

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Student Technology Fee Funding Report (2004-2005)

Title: Electronic Access to Library Databases

Unit Submitting Proposal: Lupton Library

Request Funding: \$150,000.00

Individual responsible to complete proposal if funded: Michael Bell

Project Summary:

This project was intended to fund student and faculty access to many of the digital databases to which the Lupton Library now subscribes. 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.

Financial Information:

The following is a list of databases to which the Library subscribed in 2005 and prices for that year. Funding from the Student Technology Fee paid for these subscriptions. During the year Library faculty members investigated consortium options, evaluated competing platforms offered by different vendors for the same database, and in general tried to find the most cost-effective means of providing access to these databases to the campus.

ABI-Inform	25,305
America: History and Life	7,830
Anthropological Literature Ondisc	907
CINAHL	2,593
Criminal Justice Periodical Index	1,575
CSA Life Sciences	23,500
Ebsco Publishing Package Art, Humanities, Social Sciences, Abstracts	13,153
EngineeringVillage2	18,485
GeoRef	1,943
Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe	11,349
Library Lit	1,470
MLA Bibliography	5,500
Music Index	2,295
Newsfile	5,165
PAIS International	5,028
Philosopher's Index	1,995
PsycInfo	9,735
Serials Solutions	3,152
Social Work Abstracts	2,123
Sociological Abstracts	4,960
Sport Discus	2,714
Wilson retrospective	1,995
Total expenses	152,772

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 journal subscriptions or reduce book budgets. As Library budgets continue to remain flat or grow slowly and journal prices continue to rise, access to the contents of journals, as provided by these databases, will 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 34,000 searches per month, with over 400,000 searches conducted during 2004-05.

These are not of course the only digital databases to which the Library subscribes. We continue to add additional databases, be they either new subscriptions purchased in response to user needs, or current subscriptions converted from print to digital format. Subscriptions to these other databases are funded from the Library's Subscriptions allocation, or when necessary, through the use of one-time money from restricted accounts.

ACS Web Journal Access	24,712
ACS Web Journal Archive Access	2,678
Article Linker	13,855
Choice Online	310
Classical Music Library	4,995
Economic literature database	495
Emerald journal package	2,672
Encyclopedia Britannica Online	1,990
Human Resources Library	2,843
IEEE All-Society e-journal package	37,605
JSTOR: Arts & Sciences I (pre-paid in previous year)	0
JSTOR: Arts & Sciences II, & III	30,855
MathSciNet	8,733
Oxford Reference Online	1,175
Project Muse	6,075
PsycArticles & Loader	11,607
RIA Checkpoint	2,300
SciFinder Scholar	7,003
Ulrichsweb	1,720
Value Line	3,150
Total expenses	164,773

Success Measures:

While anecdotal evidence gathered from our users in Library instruction sessions and at the Reference counter seem to indicate that our online databases are among the most popular and important services to our students and faculty members, hard numbers are difficult to come by. Below is a section from a Library survey conducted in April, 2005 that addresses the question of satisfaction with Library electronic services.

How satisfied are you with the availability of the following electronic services?

	Score (Scale of 1-4)	Meaningful Responses	Very Satisfied (4)		Satisfied (3)		Dissatisfied (2)		Very Dissatisfied (1)		No Basis for Judgment	
Electronic indexes/databases in your major field of study:	2.810345	116	18	16%	65	56%	26	23%	7	6%	10	N/A