

Editor's Note: NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES introduces a new column, "Wired to the World." Edited by Ralph Lee Scott, a documents librarian at East Carolina University, this column will introduce the states' librarians to the wealth and variety of information available through internet access. We welcome your comments.

ired to the orld

— by Ralph Lee Scott

This is the first of a series of columns describing various sites on the Internet.

As you know, the Internet is an electronic transmission system that connects computers in government, industry, and education for the purpose of information exchange. Internet sites, as the computers are called, provide access to a wide variety of library OPACs (Online Public Access Catalogs), data files, and bulletin boards (discussion groups). An example of this type of site is the North Carolina Information Network (NCIN) run by the Division of State Library. While NCIN is run like an Internet site, it is not yet on the Internet, and must be accessed by other transmission systems such as LINCNET (Local and INter-Campus NETwork). We will visit a number of sites around the country in this column. The first site is a large, well-known one located in Denver called CARL (Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries).

To reach the CARL system you need to connect on the Internet to pac.carl.org (using the mnemonic) or 192.54.81.128 (using the Internet Protocol address), as appropriate for your data communications system.¹ I have selected CARL because it is a good example of the wide variety of information available at an Internet site. CARL contains library OPACs, online indexes and abstracts, online document delivery servers, large

bibliographic databases, encyclopedias, data files and gateways to other library systems. CARL is typical of what you will find on the Internet, but every site is different in terms of the files offered.

The CARL system, one of the largest in the world, runs on a 16 co-processor Tandem ("non-stop" — remember the ads) system with 23.62 gigabytes of online disc storage (the original 5 1/4 inch floppy discs hold 365,000 bytes) and can support some 1,500 users at one time.² The CARL union catalog currently contains 5,868,078 library records. When you first connect on the Internet to CARL, the CARL Welcome screen asks you to indicate which type of terminal you are using. After you make the selection, CARL responds with the statement "All set. [When you are ready to exit the system, simply type //EXIT, or "hangup." (This is good advice to remember.)] You then get the CARL introductory screen which offers you five choices: Library Catalogs, Current Article Indexes and Access, Information Databases, Other Library Systems, and Library and System News.

Selecting the "Library Catalogs" choice will connect you with one of twenty-four Library OPACs on the CARL System. This includes the University of Colorado, the Colorado School of Mines, the Denver Public Library, the University of Colo-

rado Health Sciences Center, Government Publications and CCLINK-Colorado Community College System. All of these OPACs are searched using the CARL search engine (system) and the patron can move from one catalog to another using the same search strategy. This is typical of how Internet OPAC search engines switch between library catalogs.

If you choose "Current Article Indexes and Access" you will get a variety of document delivery, text, and data files. A number of these files are restricted to CARLID holders. The first is CARL *UnCover*, the system proprietary article access and document delivery system (restricted). *ERIC*, the *Magazine Index*, the *Trade & Industry Index*, and the *Academic Index* are available on CARL but you must have a password to access them. The CARL New Journal Issues file offered on this screen is a useful file to check for issue receipt (non-restricted), as is CONSER, the National Serials Cataloging Database (also non-restricted). The British Library Document Supply Centre article delivery service is also available for UK publications, but access to this is restricted. The Boston Library Consortium union list can be selected on the screen (non-restricted). Also available is the full text of *Online Libraries* (non-restricted). This is typical of the types of indexing and bibliographic files you will find

on large system OPACs. (For example, the Arizona State University OPAC has a good Southwest local history data file.) Some will contain files that are restricted to those affiliated with the institution, but many are open to the public. The public access ones will allow you to search on the Internet for information. Often you can also switch from file to file using a common search strategy.

The third selection on CARL contains what is described as Information Databases. These include: *Choice Book Reviews*, an encyclopedia (restricted), an "Environmental Education" database, "Metro Denver Facts," "School Model Programs," a Company profile similar to *Disclosure* (restricted), the U.S. Department of Energy Database (currently down), and the *Internet Resource Guide*. The *Internet Resource Guide* is a good place to locate online information sites, see what they contain, and learn how to get there.

Other library systems may be consulted using the CARL system as a gateway. Among them are: the University of California MELVYL system, Arizona Libraries, the University of Maryland System, the University of Hawaii System, Montgomery County (Md) Dept. of Public Libraries, MARMOT library system (Colorado Western Slope), Boulder Public Library, and the Pikes Peak Library System. Sometimes when you get to these

other systems, you can connect to yet another file or database that is not available on the CARL home system.

The final choice on the initial CARL selection screen gets you to a variety of news files. These files generally provide library operating hours, current exhibitions, special collection information, newsletters online, holdings information, university scheduled events, registration, and admissions information, tax and local government information, and, in some cases, job announcements. These will, of course, vary from site to site. Part of the fun of the Internet is finding out what information is available at the various sites around the world.

I hope you have enjoyed your visit to CARL and that this article will encourage you to check out CARL and the Internet. As you can see, the Internet has a wide variety of publicly accessible, free information. The main drawback to the Internet is keeping up with the sheer amount of the information available. Every day someone somewhere throws up a new file. There are files and discussion groups on everything from Mickey Mouse to Queen Elizabeth. Finding them is a challenge.

To Enter CARL
connect pac.carl.org.
To Exit CARL
//Exit

Notes

¹ How to get an Internet connection to your library is beyond the scope of this column. The author suggests that you contact the person who is responsible for computer data communications at your agency, or contact Ralph Scott (919) 757-6533, for more general information.

² Data cited is from the file GENERAL PAC NEWS which is found online in the CARL system.

TAB BOOKS

*Current and Backlist
Titles Available*

43% DISCOUNT

No Minimum Order
Free Freight

CURRENT EDITIONS

858 Manor St.
P.O. Box 4031
Lancaster, PA 17604
F. James Dantro
Sales Representative

Tel. Order 1-800-729-0620
Fax Order 1-800-487-2278

Instructions for the Preparation of Manuscripts for North Carolina Libraries

1. **North Carolina Libraries** seeks to publish articles, materials reviews, and bibliographies of professional interest to librarians in North Carolina. Articles need not be necessarily of a scholarly nature, but they should address professional concerns of the library community in the state.
2. Manuscripts should be directed to Frances B. Bradburn, Editor, **North Carolina Libraries**, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.
3. Manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate on plain white paper measuring 8 1/2" x 11" and on computer disk.
4. Manuscripts must be double-spaced (text, references, and footnotes). Macintosh computer is the computer used by **North Carolina Libraries**. Computer disks formatted for other computers must contain a file of the document in original format and a file in ASCII. Please consult editor for further information.
5. The name, position, and professional address of the author should appear in the bottom left-hand corner of a separate title page. The author's name should not appear anywhere else on the document.
6. Each page should be numbered consecutively at the top right-hand corner and carry the title (abbreviated if necessary) at the upper left-hand corner.
7. Footnotes should appear at the end of the manuscript. The editors will refer to The Chicago Manual of Style, 13th edition. The basic forms for books and journals are as follows:

Keyes Metcalf, Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings (New York: McGraw, 1965), 416.

Susan K. Martin, "The Care and Feeding of the MARC Format," American Libraries 10 (September 1970): 498.
8. Photographs will be accepted for consideration but cannot be returned.
9. Upon receipt, a manuscript will be acknowledged by the editor. Following review of the manuscript by the editor and at least two jurors, a decision will be communicated to the writer. A definite publication date cannot be given since any incoming manuscript will be added to a manuscript bank from which articles are selected for each issue.
10. **North Carolina Libraries** holds the copyright for all accepted manuscripts. The journal is available both in print and electronically over the North Carolina Information Network.
11. Issue deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Manuscripts for a particular issue must be submitted at least 2 months before the issue deadline.

SOLINET:

Celebrating 20 Years of Service to Libraries

Founded in 1973 by 99 visionary libraries, now made up of more than 700 libraries of all types and sizes, SOLINET is a non-profit membership organization serving the ten southeastern states and the Caribbean.

We're the largest regional network providing **OCLC SERVICES**, and coordinate the nation's largest GAC (Group Access Capability) --- **SoLINE**, the SOLINET Information Network.

Our innovative **PRESERVATION** programs are nationally known both for field services and microfilming.

With our full-service **LIBRARY AUTOMATION** program, a library can go from catalog cards to tape to online, with unique local database options.

Our **CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING** efforts serve audiences from entry level to decision makers, with sessions ranging from specific technologies to policy issues.

We offer **MEMBER DISCOUNTS** on online databases, CD-ROM systems, computer hardware and software, and specialty items like security strips.

And our latest project is **INTERNET SOLUTIONS**, our Internet gateway providing access and support for members.

We salute our charter members from North Carolina:

**Appalachian State University • Davidson College • East Carolina University
Elizabeth City State University • Fayetteville State University
North Carolina A & T State University • North Carolina School of the Arts
North Carolina State Library • North Carolina State University
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary • University of North Carolina
University of North Carolina at Asheville • University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro • University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Wake Forest University • Western Carolina University
Winston-Salem State University**

And we'd like to thank all our members in the state.

**We're looking forward
to the next 20 years of achievement with you.**



The Southeastern Library Network, Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia 1-800-999-8558