



# Highlights

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## *Frankenstein!*—Coming to a Library Near You

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ELIZABETH HUTH COATES LIBRARY AT TRINITY UNIVERSITY

The Coates Library has been selected as one of 82 libraries in the country to host an exciting traveling exhibition. “Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature” was developed by the National Library of Medicine in collaboration with the American Library Association, made possible by major grants from The National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C., and the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland.

The traveling exhibition—based upon a major exhibition produced by the National Library of Medicine in 1997-1998—examines Mary Shelley’s classic novel *Frankenstein* and its evolution in literature, popular culture, and scientific research since its publication in 1818. Trinity and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio are sharing the exhibition; it will be at each institution for three weeks, starting in the Coates Library on February 6 and remaining through February 28.

This traveling Frankenstein maintains many of the larger exhibition’s themes, including the transformation of the monster from Shelley’s rational and articulate creature to the speechless murderer of later plays and films. It also addresses issues such as cloning and genetic engineering, which raise questions about the human implications of scientific and technological advances.

In addition, the exhibition will serve as a trigger for a larger February Frankenfest sponsored by the Library. Three public lectures have been scheduled as follows:

- Dr. Heather Sullivan, February 6, of TU’s Modern Languages and Literatures Department on “Frankenstein’s Body: A Horror Story of Sex,

Reproduction, and Social Responsibility”

- Dr. Tim Marshall, February 20, of England’s East Anglia University, author of *Murdering to Dissect: Grave-Robbing, Frankenstein, and the Anatomy Literature*, on “Murdering to Dissect”
- Dr. Susan Lederer, February 27, of Yale University’s History of Medicine Department and curator of the exhibition, on “Mary Shelley’s Monster and Medical Science”

An opening reception for the exhibition will follow Dr. Sullivan’s talk; visitors to the reception are encouraged to *come in costume*. The library will also sponsor a Frankenstein film festival, a panel discussion on the ethics of cloning and the human genome project, and an art exhibit. We will solicit student demonstrations and projects with a Frankenstein connection to be presented or displayed in the Library. Finally, no Gothic exhibition would be complete without a *blood drive*, which will take place February 13-14.

Contact Barbara MacAlpine with questions at 999-7343 (e-mail [bmacalpi@trinity.edu](mailto:bmacalpi@trinity.edu)) or consult the web page at: <http://lib.trinity.edu/frank/index.shtml>

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## In Print

One way to learn something is by learning how not to do it. If you see yourself as an emerging Web master, check out *Web Pages That Suck*, and the more recent follow-up, *Son of Web Pages That Suck*, by Vincent Flanders and Michael Willis.

Another way to learn is to start your research in the reference collection. Learn the terminology on your subject, gain helpful background knowledge, and get references to books and articles. Some of our latest acquisitions are:

- *Religions of the World*, a 4 volume encyclopedia
- The 2 vol. *Encyclopedia of Weather and Climate*
- *The U.S. Constitution A to Z*

## Newspapers

In the *Westlaw* database, you can browse the *Wall Street Journal* for the last two weeks or search the last ten years and find full text articles. Over 200 more newspapers are accessible here as well. Access is limited to current faculty, staff, and students. Log on with your university I.D. and password. However, we are limited to two simultaneous users, so if the system is busy, try back later; once you're done, please log off so others won't be waiting unnecessarily.

See the library Website, <http://lib.trinity.edu/research/intsites/nwspaper.shtml> for a complete summary of our electronic access to newspapers.

## Microfilm

Newspaper back files on microfilm include: *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, *The Times* (London), *The New York Times* (Web access also from the library database page), *The San Antonio Express-News*, and *The San Antonio Light*.

## ILL Courier Service

We participate in a state-wide courier service called TExpress, providing rapid delivery of books and media for Interlibrary Loan (ILL). TExpress also returns books to other participating libraries, such as the University of Texas at Austin or Rice. To use this service, personally deliver the books to our ILL staff, indicating the returning items were checked out and not borrowed through ILL services. Please note two things:

- Although typical service is prompt (48 hours or less), we can't guarantee when items are considered "returned" by the lending library; so if a due date is imminent, you might use another method of returning the books.
- TExpress has no insurance coverage, so if your items are valuable and you can't return them in person, you might find another shipping option covering possible loss.

# Future Library Construction: Information Commons

Thanks to a generous grant from the Priddy Foundation, the Coates Library staff is busy planning for the implementation of the new Information Commons. Our goal is to have the Commons renovation completed in time for the start of fall classes.

Most of the campus community will miss the major upheaval associated with this renovation. Those of you who are on campus this summer will get to experience first-hand what happens when a library does major renovations. We know, for example, that we will need to add electrical and data wiring, and replace the old, worn out carpet with new floor coverings. We will update some lighting, and build a new training/instruction room. New service points (desks at circulation and the reference area) will be installed.

Those tasks are difficult enough for any space on campus, but when you consider that the 3rd floor of Coates Li-



brary houses over 37,000 linear feet of collections sitting on a comparable amount of steel shelving, and that those materials and shelving have to be *relocated* before the carpet can be replaced and the floor core-drilled, you can imagine what the impact will be. One of the noisiest events that ever happens in a library is the removal or construction of new steel shelving.

We will begin the transition a few days before spring commencement and continue through the summer. There will be disruptions throughout the summer months, which include during summer session classes. We will work with those faculty members who are teaching to ensure that collections are available and services are accessible. *We won't be able to guarantee quiet, however.* Between shelving work, moves, electrical and construction work, the Library will be a lively location!

So, plan on having a little upheaval this summer, and come by to watch—and cheer on—the transition.

# Journal Pricing, Inflation, & the Academic Library

Many faculty members groaned loudly when their liaisons contacted them last fall to request, once again, suggestions for journal cancellations. In an attempt to provide some perspective on this issue, this edition of *Highlights* contains information and background on the ongoing serials crisis.

## Background

The crisis in serials inflation has been a fact of life in academic libraries since the mid-1980s. Almost half of the journals we purchase in print are published over-

seas—many in the northern European countries. In 1985, the U.S. dollar was so strong against many European currencies that it was affecting the trade deficit. To address this, then-President Reagan devalued the U.S. dollar against other currencies, and

most of the U.S. economy benefited. The impact on libraries, however, was negative—European journal prices rose almost 25% in 1987, 1988 and again in 1989. Many academic librarians agree that that signaled the start of the inflationary wave in journals pricing.



*In the last five years, the average increase in our serials subscription prices has been 34.5%.*

## Currently

Recently, inflation has been less dramatic, but the impact remains the same: budgets don't match inflation, so we must cancel journal subscriptions. In the last five years (1998-2002), the average increase in our serials subscription prices has been 34.5%. That compares favorably with an overall average of 39.1% for all college & university libraries. To put it in perspective, however, the Consumer Price Index has risen 9.75% in that period.

## Causes

Of course, the logical question is: WHY? Why is journal inflation so far ahead of most other indi-

ces? The reasons are many, and can include the following:

- Increased academic specialization has fueled a proliferation of titles that are increasingly specialized and targeted to a particular audience.
- Information, or published research, is increasingly seen as a commodity, particularly in scientific, technical and medical fields, but also in the social sciences and business.

- The promotion and tenure system, which requires faculty researchers to “publish or perish” in part fuels this demand for specialized outlets for research. And the requirement by many schools to publish in the best journals in the field drives demand for the best (and often highest-priced) journals.

- Fewer and fewer journals are published

by non-profit entities, either university presses or non-profit organizations and societies. Many journal titles and lists have been sold to for-profit publishing entities. Those publishers charge “what the market will bear” for their publications, and the academic market continues to bear high prices.

- At the same time, publishing conglomerates like Elsevier (based in the Netherlands) are growing their journal lists and operating profitably. A recent *Forbes* article cited their high profitability and stunning margins in their online publications. (See “Double Dutch No Longer,” *Forbes*, 11/11/2002, volume 170, issue 10, p. 130).
- Each journal, and each article within it, is in effect a single-source publication. While two journals may address similar areas of research, no two publish the same con-

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# Journal Pricing (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

tent. That uniqueness essentially eliminates competition.

- Publishers claim that the expense of maintaining both print and electronic publications, along with the costs associated with implementing and supporting e-publishing technologies, has also increased pricing. On the print side, printing, binding and shipping costs have often been cited as volatile expenses, as has the paper commodity market.

## The Subscription Agent

There are additional pressures on libraries. To manage the complex renewal, payment and claiming process involved with maintaining thousands of subscriptions, academic libraries have used subscription agencies for over a century. They allow us to place orders, cancellations, and pay all through one source. The subscription agents offer this service for a surcharge that is based in part on the mix of titles the library orders. The service charge depends a great deal on discounts offered by publishers to the agent. (Publishers also benefit from the agents' consolidation of orders and payments).

In the early 1980s, there were six subscription agencies providing services to the US academic library market. By 2002, there were only three. One of them went bankrupt in late December, and another is rumored to be for sale. The service we use (EBSCO) is still quite strong, but in the absence of competition our service charge increased. This year, for instance, EBSCO raised it 1.5%—costing us an additional \$5,000 that we did not anticipate.

## Across the board inflation

While many of us turn to the expense of scientific journals when we discuss this problem, the sciences are not alone. In a recent five-year study of journals inflation, some of the highest increases

have occurred in the humanities and social science journals. One humanities subscription increased 118% over the 1998-2002 period, and a primary social science publication increased 114%.

## What can we do?

We can encourage open discussions across the campus about serials pricing and inflation. The library faculty will continue to provide as much objective information as possible about alternatives, pricing history, and use to each academic department. This year, in the lists we provided to departments, we included information about the pricing history for each title, so faculty members could consider extraordinary increases in price as a factor.

We continue to seek consortial discounts for journals and packages of journals from specific publishers, and we watch for opportunities to cancel print titles that are now available electronically through aggregator services. We have watched for document delivery services that might provide research access to articles on demand at a lower cost. And we continue to offer a fast, accurate interlibrary loan service.

The library faculty encourages our teaching faculty colleagues to ask questions and share their concerns about this process. Many have suggested that we take a look at the journals list in the spring semester,

so that we can address budgetary changes earlier in the year and avoid the rush to cancel in the fall. If that is your preference, please let your library liaison know, so that we can plan to provide the appropriate information to you in a timely fashion.



### Highlights

A publication for Trinity library users published every semester

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## “Fear of Reference” Follow-Up

In the last issue of *Highlights*, we reprinted an article by Barbara Fister of Gustavus Adolphus College on the “Fear of Reference” problem among today’s college students. Intrigued by her assertions that many students don’t know what we have to offer or why we are here, I did a little of my own research.

In early November, I spoke to a class that was composed largely of first-year and sophomore students. I asked them a few questions about their perceptions of the library. I asked if they knew what percent of the library’s budget went to electronic resources. Most of them overestimated it by far. I suspect they did so because they believe that most of the material we acquire is available only in electronic formats. They are unaware that the preponderance of scholarly materials, particularly monographs, are in print.

I asked the class if they knew why Trinity had a staff of professional reference librarians. After an uncomfortable silence, one student suggested, rather tentatively, “So they can do the research for us?” When I explained that the reference librarians were here to guide the research process, to help identify the best starting points and the best searching techniques, some of the students looked surprised. I showed them the list of over 190 electronic indexing, abstracting and reference databases on our website, and explained that each one served a specialized purpose. I told them that is why we are here—to know what those different sources do, and to guide our users to the best one. Finally, our job is to teach—to help students learn how to think critically about searching for specific information.

I then asked if they felt the way Gustavus Adolphus students did about using the reference service. (Fister found that students were embarrassed to use reference, and one even suggested that the desk be moved to a more private location, where they wouldn’t be seen asking for help.) The Trinity students nodded emphatically. One said, “We’re already supposed to know all of this, and I don’t want to admit that I don’t.” Her comments were met with more nods of agreement. One Trinity

faculty member, also intrigued by the Fister article, wondered if her students were more familiar with the concept of an index than the Gustavus Adolphus seniors. So she asked her first-year students to define an index. The answer: a list of all the words used in a book. The professor said, “No, that’s a concordance.” But it confirmed what Fister wrote: students don’t know this stuff, and we cannot assume that they do.

I’ve heard similar stories from my librarian colleagues. One heard from a faculty member that her first-year students needed more basic training in how to use Quest, our online catalog. Upper level students, on the other hand, asserted that they know “all there is to know” about searching Quest. But what we see in the library would counter that assertion. Many students of all ages appear to be confused by the distinctions between Quest and the other, journal literature-based resources.

We’ve had successes, too. Some faculty members have invited librarians to work with them to create assignments that

demand one-on-one consultations with the library liaison. That kind of personal attention and instruction almost always leads to a better student learning experience, and it shows in the writing, the citations, the absence of plagiarism. It’s a win-win for professor, student, and librarian.

Clearly, librarians and teaching faculty need to work together to address the needs of bright, well-educated students who have had little or no exposure to the research process. We’d like to hear from others about their concerns, their successes, and their interest in developing assignments that will expose students to the library, its collections, and the professional librarians who are there to assist, guide and teach them.

If you have ideas, please share them with me. My email address is: [diane.graves@trinity.edu](mailto:diane.graves@trinity.edu). I look forward to hearing from you.

Diane Graves  
University Librarian



# Finding a Journal 201: TDNet Revisited

By now you've used—or maybe wondered about—the e-Journals Quick Link (<http://www.tdnet.com/trinity/>) on the library homepage. One click takes you to a database, created by the company TDNet, that lists and links to all the e-journals the TU community can access. They include those we subscribe to directly as well as many titles that are available in full-text from our numerous periodical databases (such as Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, Project Muse, Business Source Premier, etc.).

## When should I use TDNet?

If you're looking for a journal title not listed in our catalog (QUEST), or one which we lack a current subscription for, your next step is to check TDNet. Many e-

journals are not listed in QUEST. The most efficient way to query TDNet is to type the journal title into the Quick Search box on the homepage. Use the full name; abbreviations are not recognized by the computer. Misspellings and punctuation can lead to a negative response, so if you browse through the list of titles alphabetically, you might be able to locate the journal you're looking for after a Quick Search is unsuccessful.

## When should I not use TDNet?

TDNet is not a good source for researching articles on a particular subject. Although there is a search page within TDNet that can be used to look for article titles by keyword, it is definitely a shotgun approach. A much better option would be a subject search in one of the library's periodical databases.



Full-Text Database Searches

