NEW iCONN RESOURCES!

Gale is making available through iCONN (to all library types) at no additional charge the following licensed resources:

- History Resource Center: U.S.
- History Resource Center: World

The following titles from the Gale Virtual Reference Library E-Books:

- Beacham’s Guide to the Endangered Species of North America, 1st Edition, 6V (Gale)
- Biology, 1st Edition, 4V (Macmillan)
- Blackbirch Kid’s Visual Reference of the United States (Blackbirch)
- Blackbirch Kid’s Visual Reference of the World (Blackbirch)
- Encyclopedia of Popular Culture, 1st Edition, 5V (St. James)
- Gale Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine, 1st Edition, 4V
- Gale Encyclopedia of Cancer, 1st Edition, 2V
- Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders, 1st Edition, 2V
- Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, 2nd Edition, 5V
- Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America, 2nd Edition, 3V
- Gale Encyclopedia of Small Business
- Gale Encyclopedia of U. S. Economic History
- World of Earth Science, 1st Edition, 2V (Gale)

The History Resource Centers will be added to all current resource menus. We will incorporate MARC records for each E-Book into the reQuest Main Catalog. We will also add a link to the Gale Virtual Reference Library E-Books from each resource menu (public, school, and college). These changes will be incorporated into iCONN as soon as Auto-Graphics can provide the required authentication support.

FREE BOOKMARKS

The iCONN bookmark has been redesigned and we are printing an initial supply of 150,000.

75,000 will be distributed to all state employees in their paychecks following implementation of the enhancements described on page 2.

The remaining 75,000 will be reserved for distribution to libraries (at no charge) upon request. They will be supplied in boxes of 500 each.

To order bookmarks, or to see a mock-up of the bookmark, go to http://www.iconn.org/BookmarksAndCard-Holder.aspx

CIRCULATION STATUS IN reQuest

reQuest now provides users with the ability to check real-time shelf status. This service, provided at no additional cost, is available for library holdings from bibliographic records that have an ISBN or ISSN. This ability is confined to those libraries that have Web-accessible catalogs (single or multi-library catalogs) that support the Z39.50 protocol, and have submitted the Z39.50 Target Profile Form located at http://www.iconn.org/staff/JoiningReQuest.aspx.

This feature benefits all reQuest users. Patrons at your library familiar with Connecticard (or library staff members assisting them) can easily check the shelf status of an item at another library. At the moment, ILL staff members can manually check the status of an item before requesting it. Looking ahead, we are working to incorporate the ability for the interlibrary loan (ILL) module to check shelf status to eliminate requests for items that are checked out.

For more information, visit http://www.iconn.org/SiteIndex.aspx and click “Joining reQuest” or contact:
Stephen Cauffman, scauffman@cslib.org or Gail Hurley, ghurley@cslib.org.
**LINK TO reQuest**

Auto-Graphics has provided us with a direct link to reQuest only. This link provides access to reQuest Main and Serials catalogs. By default, only the re-Quest Main Catalog will be checked. Users going to the link need not be authenticated and therefore will not need to enter their barcode even if they are accessing reQuest outside the library.

If your library participates in reQuest, your library's direct link to reQuest only is: www.iconn.org/default.asp?lid=xxxx&mode=g

where xxxx is your library's reQuest symbol.

If your library does not participate in reQuest, you may use: www.iconn.org/default.asp?lid=rqst&mode=g

We invite you to put a direct link to reQuest only on your library's Webpage.

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**iCONN Enhancements—Coming Soon!**

Based on a careful review of comments made by librarians and patrons using the system since February 7, we have identified a series of enhancements which, when implemented, will significantly ease the transition to the new system, especially for those users who were used to the previous system, but also for new users. The enhancements, which will be part of the next software release, include:

1. You will be able to access the link to reQuest only (see “Link to reQuest” article in the side bar) from the new keyword search screen described in (2) below, or access it from the barcode login screen.

2. A new and more comprehensible keyword search screen with direct links to frequently-used resources within iCONN. The direct links include: "Select iCONN Resources" (which replaces the current "Display the Resources of * Library" link, which opens up the full resource menu for selective searching of databases); "Link to Individual Databases" (which connects you to the "Direct Links to Databases" screen that is customized by library type and that allows you to search licensed databases one at a time using their native search interfaces); "Search reQuest" that links you to the library-specific resource screen described in (1) above; and many other links.

3. A new and more intuitive resource menu screen that replaces the "globe" icon with an "i" (information about) icon, and that enables direct access to each resource just by clicking on the resource name (which means this screen could be used in lieu of the alternative menu screen for accessing the native search interfaces of any of the licensed databases).

4. Relocating the name of the local library (derived from authentication) — whose current location on the screen causes users to think that they are at their own library's site rather than at iCONN -- to be an integral part of an iCONN "identity statement" that will appear at the bottom of the Keyword, Browse and Advanced Search screens.

5. Making the "status browse" page the default page that the ILL staff of reQuest participating libraries will see when they enter the reQuest/ILL administration module.

Implementing these enhancements is our highest priority. We hope to have these enhancements, including the functional enhancements noted below, in place no later than June 1.

In addition to these enhancements, which are intended to improve usability, the same software release will also incorporate the following functional enhancements:

1. The ability to limit article search results to full-text articles using a very visible checkbox in both the keyword search and advanced search screens (note: the system default will have this checkbox checked for all users).

2. The ability to limit article search results to specific journal/magazine titles (implemented in a new advanced search screen)

3. The ability to sort reQuest record locations (holdings) in accordance with their distance from a user-entered zip code -- the default zip code will be the user's home library, based on authentication, but users will also be able to change the default zip code to any other zip code while viewing the record and see the resorting of holdings take effect in real time (note the latter feature will only work if scoping is not activated).

We encourage all users to continue to submit comments and suggestions using the form at http://www.iconn.org/SendComments.aspx and we will continue to keep you updated on these and any future changes.