

## MAGNOLIA celebrates its birthday

MAGNOLIA recently had a birthday! We were all so busy we failed to celebrate!

On August 15, 2004, MAGNOLIA began its 7th year as a statewide cooperative project benefiting all Mississippians through publicly supported library programs from school, public, community college, special and university libraries.

This statewide project has continued to provide access to full-text journals and other information resources that would otherwise be beyond the reach of many citizens of Mississippi, especially for many of our students.

Over these last six years, great progress has been made with the MAGNOLIA Project, and it has taken its place in many of the library and school programs/budgets as a permanent and significant tool in support of teaching, learning and research.

Statistics indicate exceptional growth in the use of the databases, and reports as to the expertise of the users in navigating and applying the information have also been positive.

The cost-saving aspect involved with

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## Personalize Your Search with My EBSCOhost®

Have you ever been researching a particular subject and wished that you had an easy way to save your search results for later use? Would you like to set up e-mail alerts to inform you of when new articles pertaining to your search interests or new issues of particular journals are made available?



Did you know that you can set up your own personal account within EBSCOhost® that will enable you to do all of the above?

When you first log into a particular EBSCOhost database, you will see a link in the upper left hand corner that reads, "Sign in to My EBSCOhost." Clicking on this link will bring you to a login screen through which you can access your personal account as

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With MAGNOLIA, help is just a click away. The Mississippi Alliance for Gaining New Opportunities through Online Library Information Access provides countless resources to all Mississippians.

## What Do You Know About Grolier?

### DID YOU KNOW:

that Grolier Online's newest feature, The American Presidency, can be accessed from the Grolier homepage? It includes profiles of presidents, vice presidents, first ladies, and candidates, as well as information on the constitution, congress, elections, the presidency, scandals, and monuments.

Also included are video, audio, portraits, and historical web sites. Quizzes are included, too!

### DID YOU KNOW:

that all Grolier Online's Magnolia databases are ADA compliant, as well as Jaws Reader compatible?

### DID YOU KNOW:

that the GO Guide can be accessed from Teacher Resources on the Grolier Online homepage. It is a tutorial with simple directions to walk you through each database. It also includes hundreds of activities aligned to



National Education Standards in social studies, language arts, science, math, technology and the arts.

### DID YOU KNOW:

that there are over 600 daily newspapers from 200 countries around the world in Encyclopedia Americana. To access, go to the Journal section of Encyclopedia America, then click on "new source" in the left-hand column.

### DID YOU KNOW

that there are research starters in Grolier Multimedia appropriate for junior high and high school students? They include recommended research topics in all disciplines and the links to complete the research.

MSU Libraries P.O. Box 5408  
Mississippi State, MS 39762



## Ebsco'

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well as update your account information. If you have not already established a personal My EBSCOhost account, you can simply click on the "I'm a new user" link on the login screen to sign up for your own account in a matter of minutes. This is a no-cost feature of EBSCOhost that is available to all users through subscribing institutions.

With your own personal account, you will have the ability to save searches (including persistent links to searches) as well as specific articles that are of interest to you. Previously, if you did not have a personal account set up, any searches in your search history and any individual items that you may have added to your folder would be lost once you logged out of EBSCOhost. However, with your own My EBSCOhost account, you can now maintain

your saved search strings and individual articles so that they are readily accessible the next time you use EBSCOhost.

If you have certain subjects that you frequently research on EBSCOhost, you can also set up search alerts to automatically run your saved searches on a regular basis and e-mail the results to you. This allows you to see if any new articles have been published that pertain to your saved queries. In addition, you can easily set up journal alerts so that you can be informed when new issues of your favorite publications are made available on EBSCOhost.

If you would like more information regarding My EBSCOhost, detailed documentation is available for download at the following URL: [http://support.epnet.com/CustSupport/UserDocumentation/ebs\\_2564.doc](http://support.epnet.com/CustSupport/UserDocumentation/ebs_2564.doc)

For additional information regarding EBSCOhost in general, please visit our support web site at <http://support.epnet.com>.

## ACCESS MAGNOLIA FROM HOME!

The most frequently asked question regarding MAGNOLIA is: "How do I access these resources from home?"

The easiest way to answer this is to direct high school students, teacher and parents to <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/>, click on "Access Resources from your home computer" and enter the username: magn0897.

For public libraries and community colleges, the easiest method is to direct patrons to <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/public.asp>, select your library, click on "Access Resources from your home computer" and enter your libraries location id (i.e. magnxxxx where xxxx is replaced with your library number.).

## Dear Customers...

Please note that effective January 1, 2005, EBSCOhost and all other interfaces (with the exception of EBSCOhost Web Text Only), and EBSCOadmin have new minimum browser requirements. To verify that your browser meets the requirements, please go to <http://support.epnet.com>



## NoveList Acquaints Librarians with Many Genres

### Too Many Books?

At NoveList we know that you certainly don't have enough time.

With a new work of fiction published every 30 minutes in the United States, it is no wonder that both readers and library staff are unable to keep up with the latest titles.

Laura Miller, writing for the *New York Times* Book Review, even wonders if the number of titles being published actually results in fewer books being read (see "How Many Books Are Too Many?" *New York Times* Book Review, July 18, p. 23).

She quotes editors speaking about the "wall" of books that readers encounter when they enter libraries and bookstores and the frustration of these readers as they try to find a title that speaks to them.

Helping our readers navigate this deluge of titles has always been a cornerstone of Readers' Advisory service, and many staff (and readers) use NoveList to find the titles that will provide them with pleasurable reading experiences.

Whether your library uses NoveList, however, library staff feel more comfortable with providing Readers' Advisory service and using Readers' Advisory resources when they are knowledgeable about the titles for which their readers are asking.

### ARRT Genre Fiction List

A key element to keeping up with what our readers are reading is to know what books are popular and what we know about these authors. Use the resources developed by the Adult Reading Round Table (ARRT) to assess your knowledge of popular authors.

The Adult Reading Round Table of Illinois, a group of librarians dedicated to promoting Readers' Advisory services and fiction collections in public and school libraries, has recently updated the ARRT Genre Fiction List: A Self-Evaluative Bibliography For Fiction Librarians, which NoveList has



offered for several years.

Designed as a training tool to help library staff evaluate their knowledge of popular fiction for adults, the list allows staff to see where they need to focus their reading energy in order to serve their community better.

The list is divided into different genres with eight of the genres (suspense, romance, mystery, fantasy, etc.) divided further into subgenres (e.g., legal thrillers, Regency romance).

Under each type of fiction there is a brief description of the key elements and appeal characteristics of the genre.

Classic authors whose names should be immediately recognizable are listed first, followed by popular authors (those authors who are both representative of the genre and very popular with readers).

Library staff (and others) can complete the evaluation in each genre to evaluate their strengths. The evaluation also serves as a benchmark list to guide reading for the purpose of further professional development.

### What About Young Adults?

Recently, the ARRT members completed a two-year study of Young Adult fiction and compiled a bibliography of popular authors and titles styled after The ARRT Genre Fiction List and called the Young Adult Genre Fiction List. Like the adult version of the genre fiction list, the YA Genre Fiction List is divided into eleven fiction categories including contemporary, fantasy, historical fiction, humor, comics and graphic novels, multicultural, and more.

The ARRT members included "authors they considered most important and popular, which naturally meant that

many wonderful and worthy authors were omitted.

Several adult authors extremely popular with teens were included, but most write specifically for a young adult audience. Every effort was made to make the list as unbiased as possible. Librarians are encouraged to add authors of local interest to the list."

### Directions for Finding the Adult & Young Adult Lists

Both of these evaluation tools are available on the NoveList web page as a pdf for printing. To get there:

1. Access NoveList, and click the START button.
2. Scroll down the Search Selection page to the section called "Read About Popular Titles and Topics," and select the "For Staff Only" link.
3. Select the link for either the ARRT Genre List or ARRT YA Genre List, and follow the directions. (Please note that these lists are not available from NoveList K-8.)

### Summary

We all know the discomfort of being faced with a reader who is talking enthusiastically about an author whose work we've not read or, in some cases, of whom we've never heard.

In those cases, we frequently make a commitment to read more. Using the ARRT Bibliography, you can ensure that your extra reading time will be spent wisely. It will provide you with a map of your genres of strength and the genres where you should focus your reading.

Also remember that NoveList is there to help you in these situations by providing you with in-depth subject headings, reviews and annotations for over 120,000 fiction titles.

As always, if you have any questions or issues, don't hesitate to let us know.

You can always use the feedback form in NoveList or email us at [novelist@epnet.com](mailto:novelist@epnet.com).

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Frances Coleman, Chair**  
Mississippi State University  
[Fcoleman@Library.MsState.Edu](mailto:Fcoleman@Library.MsState.Edu)

**Billy Beal**  
Meridian Community College  
[bbeal@mcc.cc.ms.us](mailto:bbeal@mcc.cc.ms.us)

**Ellen Ruffin**  
Hattiesburg High School  
[ruffine@bellsouth.net](mailto:ruffine@bellsouth.net)

**Carol Killough**  
NE MS Community College  
[ckillou@necc.cc.ms.us](mailto:ckillou@necc.cc.ms.us)

**Terry Latour**  
Delta State University  
[tlatour@deltast.edu](mailto:tlatour@deltast.edu)

**Sharman Smith**  
Mississippi Library Commission  
[sharman@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:sharman@mlc.lib.ms.us)

**Deb Mitchell**  
Warren County Public Library  
[deb@warren.lib.ms.us](mailto:deb@warren.lib.ms.us)

**Rhonda Tynes**  
Tupelo High School  
[rtynes50@hotmail.com](mailto:rtynes50@hotmail.com)

**Catherine Nathan**  
First Regional Library  
[cnathan@first.lib.ms.us](mailto:cnathan@first.lib.ms.us)

**Technical Advisor:**  
**Stephen Cunetto**  
[Scunetto@library.msstate.edu](mailto:Scunetto@library.msstate.edu)

**Implementation & Budget Committee Chair:**  
**Glenda Segars**  
[grsegars@iccms.edu](mailto:grsegars@iccms.edu)



## New Version of SIRS for K-12 Magnolia Users

ProQuest Information and Learning has released a new version of SIRS, its popular suite of reference databases for the K-12 markets. Here are highlights of the updates, now available to all Magnolia users:

### LEXILE READING LEVELS

- Lexile reading levels now display in the results lists for both SIRS Researcher® and SIRS Discoverer®. In addition to the Lexile scores, these features are available:
  - Sort results with Lexile scores ascending (lowest scores first) or descending (highest scores first).
  - Change default sort order in Advanced search.
  - Specify a Lexile range to limit results in Advanced search.
  - Admin option provided to hide Lexile scores, sorting and limiters.

### STATE AND NATIONAL STANDARDS SEARCH

Standards-based searching allows educators to locate resources in SIRS by content standard and benchmark. The feature is available in both SIRS Researcher and SIRS Discoverer.

- Educators can now search by content standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Sciences, and Social Studies, plus national standards for Technology and Health. This tool helps educators save time in the lesson planning process.
  - Ensure library material is aligned directly to learning benchmarks.



- Provide a vast pool of reliable, relevant content to augment existing curricula, or create fresh lesson and student activities.

Other providers offer standards-based searching only for limited content sets with static alignment to standards. SIRS provides dynamic searching across content and every current state and national learning standard ensuring you always have access to the latest information.

Check out this new feature by visiting the Librarian's Corner in SIRS Researcher and SIRS Discoverer (located at the bottom of the database screen).

### LEADING ISSUES EMPHASIS

SIRS Leading Issues now offers an introductory essay, suggested keywords, review of the issue's viewpoints, related subjects, and article summaries for every Leading Issue, as well as the relevant full-text documents and multimedia resources giving students access to a complete one-stop resource for understanding an issue and completing a research assignment.

Explore the pros, cons, and everything in-between on more than 100 current and enduring issues. New content and features connect students to the key concepts and

information that fuel higher-order thinking skills:

- Use the introductory essay to understand the history and background on an issue.
- Expand or narrow a search with suggested keywords related to the issue.
- Examine viewpoints to understand the pros and cons of an issue.
- Review the article summaries and subject descriptors to quickly locate appropriate material to support or form a viewpoint on an issue.

### ENHANCED ARTICLE RESULTS

Locate information faster and find similar content easier using SIRS new article results features. Search results are now broken down into smaller subsets of content, delineated into Newspapers, Magazines, Government Documents, and WebSelect™ sites. Every article result now includes the article summary and descriptors, so students can easily determine a document's relevancy or locate related articles through the index terms.

### FOCUS ON THE 2004 ELECTION

Focus on the 2004 Election provides background information and access to the most recent articles related to many aspects of the 2004 presidential election, including profiles of the candidates and explorations of election issues, campaigning and the voting process. It is updated daily with relevant articles, serving as an excellent source for current information on the election.

### 'Birthday'

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MAGNOLIA continues to be tremendous. A recent sampling of eight libraries, representing all types of libraries, indicated a total annual savings of \$887,196. Without the MAGNOLIA project, this savings would not have been possible, and, without the MAGNOLIA project, many libraries would not have access to these resources provided through MAGNOLIA.

Additional information in regard to this survey is available at <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia>.

Also included in this survey is budgetary information indicating the need for a total of \$1,216,700 to continue the Project.

This need includes an increase of \$130,360 over the past year's budget and accounts for the increase in the cost of databases.

Key to the success of the project is the "team effort" under which the project operates and the in-kind contributions made by so many of the individuals involved in the project, especially members of the Steering Committee.

This type of effort has been evident from the begin-

ning of the project and has continued throughout the project.

Paramount to the success of MAGNOLIA has been its continued support and funding from our Mississippi Legislature.

Our legislators and other key state leaders are to be commended for this continued support and for their vision and their understanding of the importance of MAGNOLIA to our state.

Thousands of students throughout the state and many research and community economic development projects continue to benefit from this

project. It is imperative that we continue to show our appreciation to our legislators and other individuals who have continued this vision for our state.

On August 15, 2005, we will be sure to celebrate MAGNOLIA's eighth birthday.

In the meantime, best wishes to each of you for a successful and bright New Year and many, many thanks for your outstanding contributions on behalf of MAGNOLIA.

*Frances Coleman*