

To: John Friedl  
Provost and Chair, University Technology Committee

From: Michael Bell  
Head of Acquisitions and Collection Development

Re: Student Technology Fee Awards 2003-04

The University Technology Committee funded two proposals submitted by the Lupton Library for the academic year 2003-04.

- 1) Electronic Access to Library Databases  
Amount awarded: \$125,000  
Amount spent: \$125,000

Electronic access to digitized databases via the Internet has become a crucial part of library research. Aside from the ease in use and convenience of being able to search for journal citations from virtually anywhere on and off campus, these databases in many cases permit access to the full text of articles from journals to which the Library does not subscribe. While some of these databases replace indexes the Library formerly received in print, many are databases which have come into existence without having previously been available as print publications. Demand on the part of our users (faculty and students) for these services has soared as newcomers to UTC arrive with previous experience in searching databases, and as more publications become available in digital format. In addition, as distance education grows, the need to provide access to the Library's holdings to users not physically located on our campus also continues to grow.

The following is a list of those databases subscribed to by the Library in 2003-04. Funding for these is provided by the Student Technology Fee.

ABI/Inform (Business)	Humanities Abstracts
America: History and Life	Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe (covers multiple disciplines)
Anthropological Literature On Disc	MathSciNet (Mathematics)
Art Abstracts	MLA Bibliography (Language and Literature)
Books-in-Print	Music Index
CINAHL (Nursing)	NewsFile (Newspapers)
Criminal Justice Periodicals Index	PAIS International (Public Administration/Political Science)
Dissertation Abstracts	PsycInfo (Psychology and related fields)
ERIC (Education)	RIA Checkpoint (Business)
FirstSearch (covers multiple disciplines)	Social Work Abstracts
GeoReg (Geology)	Sociological Abstracts
Human Resources Library (Business)	Sport Discus (Physical Therapy, Exercise Science)

Costs for these databases totaled more than \$125,000 for 2004, with shortfalls covered by one-time funds made available to the Library by the Provost's Office. The funding provided by the Student Technology Fee has allowed the Library to provide access to these databases without the need to make even further reductions in existing journal subscriptions or reduce book budgets. The cost of an individual database may seem high in comparison to individual journal subscriptions, but in truth, a database provides access to far more journals (many of these in full-text) than the Library could afford for the same money. As Library budgets continue to shrink and journal prices continue to rise, access to the contents of journals, as provided by these databases, will also continue to increase in importance.

While statistics for database usage is difficult to compile due to a lack of uniformity in reporting on the part of the database providers, it is possible to determine from looking at the raw numbers that our databases are averaging over 40,000 searches per month, with 486,755 searches conducted during 2003-04. These numbers reflect a continued upward spiral in usage of these databases by our students, faculty and staff.