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## JSTOR Reaches Critical Mass

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## The Systems Librarian

by Terry Ballard

# JSTOR Reaches Critical Mass

*The system saves shelf space and is a great tool for researchers*

JSTOR, which stands for "journal storage," is an electronic system devised to save shelf space in libraries by scanning complete runs of journals. Now a library staple, more than 670 institutions in 48 states and the District of Columbia have paid JSTOR's substantial opening cost to become permanent members of the enterprise, afterwards paying moderate yearly maintenance fees. This is in addition to substantial JSTOR participation in Europe and Asia. It seems that JSTOR has now joined OCLC as one of those experiments in document delivery that is here to stay.

“  
Students and  
faculty alike  
found it easy  
to get highly  
relevant articles  
in JSTOR.  
”

The original idea was simple enough. A complete run of journals takes up a huge amount of shelf space. Wouldn't it be nice to scan the journals and make them available to your users? The answer is that it would, but it would not be cost effective. However, if a number of institutions worked together to share the work and the benefits, it would be cost effective. The trial version, funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, involved only five libraries and used images from 10 journals. The user response was so positive that a full-scale operation was created. The initial project now provides images of 117 journals. The oldest is the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A*, which began in 1838.

Since both JSTOR and Making of America (MOA) had their roots in the University of Michigan, I was curious about the relationship between the two operations. As I discussed in a previous *IT* column, "Cornell's MOA Site: A Gift from the Past" (July/August 1999, page 48), Making of America is a free online service that scanned a library of 19th-century journals.

On the other hand, JSTOR specializes in nearly complete runs of scholarly journals that often started in the 1800s. The term "nearly complete" means that JSTOR is missing the journals' most recent years. This "moving wall" of unavailability typically goes back 2 to 5 years. According to Hilary Dunst at JSTOR: "There is no current relationship between MOA and J-

STOR, but there are historical ties. There is a component of MOA that was done at the University of Michigan, and that took from the same original software that JSTOR started with in TULIP. But the projects have gone their own ways, both technologically and in their management, from that original common base."

### JSTOR at Quinnipiac

JSTOR was installed at Quinnipiac College last summer, and, since we have a clientele who are heavy users of full-text services, usage was immediate. We were able to track this because JSTOR has a reporting system that allows the system manager to track usage from any month or an entire year. It shows absolute numbers as well as comparisons to institutions of similar size. Of the usage tracking systems that I have worked with, JSTOR's is by far the best. The results can be displayed immediately in HTML or downloaded as text files. (See Figure 1.)

The search mechanism for JSTOR is mainly user friendly and powerful, allowing proximity searches of 10 or 25 words. One may search either the full text, by author, or by title. (See Figure 2.) There is a fourth option to search the abstract, but this is best avoided since most JSTOR holdings do not have abstracts at this time. An advanced search feature allows power searchers to key in Boolean commands. The searcher may choose the type of journal—i.e., history or philosophy—and the type of article, such as opinion piece, review, or regular article. The

subject list may be expanded to search in specific journals.

One problem we noted with this: The journal expansion button is just above the search button. Even experienced searchers

found themselves expanding the list of titles when they really wanted to proceed with a search. Also, there is no button to search all journals, and the default is "no journals." These quibbles aside, students and faculty alike found it easy to get highly relevant articles in JSTOR. Another helpful feature is that the results list can be set to display the articles in order of relevance.

As the fall semester approached, JSTOR was utilized for the electronic delivery of course readings in the history class taught by our library director. This was easy to set up in the instructor's Web page because the system allows for permanent links to the URLs for particular ar-

**Site Group Usage Comparison**

An average is the average usage of a site in the group.  
A total is the total usage from all sites in the group.  
(Note that the number of articles viewed is not included in the total column.)

	browsing				viewing		printing			total	
	title-list	vol/iss	TOCs	citations	pages	(articles)	jprint	pdf	ps		
Accesses from your site	445	472	240	414	6,349	2,608	223	533	5	4,533	13,214
Average "US Small"	368	645	464	760	6,920	2,707	449	408	11	4,022	14,047
Total "US Small"	34,717	60,882	43,729	71,587	652,175	255,355	42,278	38,455	1,013	379,058	1,323,894
Average "All Sites"	1,000	2,280	1,906	1,410	14,201	5,729	345	1,400	106	7,321	30,469
Total "All Sites"	568,040	1,295,669	1,083,042	801,263	8,068,465	3,254,996	480,096	795,182	60,222	4,159,474	17,311,453

Figure 1

**Search JSTOR - Basic Search**

Search:   OR

Search for:  in

AND  in

AND  in

AND  in

Published between  and  (specify dates as yyyy, yyyy/mm or yyyy/mm/dd)

Search in:

- All African American Studies Journals (7 journals)
- All Anthropology Journals (6 journals)
- All Asian Studies Journals (5 journals)
- All Ecology Journals (6 journals)
- All Economics Journals (13 journals)

Include only:

- articles
- reviews
- opinion pieces
- other items

©1999 JSTOR  
Contact JSTOR

Figure 2

ticles. Once the student begins using JSTOR in the library, the program is noticed. Because the program converts page images into GIF files and stores them in a library of TIFF files (which can be seen on the browser), there is only one active page at any given time. If the student wants to print the entire article, the article must then be converted for printing purposes.

There are two major options to do that. The first is a program developed by JSTOR that must be downloaded once on each PC. In trying this out, we found it easy to load.

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Once installed, it configures the browser for JSTOR printing. The speed and quality of printing made this appear to be the better option. The second way is to request the article as an Adobe PDF file. This is the method that was used at Quinnipiac for JSTOR's first semester of use. The problem is that the conversion could be time consuming, although the program warns you about it. (See Figure 3.)

Option 1: JSTOR Printing  
(Once only per computer. Download JSTOR Print, the JSTOR helper application for printing of search articles.)

Print an entire article using JPRINT:

Choose  Highest Quality Print OR  Economy Print  
(smaller file size, lower resolution, for slow connections)

Option 2: Adobe Acrobat Printing  
(Once only per computer. Download Adobe Acrobat Reader for printing.)

Download an Adobe Acrobat file for printing:

Note: It will take several minutes for the Acrobat file to download. You will not be able to print from Adobe Acrobat until the entire article is downloaded.  
Click only once. Multiple clicks will delay your download.

Choose  Highest Quality Print OR  Economy Print

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Contact JSTOR

Figure 3

There is another problem with the image method that also carries over to the PDF versions of the articles. They are still only in image format, so it is not possible to use Acrobat's search mechanism to find a particular word. One would hope that eventually they would find a way to give users direct access to the text database that underlies the image database. According to JSTOR, they do not display the text because it is only 99.95 percent accurate, with one mistake in approximately every 2,000 characters. On the other hand, it must be noted that the quality of the page images is uniformly excellent.

JSTOR has already proven to be a solid tool for linguistic researchers. A telling example of this was reported in *The New York Times* on January 10, 1999. The article describes how Fred S. Shapiro, a librarian at the Yale Law School, debunked a group of language purists. These scholars had asserted that the word "hope-

fully" never occurred in a sentence until the 1960s. I looked through JSTOR journals and found dozens of examples, including one from as far back as 1851.

In trying out the software, I found a way to use JSTOR to follow up on a previous research project. Back in 1992, I was doing research on misspellings in library databases. I found that "commerical" was, by far, the most common typographical error in OPACs and publications. I felt that the problem was somewhat related to the position of the letters "C" and "I" on QWERTY keyboards. Indeed, I discovered that there were few instances in JSTOR of "commerical" being found in 19th-century journals. Most of the hits were not in the original pages but in the underlying text that was created by the OCR program. I did however get a verified example of "commerical" in a journal from 1860.

### The Future of JSTOR

As JSTOR moves into the 21st century, it can be expected to grow beyond its traditional emphasis on the humanities. JSTOR has already committed to providing the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London* from 1830 to a moving wall of 5 years. This includes mathematics and biological, physical, and engineering sciences. Also, look for the journal *Science* from 1880 forward. JSTOR is also anti-

patting the addition of titles in education, business, and medicine.

JSTOR is compliant with a variety of plans for home access. At Quinnipiac, it is available for campus users who add proxy-server settings to their browsers and verify their campus status by typing in their bar codes when a pop-up screen appears. Last fall, people in our college community were also given the chance to dial directly into the campus, using the college as an Internet service provider. In this case, the verification is the Windows NT password that people use to access their e-mail. All of the IP-recognition-based databases then recognize the user as being on-campus, so they can use JSTOR and the rest of the services.

In just one semester, JSTOR has become a major part of the full-text effort at Quinnipiac College, and its acceptance at college and research-oriented libraries should continue.

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### SIRS Mandarin

(continued from page 37)

Current Events, a database containing full-text articles and graphics with timely information about domestic and international events. Current Events encourages children to research the world in which we live, and promotes awareness of current issues. Current Events is updated daily, and articles remain in the database for 30 days. Articles are also added dynamically to the SIRS Discoverer database.

### Automation Contract

SIRS Mandarin has been awarded the library automation contract as part of Project SABER (Electronic Libraries Network Automation Systems), Puerto Rico's islandwide centralized library automation network. Project SABER, developed and implemented by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, is part of the Department's efforts to revolutionize the educational process in Puerto Rico by creating a centralized educational network.

According to the announcement, SIRS was awarded the contract because it was the only vendor whose library automation system, SIRS Mandarin M3, fulfilled 13 essential requirements as set forth by the Program Evaluation Committee. A multilingual OPAC, customizable cataloging features, technical support, and wide area network capability were some of the features that led the evaluation committee to select M3.

Project SABER is made possible through the creation of the Department of Education's Infrastructure Educational Network (EDUNET), an advanced educational telecommunications network funded by Ed-

ucational Rate Funds (E-Rate). E-Rate funds initially totaling over \$40 million have enabled the Department of Education to install a wiring network in 760 Puerto Rico schools. The department plans to use an additional \$57 million in funds toward the purchase and installation of a highly advanced wireless network in another 780 schools, according to Maribel Cedeño, special assistant to the director of office information systems and school technology.

Sandra Castro, program director of library and information services for the Department of Education and a member of the team overseeing Project SABER, views the project as an important step toward providing all Puerto Rico students and educators with free universal access to valuable information. "The Department plans a centralized system in which Puerto Rico students from every region and social level have equal access to information from every field of study," Castro said. "Additionally, the advanced technological infrastructure will soon make it possible to raise educational standards across the board in Puerto Rico by introducing new technologies in the classroom."

The centralized wireless network will have a profound impact on the entire island of Puerto Rico, according to Victor Rodriguez, general supervisor of electronic libraries and Project SABER team member. "Through Department initiatives like Project SABER, Puerto Rico is being turned into an islandwide virtual library with access to information that is free, immediate, reliable, and useful," he said.

Source: SIRS Mandarin, Inc., Boca Raton, FL, 561/994-0079; Fax: 561/994-4704; <http://www.sirs.com>.

## Libraries Select SIRSI's Unicorn Library Management System

SIRSI Corp. has announced that the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL), Indiana University, and the U.S. Air Force have selected its Unicorn Library Management System to automate their libraries.

### The DC Public Library

The DCPL, which has served users throughout the District of Columbia for more than 100 years, will use SIRSI's Unicorn System to automate the Martin Luther King Memorial Library and 26 branch libraries. Mary E. (Molly) Raphael, DCPL's director, said, "I have made customer service a major focus throughout the DCPL system. The SIRSI system is an important component in our goal for excellent service, not only for our external customers, but also for internal customers."

Established in 1896 in a house on New York Avenue, the District of Columbia Public Library has expanded to include the 400,000-square-foot G Street main facility, four regional branch libraries, 17 local branch libraries, four community libraries, and a kiosk. As the number of buildings has grown, so have the services offered by the library. The combined DCPL collection includes approximately 3 million items, including books, periodicals, books on tape, videotapes, compact discs, filmstrips, talking books, Braille books and periodicals, and musical scores. In addition to regular exhibits and educational programs, the DCPL offers special services for blind, deaf, physically handicapped, homebound, and institutionalized users; mobile service for senior citizens; licensed family day-care providers for children; telephone information services; and a systemwide Community Information Service.

Raphael said: "The Unicorn System will play an integral part in the DCPL's ability to meet the anticipated goals of our strategic plan. As we move into the 21st century, I am very excited about rolling out this state-of-the-art integrated online system. It not only will allow us to continue to provide services to meet the needs of the traditional library user, it makes available services to attract the non-user and introduces improved services for the sophisticated user."

### Indiana University Libraries

Indiana University will use the Unicorn System to automate the collections of the libraries on its main and outlying campuses.

Suzanne Thorin, Ruth Lilly University dean of university libraries, said: "Following a thorough and careful evaluation of library information systems currently on the market, Indiana University found the Unicorn system to clearly be state of the art for providing the Web-based library services that are critical to the university. The Unicorn System will enable the university to provide electronic access to library resources through a World Wide Web-based online catalog."

According to the announcement, the Indiana University Libraries comprise one of the leading academic research library systems in North America, providing strong collections, quality service and instructional

programs, and leadership in the application of information technologies. The system includes libraries on the main campus in Bloomington, Indiana, as well as libraries at the Indianapolis, Columbus, Fort Wayne, Richmond, Kokomo, Gary, South Bend, and New Albany campuses. The Bloomington campus libraries include the Main Library, 16 campus libraries that support specific schools or departments, the world-renowned Lilly Library for rare books and manuscripts, the Indiana University Archives, and the 1840s home of the university's first president. Indiana University's Digital Library Program, which encompasses all campuses, makes unique collections—from historic photographs to audio recordings—available online.

Michael McRobbie, Indiana University's vice president for information technology and chief information officer, said, "SIRSI will be an integral partner as we build upon and expand our library services and digital library program to support research, teaching, and learning at Indiana University." He noted that the University's goal is to provide reliable access to a comprehensive and coordinated collection of electronic information resources to both on-campus and remote users.

### Air Force Bases

The U.S. Air Force has chosen the Unicorn System to automate 10 base libraries. According to the announcement, this integration tool was selected to provide an information resource that is powerful yet easy. The bases include Dover AFB, Delaware; Cannon AFB, New Mexico; Shaw AFB, South Carolina; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; MacDill AFB, Florida; Minot AFB, North Dakota; Moody AFB, Georgia; Hurlburt Field AFB, Florida; Altus AFB, Oklahoma; and Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

According to the announcement, providing high-quality libraries is an important part of the Air Force morale and welfare program to counter the disconnection of many military families from their extended family and friends. SIRSI's WebCat Online Public Access catalog will provide online access for the entire base community. Patrons can track developments at their previous duty stations, access local events at their current bases, or obtain information about their next assignments. In addition, SIRSI's WorkFlows staff client will assist library staff with everyday administration tasks.

Source: SIRSI Corp., Huntsville, AL, 256/704-7000; Fax: 256/704-7007; <http://www.sirsi.com>.

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and suggestions  
from our readers.**

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