GPO Access Now Free

Effective as of December 1, 1995, use of the Government Printing Office electronic information services, GPO Access, became free of charge to all users. The GPO Access online service includes over 20 important Federal databases such as the Federal Register, the Congressional Record, congressional bills, and a growing list of important government documents on the same day of publication.

The GPO Access service was created by an Act of Congress in 1993 and went online in June 1994. Until now, it was free only to users on-site in some 600 of the Nation's nearly 1,400 Federal Depository Libraries and to most users connecting through library "gateways." It was also available to others on a subscription basis for a low fee.

All of these databases will appear on our Web site and on our SWAIS menus. GPO Access databases also can be reached via the Internet or by dial-in through a modem:

Internet users with a World Wide Web browser:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/

Internet users can telnet to:

swais.access.gpo.gov; then login as guest

Dial-in users with a modem call:

202-512-1661; type swais and then login as guest

GPO Access is available in the Reference Room, and training will be offered by library staff during Spring semester. For further information about GPO Access databases and services, please contact Lois Dickenson at 6092 or email cslad@eiu.edu.

IBIS Usage for FY95

IBIS, the Illinois Bibliographic Information Service, is a collection of subject-based, online databases accessible through selected workstations and terminals in libraries throughout Illinois. In 1991, ILCSO (Illinois Library Computer Systems Office) negotiated a contract with BRS software to make IBIS available to all ILCSO libraries and Illinois library system headquarters. IBIS currently offers access to a wide variety of indexes including: Applied Science & Technology Index, Art Index, Biological & Agricultural Index, Business Periodicals Index, CARL UNCOVER, ERIC, General Science Index, Humanities Index, Library Literature, PsycINFO, Reader's Guide Abstracts, and Social Sciences Index. Dial and Internet access to IBIS is available for ILCSO library patrons only.

At EIU, IBIS is available from all networked computers on campus as well as by dial access. During FY95 Eastern patrons logged hours equivalent to 1.57 calendar years.

Total IBIS usage for FY95 was 196,548 hours of connect time for the ILLINET online institutions, which include 39 libraries. (As a point of interest, during the first six months of FY96, there already have been 103,975 hours of connect time.) Of that total, EIU used 7% or 13,785 hours of connect time. Following are the FY95 connect hours used for each database package and the percentage of usage by EIU:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database Family</th>
<th>TOTAL CONNECT TIME (hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E.R.I.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PsycInfo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Totals</td>
<td>107,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIU</td>
<td>8,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IBIS usage during FY95 reflected a 32.7% increase over FY94, and each of the database packages showed an increase. For FY96, the total cost to Booth Library for IBIS is $24,588.

Head of Acquisitions Chosen

Ms. Pamela Waldrep assumed the position of Head of Acquisitions on March 1, 1996, following the retirement of Mr. Maurice Libbey. Ms. Waldrep has been a librarian in both public and academic libraries since 1979 and has experience in many areas of library services. She has been part of the Acquisitions staff since July of 1994.
In 1996 the OCLC community is celebrating the silver anniversary of the OCLC Online Union Catalog and 25 years of library cooperation.

ENTRY RULES:
The Essay: Write an essay in English on the topic, “What the OCLC Online Union Catalog Means to Me.” The typewritten essay may be written from any perspective, including from that of a librarian, library user, student, or faculty member. The essay must be 500 words or less.

Submission Instructions: The essay must arrive at OCLC no later than April 26, 1996, and be accompanied by a completed entry form (available at Booth Library—6061 or email csblf). The form is also available via the OCLC Home Page at http://www.oclc.org/ under “What’s New...What’s Hot.” A writer may submit more than one essay. Electronic submissions will be accepted. Email donna_gehring@oclc.org. The submission will be copyrighted by OCLC and may appear in OCLC publications.

Judging: A panel of OCLC-affiliated Regional Network Directors and OCLC staff will judge the entries. All decisions of the judges are final.

Awards: OCLC will award five prizes to be announced in July. The Grand Prize will be $1,000. There are four additional prizes of $500 each. OCLC will provide transportation for the Grand Prize winner to the OCLC President’s Luncheon in July 1996 at the ALA Annual Conference in New York City, where the award will be present.

OCLC Essay Contest ~ Grand Prize $1,000

The OCLC bibliographic database is the largest of its kind. It grows by two million records annually, added by libraries around the world, including Booth Library. It now contains more than 34 million records and more than 560 million location listings. The information in this catalog spans 4,000 years of recorded knowledge in 360 languages.

On August 26, 1971, the OCLC Online Union Catalog began operation. Its initial contributors were 54 academic libraries in Ohio. Today, 25 years later, thousands of libraries of all types in 64 countries use and share cataloging information in what has become the world’s foremost database of bibliographic information.