



# CLARION

## From the University Librarian

by Bil Stahl

We are often confronted with obviously logical conclusions that actually prove to be dead wrong. The idea that VCRs would be the death of the film industry is an example. VCRs actually revitalized a dying film industry.

Librarians are being confronted with another “logical” conclusion. That with so much information available through the World Wide Web, there will be less and less need for libraries and librarians. However, this conclusion is somewhat analogous to saying that because we have such a large and growing number of medicinal drugs available, doctors will be less important!

Trying to get information from the Internet has been compared to trying to get a drink from a fire hose. The quantity of information available continues to grow at a rapid pace and the quality varies widely. The traditional role of the librarian in aggregating and organizing collections of high-quality, reliable information resources that best support the populations they serve is being applied to Internet-based information.

Internet resources offer unique challenges to libraries because of the difficulty with Web resources coming in and going out of existence. It is also problematic at times to determine the quality of the information provided on Web sites. One of the measures of a book’s authority is the reputation of the publisher. In many respects the Librarian now takes on the role of the traditional publishing house by deciding which Web sites to “publish” as part of a library’s resources.

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## is Here

by Lorna Dorr, Reference Librarian

Hunter Library is now providing access to the netLibrary database of over 10,000 electronic books. There are two types of “collections” available: the “Library Collection,” which contains copyrighted books purchased by the NC LIVE organization, and the “Public Collection,” which contains books that are no longer copyrighted and are in the public domain. These collections may be searched by title, author, keywords, or full text. Users can read eBooks online using the netLibrary Online eBook Reader, a browser-based tool that requires version 4.0 or greater of Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Pages of eBooks may also be downloaded and read offline, but you must first download the eBook Reader Software from the netLibrary Website.

As in a physical library, only one person at a time may read a book and there is a time limit on each book. There are several options for reading a book: Preview, Checkout, and Read. **Preview** takes you directly into the eBook, however access is limited to 15-minute increments, and after 15 minutes of inactivity the eBook is returned to the collection and may be checked out by another library patron. **Checkout** gives you exclusive access to a copyrighted eBook for two hours at a time. **Read** generally refers to books in the Public collection; since these books are not copyrighted access is unlimited. If, however, you only see the Read option, you have exclusive access to that eBook in 15 minute increments.

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## New Weather & Climate Bibliography

by Bob Strauss, Cataloging

A new annotated bibliography, Weather & Climate of WNC, has recently been created. This resource can be found both from the Research Tools, by Subject, then under Science & Technology, and from the Quick Reference page, under Research Tools.

It has been organized into three main sections, *Print Resources*, *World Wide Web Sites*, and *Additional Resources*. ***Print Resources*** lists four books in the library's collection. These have various data for Cullowhee and western North Carolina, including average monthly temperature and precipitation, snowfall, and heating and cooling degree days. All of the data are not in any one volume.

The ***World Wide Web Sites*** are divided into *Forecast Sites*, which provide an immediate forecast for our area, from Asheville or Franklin. *Radar Loops/Maps* link directly to places showing the same radar maps that you can see on television. The *Climate Data* section allows access to actual data for our region.

In the ***Additional Resources*** section are links to both a locally-created sunrise/sunset chart for Sylva, and to the site where any sunrise/sunset table can be found. Finally, there is also a brief table of average monthly temperatures and rainfall for Cullowhee. ♦

## From the University Librarian

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The Hunter Library is adding online resources and Web sites to its online catalog. The library catalog as an access tool is superior to the Internet search engines like Yahoo!, Excite or Google, as anyone who has tried to do a complex search strategy using them has probably discovered. The library catalog not only offers better means of access because of the robust bibliographic records the library has created for each resource in the catalog, but it also relates the Internet resources to books, journals, videos, etc. that the library patron has ready access to. These physical items remain important to students and faculty as the Library's usage statistics and the sales figures for Amazon.com and Borders prove.

We are beginning to see signs that the "Hype Cycle" for information on the Internet has perhaps peaked and is sliding down the slope of disillusion. (According to the Gartner Group's concept of the Hype Cycle, there is a rapid



## SET TO PLAN NEW EFFORTS

by Linda Gillman, Secretary  
to the Board, Friends of  
Hunter Library

The Board of Advisors of Friends of Hunter Library will be meeting in early December, at which time they will begin planning their 2001 fund-raising efforts. At this meeting, new University Librarian Bil Stahl will give a "State of the Library" presentation that will include details of the much anticipated future plans of Hunter Library as well as suggestions for special Friends initiatives.

When we review the organization's past successes, it is the generosity of Friends members that takes center stage. Due to generous funding from Friends members, the organization has donated substantial funds to provide Hunter Library with an ever-growing body of special collections. These special collections are an important asset, not only to the faculty and student body but also to the community as a whole. Thank you, members! We look forward to your continued support and generosity and to announcing our 2001 initiatives on behalf of Hunter Library. ♦

rise in expectations about a new technology that peaks fairly quickly and then falls into the disillusionment slope which gradually levels out and becomes a slight upward slope of realistic expectations.) Bleary-eyed students are coming to the library for help after spending hours wandering the Web in search of needed information. Faculty are seeing student research papers with no citations except from extremely biased Web sites. After experiencing the downsides of the Internet "infosphere," students and faculty are rediscovering the value of libraries and librarians.

There is no doubt that the Internet has changed forever the nature of library collections and services. However, I am confident that the "logical" conclusion that information on the Internet reduces the need for libraries and librarians is dead wrong. The services provided by librarians will become increasingly valued as information becomes more and more of a commodity. It is little wonder that Microsoft has become a major competitor to libraries in recruiting library school graduates. ♦

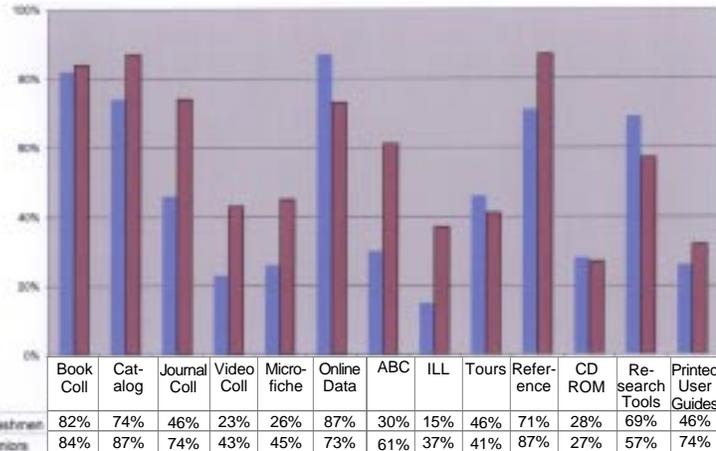
# Responses to Library Survey

by Clarissa Fisher, Administrative Librarian

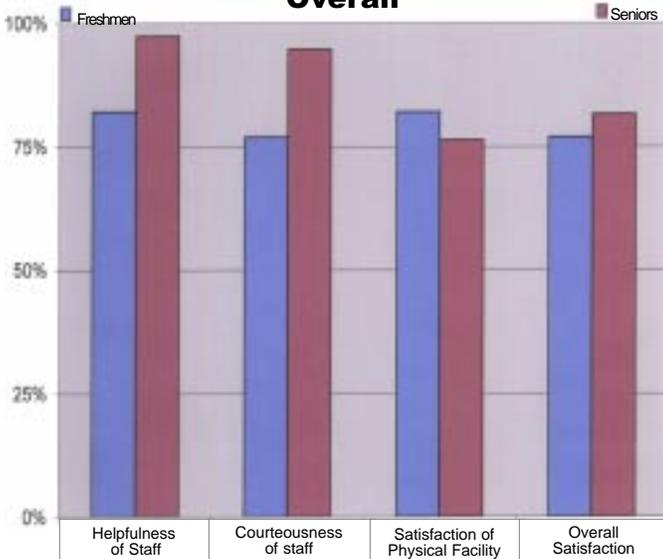
Hunter Library is embarking on an analysis of how well we are meeting the needs of the University community. Three components of the university community have been recently surveyed; faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students. These charts summarize some of the undergraduate responses and provide indicators for further research to improve library services.

According to the survey, the library is doing well in meeting students' needs although there are still some

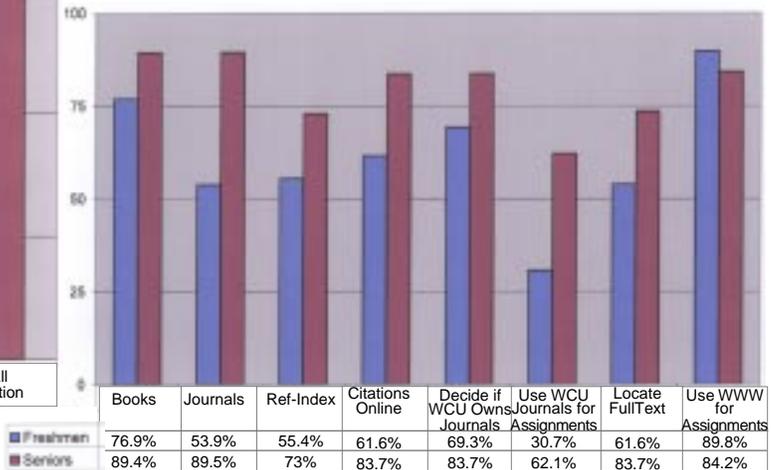
## Meeting the Needs of Freshman/Seniors



## Overall



## Materials That Can Be Found and Used



areas that could use improvement. If you have any suggestions for improving library services or questions regarding the survey results, please contact Clarissa Fisher, Hunter Library, 3421 or [Cfisher@wcu.edu](mailto:Cfisher@wcu.edu).

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## netLibrary is Here

In order to "checkout" a book, you must first create a user account. This account is based on IP address, so your account must be created using a computer on campus, or through the library proxy server if you are off campus. Once your account is created, you may use it from any computer.

Once you have checked out a book, you may search for any word or phrase within the eBook. You can also use *The American Heritage Dictionary* to look up the definition of any word from within the eBook.

The netLibrary help pages contain the following statements concerning copying and printing text online. "When reading an eBook online you may print or copy one page at a time by using your browser's **Print** or **Copy** functions. Although you can print parts of an eBook, printing an entire eBook violates copyright laws. netLibrary takes precautions to protect copyright laws; if a suspicious usage pattern indicative of excessive printing or copying is detected, netLibrary logs the activity and sends the user a copyright warning."

If you have any questions about using netLibrary, please call the Hunter Library Reference Desk at 7465.

# HUNTER LIBRARY HOURS

## Fall Semester 2000/Spring Semester 2001

### Final Exams

Tuesday, December 12		open 8AM
	<b>OPEN 24 HOURS</b>	
to Friday, December 15		close midnight
Saturday, December 16 ( <i>Commencement</i> )		9AM-9PM
Sunday, December 17		open noon
	<b>OPEN 24 HOURS</b>	
to Tuesday, December 19		close 6:30PM
Wednesday, December 20-Friday, December 22		8AM-5PM
Saturday, December 23-Monday, January 1, 2000		closed
Tuesday, January 2		8AM-5PM weekdays
to Sunday, January 7		closed weekends
Monday, January 8 & Tuesday, January 9		8AM-9PM
Wednesday, January 10 & Thursday, January 11		REGULAR HOURS
<i>ML King Holiday</i>		
Friday, January 12		8AM-6PM
Saturday, January 13		10AM-6PM
Sunday, January 14		Closed
Monday, January 15		Noon-Midnight
Tuesday, January 16 - Saturday, January 27		REGULAR HOURS
Sunday, January 28 - Thursday, March 8		EXTENDED HOURS

### Regular Hours

Monday-Thursday  
8AM-Midnight  
Friday  
8AM-9PM  
Saturday  
10AM-9PM  
Sunday  
Noon-Midnight

### Extended Hours

Monday-Thursday  
8AM-2AM  
Friday  
8AM-9PM  
Saturday  
10AM-9PM  
Sunday  
Noon-2AM

## Hunter's Clarion

<http://www.wcu.edu/library/whatsnew/index.htm>

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