



ired to the World

— by Ralph Lee Scott

When this article comes out, summer vacations will be a fond memory for most of us. To honor these vacations, I would like to suggest that we go on a "busman's holiday" and visit a few library catalogs via the Internet. We will visit the online catalog of Cambridge and Oxford universities in the United Kingdom via telnet and the University of Minnesota home gopher. A number of libraries in North Carolina are using the University of Minnesota home gopher as their gopher pointer. This means that when you use a North Carolina gopher server, you will actually be pointed to the University of Minnesota as the root gopher for your searches. Other systems to access library catalogs besides gopher are front end bulletin boards such as laUNCpad, hypertext browsers such as the National Center for Supercomputer Applications MOSAIC program, the hypertext program CELLO, and library Internet systems such as CARL.

After you have logged on to a gopher, you are faced with a number of selection choices, each of which will take you to another computer screen of more choices (called a menu). Selecting "Libraries" or "Library catalog," on the University of Minnesota gopher menu screen will display another menu listing the University of Minnesota Libraries catalog, the Library of Congress, Library Systems in the Twin Cities, Library Catalogs via Z39.50, and Library Catalogs via Telnet. It is the "Library Catalogs via Telnet" selection that we will be using. (The "via Z39.50" selection is a new interface that libraries are just starting to implement. We will cover Z39.50 searches in a later article.) Selecting "Library Catalogs via Telnet" will display another screen of menu choices. These are Catalogs by Location,

Catalogs Search by Keyword, Instructions for different catalog types, Library Bulletin Boards, Manuscript and Archive Repositories — at Johns Hopkins, and Paper List Barron's Accessing Online Bib Dbase. Selecting "Catalogs by Location" displays a menu choice of continents. Choosing "Europe and the Middle-East" displays a menu of European and Middle Eastern countries. The selection of "United Kingdom" provides a menu choice of England, London, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. If you select "England," you will receive a menu of choices of online library catalogs and text documents that explain access procedures. If you select a telnet session to Cambridge University, the gopher server in Minnesota connects you to the catalog through a relay satellite to the European Internet (called Janet). Some instructions are provided in the text documents and on the opening Janet screens. At this point you are now using computers in England to retrieve your information.

When Janet asks you where you want to go (login:), enter **uk.ac.cam.ul** (the Internet four-part address for the Cambridge University library catalog). Most library catalogs at this point want to know what type terminal you are using (called terminal emulation by techies). Most libraries support VT100 emulation. Usually, sending a "?" or "Help" will provide a list of terminals supported by the library online catalog. In the case of the Cambridge University Library catalog, the screen reads "If your terminal is DEC VT100 ..., type Y and press Return, or just press Return if it is not or if you do not know." I like that kind of clear language. Some catalogs just say "term=", and leave you to figure out if it is Spring or Fall semester. In any case, if you have a VT100 terminal, just type a "Y".

Next, you will see the opening screen of the "Cambridge University Online Catalogues System." The opening screen gives Internet addresses for humans to whom you can send messages reporting any problem you experience. Then follows a list of the major catalogues that comprise the Cambridge Online Catalogues system. They are: University Library post-1977 imprints (820,000 records); University Library pre-1978 borrowable books (570,00 records); Union Catalogue of Departmental and College Libraries (1,164,000 records); the Cambridge Union List of Serials (115,000 records); and the Cambridge Libraries Directory (including abbreviations). My favorite is the Cambridge Union List of Serials, and that is where we will go next.

Pressing the number 4 and the return key will connect you to the Union List of Serials portion of the Cambridge University online catalog. The next screen gives you a brief description of the Union List and four choices. The choices are: "Title keyword search," "Fingerprint search on title," "the Cambridge Libraries Directory" (which identifies the abbreviations of the collections), and "Change to other catalogue or Finish searching." I like the title key word search because you can enter any portion of the title (even fragments that the patron has given you), and get a quick search of the Cambridge Union List of Serials. I figure that if Cambridge does not own it, it's going to be very hard to find. For instance, I did a search on "North Carolina" and got forty-nine periodical hits. Included were such items as the *John Donne Journal* (published at North Carolina State University) and *Carolina Comments* (published by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History). For each title, the entry gives a

brief holdings record and the location. (I always like the location codes such as "latest issues: p/hole T.658.")

I like to try the Cambridge and Oxford University Libraries online catalogs for some of the real "toughies" that I get on the public service desk. I am often quickly rewarded for my efforts. I also have taught a number of patrons to access these two systems and am amazed at the material that they locate. There are many possibilities for remote bibliographic verification here. These catalogs are a reference librarian's dream (or nightmare, depending on your point of view). The other Cambridge University Library catalogs are accessed through the opening menu by typing numbers 1, 2, or 3 and pressing the return key. The University has a number of specialized departmental and college collections that are very useful for subject searching. They also are fun to look at if you are a subject bibliographer or if you do collection development.

To get to the University of Oxford online library catalog from the Janet host name prompt, type `uk.ac.ox.pacx` and press return. When prompted for which service, enter LIBRARY and press return. Again, if appropriate, enter VT100 as your terminal type when requested. You should then connect to the Oxford University Libraries online catalog (OLIS). A menu lists the catalogs of such famous collections as All Souls College, Balliol College, the Bodleian, Jesus College, Lady Margaret Hall, Magdalen College, Maison Francaise, the Oriental Institute, Queen's College, St. Edmund Hall, Trinity College, the University Museum, and the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine. Sixty-seven different library catalogs can be searched individually on the OLIS system. Searching the catalog is similar to searching the one at Cambridge and it is basically menu driven.

If you have direct access to the Internet through a direct telnet session, you might try the two IPs for these libraries:

131.111.12.21 (Cambridge)
and 129.67.1.46 (Oxford).

The University of Minnesota gopher can provide librarians with access to many other library catalogs. We investigate other sites in future "Wired to the World" columns.



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