



# Library Notes

On the fast track to information ...

Fall 2005

## New Mott Library Online Databases

The **World Book Online Reference Center** is a new addition to the MCC Library online resources. This database has everything that the print encyclopedia has and more. There are 8500 additional articles created specifically for the *Online Reference Center* and over 12,000 pictures, maps, videos sounds and internet links. There are content tabs for an atlas and a dictionary, and one titled "Explore Michigan". The main page also features an "Explore Canada" and "Explore the USA" for quick linking as well as "Behind the Headlines" and "Today in History" which provide information on current events and links to related World Book entries. Content is updated monthly and can be accessed in Spanish and British English. Users can perform basic or advanced searches. The interface is very "user-friendly".

**Literature Online** is also new to the MCC Library collection. This database indexes 168 literature journals as well as other "key criticism and reference resources" and encompasses more than 350,000 works of prose, poetry and drama from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Users can search by author, text, or criticism and reference. They may also limit searches to specific journals. Author searches return a short entry with links to bibliography, biography, criticism, reference works and websites.

The "My Archive" function is especially useful: it enables users to save searches from session to session. Full text results that are not available online can usually be obtained through inter-library loan.

The **ProQuest Criminal Justice Periodicals Index** is now available to the Mott College community. This data-base indexes 235 publications and includes thousands of articles. It has a simple interface and a default basic search. The advanced search supports many Boolean operators, truncation and wildcards. Each screen has a link to "Search tips" which gives clear explanations on ways to optimize results. The journals indexed explore a wide variety of crime issues, social concerns and legal topics.

In using these databases or any other library resources, librarians are always happy to help!

## On The Wire...Websites of Interest

**Voice of the Shuttle** is a website for humanities research. VoS has over 70 pages of links to humanities and humanities-related Internet resources. It provides links to both primary and secondary source material. On the homepage, in the left-hand frame, under "Resources" is a link to *Teaching Resources* that instructors will find particularly useful. <http://vos.ucsb.edu>

**CELLS alive!** is a marvelous website for anyone interested in biology and/or microscopy. This site provides still photos, computer-enhanced images, and interactive animation of living cells and organisms, and includes "enthusiastic, easy-to-understand" explanations. *CELLS alive!* was a 2005 winner of the Scientific American *Science and Technology Web Awards*. <http://www.cellsalive.com>

The **Paradigm Online Writing Assistant** is an "interactive, menu-driven online writers' guide" for students and teachers. The site is extremely well-organized and easy to navigate. The *Paradigm* covers such topics as organizing and revising writing as well as the special considerations for different types of essays. <http://www.powa.org>

### researchhelpNOW

is a service that has been available to the MCC community since March of 2005. It is a virtual reference service that is the result of collaboration by fourteen Michigan community colleges. *Research Help Now* is open M-W, 10am-10pm; Thurs., 10am-5pm and Sun., 6pm-10pm. During regular hours of operation, users may communicate with a reference librarian via live chat or by email. Otherwise, users may still submit questions via email. All questions are answered by professional librarians. Look for the graphic of the state of Michigan on the Mott library homepage, or connect directly at: <http://www.researchhelpnow.org>