

## Welcome to a New Semester!

### INSIDE

#### THIS ISSUE:

- Research Assistance 2
- Troubleshooting Access 2
- Exciting New IM Client 2
- Using EBooks 3
- Interlibrary Loan Service 3
- Keep In Touch! 4

The Spring '07 semester is underway! The Libraries would like to welcome back returning students and extend a warm greeting to those of you who are just joining The University of Alabama. We are so glad to have you all as part of our extended community.

This semester promises to be an exciting one for The Libraries! In order to more effectively communicate with our distance users, the Libraries are exploring new technologies. This semester, we are experimenting with desktop conferencing software in order to provide distance learners with real-time workshops providing "tips & tricks" for conducting effective research. To learn more about attending a research orientation

session online, please contact Maryellen Allen, Distance Learning Librarian (mallen@ua.edu).

### New Databases Added!

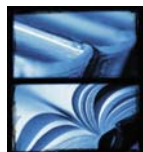
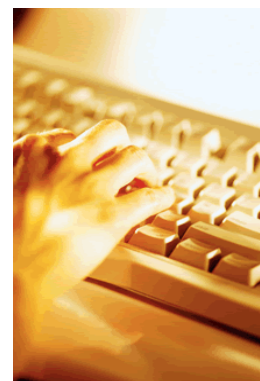
This semester, students will be able to access the following new databases:

**NewspaperARCHIVE.com:** The largest historical newspaper database available online, contains more newspaper pages from 1759 to present than any other service.

**Student Research Center:** General reference database which contains thousands of full-text articles exploring social, scientific, health, historic, business, political, and global

issues.

**World Data Analyst:** This tool lets users analyze data among countries and regions at a glance.



## Meet Lynn Tobola, Social Work Librarian

Lynn Tobola has been the full time Librarian for the School of Social Work since July 1989. According to Lynn, "In the past 18 years, the ways in which we access information has gone through a colorful and challenging metamorphosis.

Working with distance education students is a fairly recent part of the continuing changes taking place in libraries." One of the phases in understanding the

perspective of distance education students, Lynn said, was to put herself through an "out of building library experience" in an attempt to experience what 'being in the library' means to DE students whose 'library' is their computer.

Social work distance education students tend to be a more mature group which includes many who feel they are out of

the computer literacy loop. A sincere desire to teach students to navigate the maze of information they need for coursework and for their professional practice gives Lynn her motivation. "Having Maryellen as UA's Distance Education Librarian reassures me that any distance education student at UA has access to exceptional reference assistance."

To contact Lynn, email ltobola@sw.ua.edu, or call 205-348-6611.

# Research Assistance

Whether just starting out or ready to graduate, many students find that when they need to research a topic for a paper or project, they're overwhelmed by the number and variety of resources available.

The Libraries would like to assure all students that conducting research need not be a staggeringly difficult task. Assistance is always just a mouse click away! Using the [Libraries homepage](#) ([www.lib.ua.edu](http://www.lib.ua.edu)), users can access the [Ask-A-Librarian](#) page to contact a librarian using chat, email or

phone. In addition, distance users are encouraged to contact the Distance Learning Librarian directly for assistance. Students can use any of the following methods to contact Maryellen Allen, Distance Learning Librarian:

Phone: 205-348-8432

Email: [mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu)

Instant Messenger: Please email your handle and identify the client you're using to [mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu)

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/bamalibrarian>

## Make An Appointment!

If you would like to receive extended research assistance, you may wish to set up a private research consultation with the

Distance Learning Librarian. Call Maryellen Allen at 205-348-8432 or email [mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu) to inquire. We can accommodate a wide variety of technologies including phone, live chat, or instant messenger.



# Help! I Can't Access Online Resources!

It's true. There's nothing more frustrating than not being able to get to those online articles your instructor has assigned for your class. What's more, the frustration levels can be turned up several notches by the fact that denial of access can be caused by several different, and sometimes independent, factors. Here is a checklist of the most frequent causes of access failure:

1. **Attempting to link to resources directly from WebCT.** Most instructors don't realize that database companies don't permit users to cut-and-paste links from online resources. If this sounds like your problem, contact the distance

learning librarian.

2. **When trying to access library resources directly from a database,** you will be asked to login using your Bama username and password. This is the same username and password you use to access your Bama mail account.

3. **Attempting to access resources from your workplace** or other location where there is a firewall in place. Unfortunately, you will need to try to access resources from a different location .

4. **The article you're trying to access is not available online.** Many instructors will assume that every article from a journal is available online.

In fact, this is not usually the case. Please contact the Distance Learning Librarian to confirm that your article is available.

5. **You are not currently enrolled.** If you have graduated or are on a six-month term, you may not be in the University's enrollment database. Contact your academic department to make sure you are in the banner system. Students not currently enrolled do not have access.

Contact the Distance Learning Librarian via phone at 205-348-8432 or email [mallen@bama.ua.edu](mailto:mallen@bama.ua.edu).

# Trillian Provides Increased Support for IM

Many students these days keep in touch using Instant Messaging (IM) services. However, the number of different IM clients that have been rolled out over the past few years has increased dramatically. Depending upon your service provider, users may download free IM clients from AOL, Yahoo!, ICQ, MSN, and GoogleTalk, along with a host of others.

In an effort to stay connected with users, the Libraries have recently implemented Trillian, a stand-alone IM client that supports multiple simultaneous connections to other IM services. Trillian allows the user to log into one account while still being able to connect with other users who may be employing various IM services. For example, someone with using Trillian would

be able to instant message with other users on MSN, AIM, Yahoo! and ICQ— all at the same time through the same interface.

If you use an IM client and would like to keep in touch with the Distance Learning Librarian, email your handle and the name of your client to [Maryellen Allen](mailto:Maryellen.Allen@mallen@ua.edu) ([mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu)).



# Electronic Books

Increasingly, libraries are turning to electronic books (EBooks) to provide users with alternate means of obtaining traditional print materials online. When searching the UA Libraries' online catalog, you may come across certain items with a Library Location designation of "netLibrary". This indicates that the entire content of the book is accessible online. The prospect is pretty exciting, but be warned! There are definite advantages and disadvantages to using EBooks. One advantage is, of course, the online

format. Online books can be accessed from anywhere the user has access to the Web. Furthermore, users can quickly and easily search the entire content of the book while inserting electronic bookmarks and making notes. On the other hand, only one user at a time can view the content of an EBook and users are prohibited from printing content or cutting-and-pasting text from an EBook. To access an EBook from off campus, users must have a NetLibrary account. To obtain an account, you

must contact the Distance Learning Librarian. Please email Maryellen Allen at [mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu) or call 205-348-8432.



**Distance users can have both UA Libraries print and ILL materials mailed to them directly.**

## Materials Delivery Using Interlibrary Loan

If you are a student registered with the University of Alabama's College of Continuing Studies or if you are a registered University of Alabama graduate student outside Tuscaloosa, the library will check out books to you and mail them through the postal service. Many off-campus users are reluctant to make use of interlibrary-loan (ILL) services

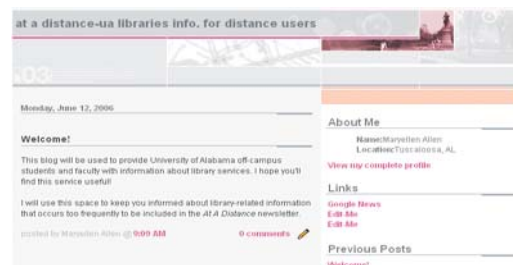
because they believe they'll need to drive to campus to pick up materials. Not so! Distance users can have both UA Libraries print and ILL materials mailed to them directly. When requesting materials through interlibrary loan, simply make sure you set your status to "Distance Ed".

If you have additional questions about obtaining print materials or using the interlibrary loan service, please contact the Distance Learning librarian at 205-348-8432 or email [mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu).

## Check Out Our Blog!

Now you can keep up with new developments in the Libraries' services to off-campus users whenever it's convenient for you! The *At A Distance* blog will inform readers about changes in services, additions to resources, and upcoming online events that will be offered to our distance users.

To visit the *At A Distance* Blog, simply point your browser to <http://distancelibraryservices.blogspot.com/>  
**RSS Site Feed URL:**  
<http://distancelibraryservices.blogspot.com/atom.xml>



At A Distance: UA Libraries Info. For Distance Users (Blog)

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**  
LIBRARIES

Maryellen M. Allen  
Distance Learning/Reference Librarian  
Gorgas Information Services  
The University of Alabama  
Box 870266  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0266

Phone: 205-348-8432  
Fax: 205-348-0760  
E-mail: [mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu)

## Mission Statement

In support of the UA Libraries mission to strive for excellence in advancing the University's teaching, research, and outreach programs, the University of Alabama Libraries provide its distance learning students with resources and services equivalent to those provided to on-campus users. Services extended to UA affiliated distance populations include such things as access to and use of both on-line and print-based information sources, library instruction, reference services, and limited technology assistance.

## Eligibility for Service

All students, faculty and staff currently enrolled in a degree-granting distance program offered by The University of Alabama are eligible for distance learning library services

## Keep In Touch!

Since the libraries are always changing, we encourage our distance users to keep in touch with us. Here are some of the ways we can stay in contact:

### Phone

Reference & Information Services:

205-348-6047

Distance Learning Librarian

Maryellen Allen

205-348-8432

### Email

Ask-A-Librarian

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/forms/refchatquest.htm>

Distance Learning Librarian

[mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu)

### Chat (Ask-A-Librarian)

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/forms/refchat.htm>

### IM

Email your IM handle and the name of your IM client to [mallen@ua.edu](mailto:mallen@ua.edu)

### MySpace

<http://www.myspace.com/bamalibrarian>

### Facebook

Search for [mallen@bama.ua.edu](mailto:mallen@bama.ua.edu)

View profile and then click "Add to friends"

### At A Distance Blog

<http://distancelibraryservices.blogspot.com/>

### Blog RSS Feed

<http://distancelibraryservices.blogspot.com/atom.xml>

### UA Libraries Homepage

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/>

Contact Lynn Tobola, Social Work Librarian:

Phone: 205-348-6611

Email: [ltobola@sw.ua.edu](mailto:ltobola@sw.ua.edu)

