



The Silk Purse: Creating an Electronic Reserve System That Works for You and Your Library

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Abstract

This presentation was made to the annual meeting of the IT staff in colleges and universities in North Carolina. Because audience members were not library staff/faculty, some of the presentation is about introducing these non-librarians to what reserves in the library involve and why it is important to students and faculty. WCU and UNCG librarians talked about how they created these systems themselves before the library's ILS systems included this software, proxy access/security, and procedures.

Ellern, G.D., Wreath, A., & Brandsma, T. (1999, October 15). *The Silk Purse: Creating an Electronic Reserve System That Works for You and Your Library* [Presentation]. UNC CAUSE 1999. UNC CAUSE, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Archived version from NC DOCKS available at: <http://libres.uncg.edu/ir/wcu/listing.aspx?id=37410>.

The Silk Purse...

Creating an Electronic Reserve
System that works for you and
your library

UNC CAUSE 99

Raleigh, NC

Friday, October 15, 1999



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April Wreath, UNCG
Terry Brandsma, UNCG

Presentation Outline

- Introduction to Reserves for non-librarians
- WCU's experience creating E-reserves
- UNCG's experience creating E-reserves
- Integrated library systems E-reserves?

What is this Thing Called Reserves?

- Special collection of supplemental course materials available in the library
- Have short loan period
- Higher fines if not returned
- Usually only available to students

Reserve Materials

- Books and materials from the library's collection
- Books and materials from a professor's personal collection
- Photocopies of articles, book chapters, class notes, old exams, etc.

Finding Reserves

- Students usually have to know what they want
 - Unlike the rest of the library collection where finding the item is part of the research process
- Reserves are looked for under the direction of one's professor
 - items found in home created indexes by course and professor

Characteristics of a Reserve Collection

- Professor's initiate the placing of items on reserve (not library initiated)
- Separate collection usually with its own desk in the library
 - individual staff are assigned these duties
- Most materials if restricted to in-library use so that multiple students can access it

Automating the Reserve Collection

- Creating electronic reserves (E-Reserves)
 - Scanning print materials
 - Offering access to this scanned material via the web
 - Making other electronic files available
- Adding this access as an additional service
 - not replacing what is done already

Advantages of an E-Reserve Collection

- Available more hours
- More students can access an item at the same time
- Don't have to come into the library to use the items

Disadvantages of an E-Reserve Collection

- Adding of a labor intensive service without being able to give up the traditional one
- Copyright law
 - making copyrighted materials available to anyone via the web directly violates federal law
 - must limit access to these materials to students

Why is the Computer Center Involved?

- How do you limit access to scanned materials on the web to just students and faculty of your university?
 - library staff usually doesn't know how to even begin to do this
 - immediately we need help from our campus computer center
 - you have access to programs, programmers, tools, databases that would make this easy

Creating that Silk Purse

- How two libraries have worked to create electronic reserve systems
 - **WCU's experience**
 - **UNCA's experience**

WCU's E-Reserves

- Hardware and software to do the scanning in the library
- Structure of E-Reserves within the Library Homepage
- Security system to authorize access
- Miscellaneous forms and procedures

Basic Scanning Workstation

(Hardware and Software)

- Microcomputer with large amount of memory and large monitor
- Scanner
- Adobe Acrobat with Capture
- FTP
- Huge amounts of storage area on the secured server

Why Adobe Acrobat?

- Very popular on the web
- Condenses an image down when used with the capture function by using OCR type functions
- Free availability of the reader software
 - Now loaded in labs, e-classrooms, public PCs in library and from library homepage

Why Use .pdf Files?

- Quality is better than .jpeg or .gif files for documents
- Smaller than most other image formats
- Becoming a standard format for documents
- 60% of libraries doing E-Reserves use this format

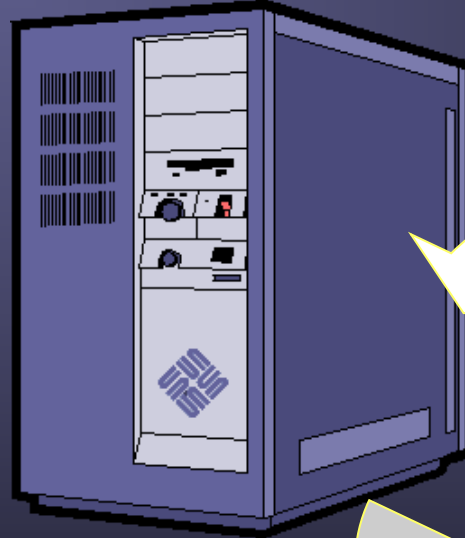
Structure of the Library Homepage

- How do you find the E-Reserve materials?
 - Location E-Reserves link from homepage
 - Indexing of items
 - follow same format as traditional (by course and by instructor)
 - Create a list or use some kind of indexing program
 - How much of E-Reserves is protected
- How much information to include for faculty wanting to put materials on E-Reserves

Security system to authorize access to E-Reserves

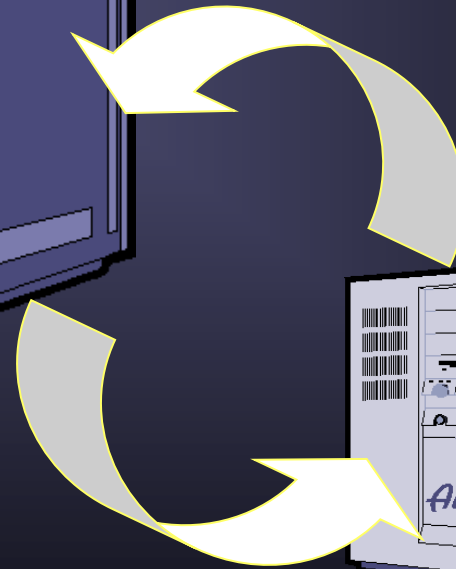
- Computer Center created a collection of API's, redirects, and applications to authorize a user to access secured information
- Library E-Reserves became a model for many other secured documents and processes

User's PC



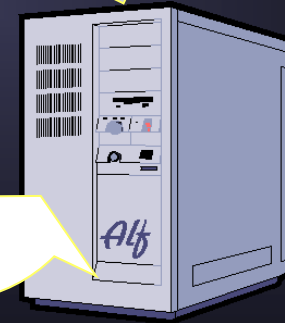
COWEE.WCU.EDU

-Sun Sparcstation 20
(has the E-Reserve
data in protected location)



ALF.WCU.EDU

-Dec Alpha
(has SIS and
Personnel
Databases for
authorization)





User's PC

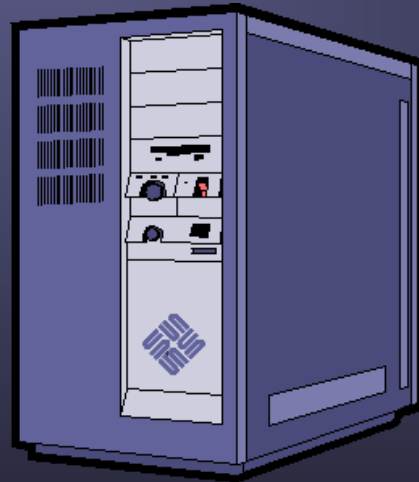
**Any kind of PC running a browser
anywhere in the world**

Browser must be able to accept cookies

**Access will only last during
a single Netscape session and
for only a certain amount of time.**

COWEE.WCU.EDU

**Cowee is a Sun Sparc
Station 20
running Solaris 2.7
using Netscape
Commerce webserver
don't laugh - it works
(can use and modify
API's)**



**Runs certain homegrown
API's that run if URL is in
a certain location (in this
case the location is - after
the machine name -
win/docs)**

**The API checks the
status/existence of a specific
cookie before it will let a user
access the win/docs directory.**

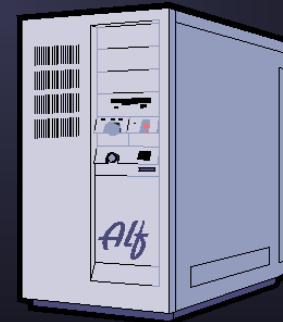
**If cookie doesn't exist, the
web server sends a redirect
to an authorizing screen, also
tags along the URI from
where you came from.**

ALF.WCU.EDU

**Alf is a Dec Alpha
Running VMS
using Purveyor webserver
uses authorizing APIs that
uses command procedures in
DCL that calls COBOL
programs to check and
validate status of user.**

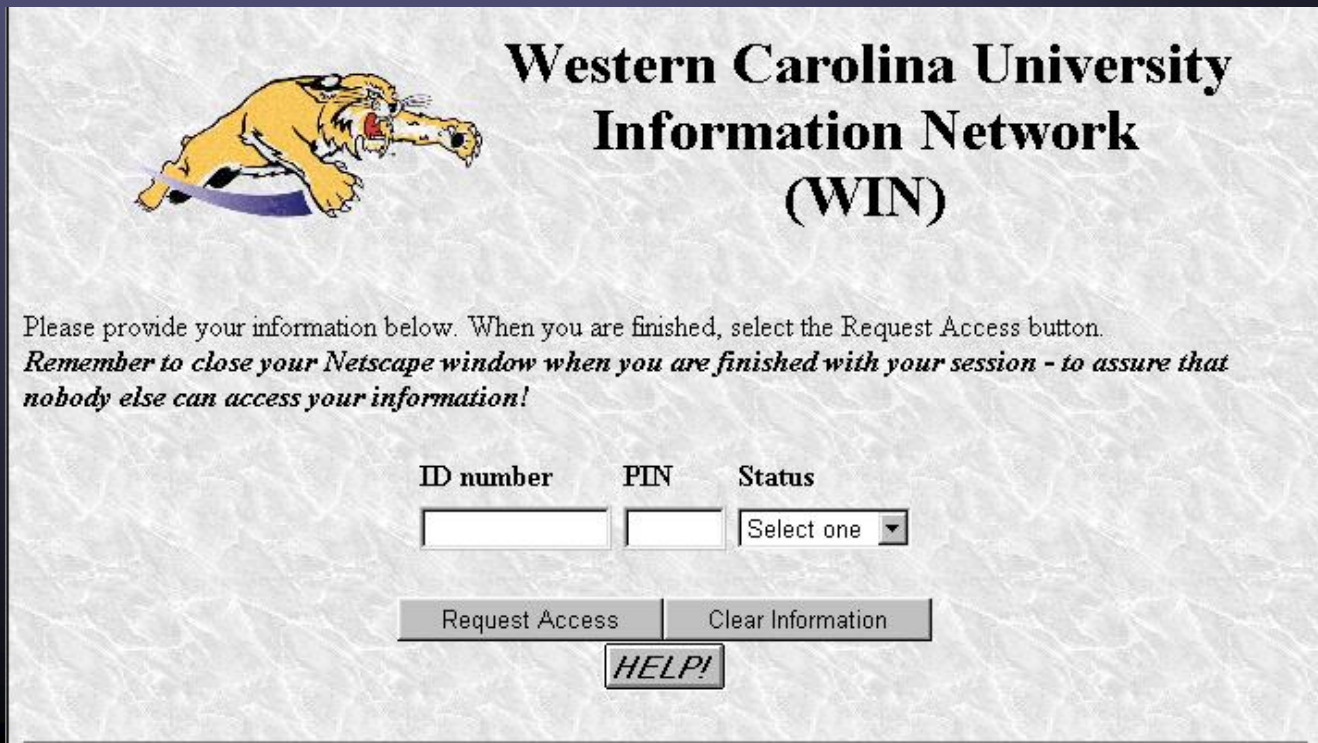
**If no cookie is found, the
authorization screen
called the WIN Screen,
is sent to the user to fill out.**

**Three fields of information,
ID number/username, pin number,
and status, are checked against the SIS and
Personnel databases. If found, a cookie is
sent to the user by Cowee along with the
URI. Redirects you back to Cowee to get
the pages requested.**



WCU WIN Screen

- Has 3 fields
 - ID number (SS # or Username)
 - Pin (four digits)
 - Category (faculty, staff, students)



The image shows a screenshot of the Western Carolina University Information Network (WIN) login screen. At the top left is a cartoon illustration of a yellow tiger with its mouth open, roaring. To the right of the tiger, the text reads "Western Carolina University Information Network (WIN)" in a bold, black, serif font. Below the tiger and title, there is a paragraph of text: "Please provide your information below. When you are finished, select the Request Access button. Remember to close your Netscape window when you are finished with your session - to assure that nobody else can access your information!". Underneath this text are three input fields: "ID number" (a text box), "PIN" (a text box), and "Status" (a dropdown menu with "Select one" and a downward arrow). Below these fields are two buttons: "Request Access" and "Clear Information". At the bottom center is a button labeled "HELP!" in a stylized font.

**Western Carolina University
Information Network
(WIN)**

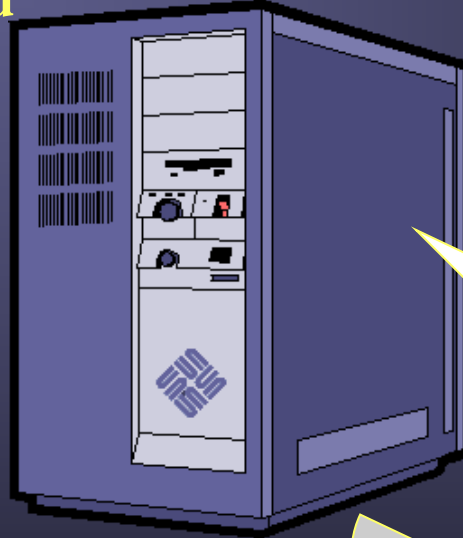
Please provide your information below. When you are finished, select the Request Access button.
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ID number PIN Status

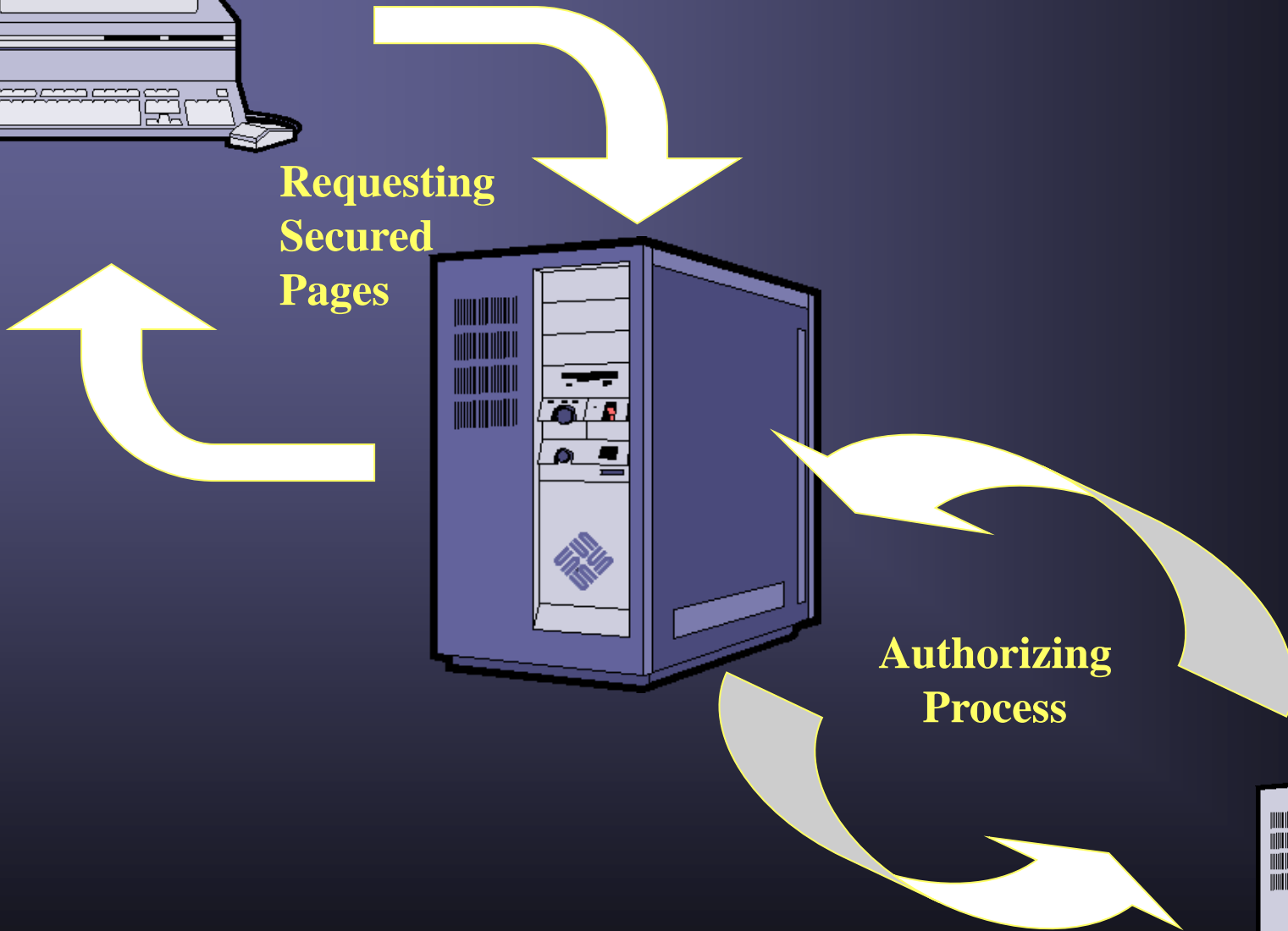
Basic Process



Requesting
Secured
Pages



Authorizing
Process



Miscellaneous Forms and Procedures

- Copyright and request form is used as the first page in every scanned document
 - **educating faculty about copyright**
- Allowing at least a week to process and get document online (24 hours for traditional)

Not a silk purse...
more like this!

