary loan.

You Can Make an Impact in Too!

Contributions help make the Library a world-class source for information in the study of engineering and applied science related to the Earth, energy, materials and the environment.

- Donate today by using the enclosed postage paid envelope
- Donate mining papers, maps, letters, stock certificates and/or photographs
- Include the Arthur Lakes Library in your estate planning
- Make a gift to support a special project, collection or service
- Visit http://www.mines.edu/library/giving/priorities.html

Please contact Kathi Conner to discuss how you can make an impact. Call (303) 273-3133 or email Kathi.Conner@is.mines.edu
In Memory of a Swell Miner

Following Russ’ death in April 2001, gifts from family and friends were used to design, manufacture and install a beautiful new Circulation desk. The desk is capped with a stone top, commonly called “bronzite”; “Galaxy Black”, is an orthopyroxene gabbro with conspicuous golden brown specks. The new desk comfortably accommodates patrons who use wheelchairs. We are grateful the gift has allowed us to make our Circulation services accessible to all the members of our community.

Russ had a long association with the Colorado School of Mines. He graduated in 1949 and was a highly successful mining engineer. He served on the CSM Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1997; six of those years, as President. He has been honored by CSM with the Distinguished Achievement Medal in 1981, the Melville F. Coolbaugh Memorial Award in 1993, the Trustees Emeriti Honor Award in 1996, and an Honorary Doctor of Engineering degree in 1997. Lyn tells the story that as children, the kids called their father’s many awards “Swell Miner” awards. He was indeed a swell miner and the Colorado School of Mines and the Arthur Lakes Library are both deeply indebted for his years of service and support.

We were grateful to gather with Russ and Lyn’s children and grandchildren to formally dedicate the desk and celebrate the life and work of their father and grandfather, Russell L. Wood.
Ariel Bradford

by Wendy Shortridge

Physics major and perfectionist maximum Ariel Bradford is a natural fit in the Circulation Department. In addition to her front desk duties, Ariel organized the Prospector courier slips into a user-friendly filing system, updated the journal stacks signs and continues to work on database cleanup projects in the library operating system. She has applied her powerful eye for detail successfully searching the Library shelves for materials that had previously been considered missing.

On campus, Ariel is a dedicated student who is a member of the Engineering Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). She made the Dean's List this past fall semester. Ariel is also working toward a minor in Bioengineering and will be continuing her education at CSM in the master's degree program for Mechanical Engineering Systems.

Off campus, Ariel is enthralled with world travel. She has visited both France and Germany as a winter traveler and enjoyed castle tours on her trips. After getting lost on a 10 mile forest walk by the Neckar River near Heidelberg, Ariel strongly recommends wearing lots of layers for damp, cold European winters.

Thoroughly thawed from her winter adventures, Ariel is now working on special projects for the Reference Department. Her desire for order, love of office work, and dedication to customer service is a tremendous asset to the library.
Roz is honored

At the 2008 President’s Committee on Diversity Staff Breakfast, Arthur Lakes Library staffer, Roz Yocom was honored for her contributions in support of diversity at Mines. Roz serves as the staff liaison for Sigma Lambda, CSM’s student organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people, as well as straight supporters. She was specifically cited for her efforts to bring Safe Zone training to the campus. Safe Zone programs are typically found on university and college campuses and offer training to individuals about how to provide highly visible and easily identifiable safe spaces to GLBT people. Training emphasizes support and understanding and the creation of campus spaces where bigotry and discrimination are not tolerated.

Kathi joins us

The Arthur Lakes Library is pleased to welcome and introduce Kathi Conner, Development Officer with the CSM Foundation Major Gifts group. Kathi joined the Foundation staff in January 2008 and will be focusing 50% of her efforts raising money for the Library; the other 50% of her time will be devoted to other fundraising interests of the School. As often happens here at Mines, Kathi is returning to campus; she first joined the Mines community in 1996 to start the Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC). After developing its programs for 8 years, Kathi left Mines to pursue work in the non-profit sector. The Library staff are excited to have Kathi’s energy and passion for Mines working to help us be good stewards of your gifts.

Evolution of Journals

by Heather Whitehead

The first electronic journals appeared about 1992. Most were free, since pricing models had not been established. Two years later, fewer than 75 peer-reviewed electronic journals existed\(^1\). With this slow start, few librarians or scholars would have predicted the swift changes that the next 10 years would bring.

The science and technology core peer-reviewed title list in Science Citation Index illustrates this transition. In 1998, about 30% of the core list had online versions. By 2002, that percentage had jumped to 75%, and today it is over 90%\(^2\).

Electronic journals were initially bundled with paid print subscriptions but by 2002, the ability to subscribe to electronic versions without print was becoming more common. In 2002, the COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) initiative introduced standards for reporting online usage in a consistent, credible and compatible way. With COUNTER, librarians could gather and analyze usage statistics for electronic journals, and compare usage from vendor to vendor. Those earliest usage reports were startling – usage figures that had been in the 10’s or 100’s for print journals showed consistent 1,000’s and more for their electronic versions. Users were demonstrating a distinct preference for electronic journals, validating library decisions to add electronic content.

Arthur Lakes Library has been fairly conservative during the transition, retaining print along with online versions for many core titles. Beginning in 2007, we systematically began to convert more titles to e-only. Publishers and titles are selected based on stability of the electronic product, usage statistics for both print and online, local availability, and other factors. Our users have responded favorably to e-only resources and we plan to continue converting journals that meet our criteria over the next few years. A 2007 report from the Association for Research Libraries titled “The E-Only Tipping Point for Journals” is available at: http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/Electronic_Transition.pdf

\(^1\)Library Journal, April 15, 2002, p. 51-56

\(^2\)Ulrich’s database
President Bill Scoggins honors Roz Yocom’s commitment to and support of diversity at Mines.

In keeping with environmentally friendly practices, this newsletter was printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. The size and mailing method were chosen to minimize waste. Using recycled fiber takes about 1.4 tons out of the land fill to produce 1.0 tons of recycled fiber. In addition, less water, fewer chemicals and less energy are required.

Please Recycle. Preserving the delicate balance of our ecology requires a commitment from all of us. Recycling is an effective way to conserve our resources and protect our environment.

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