

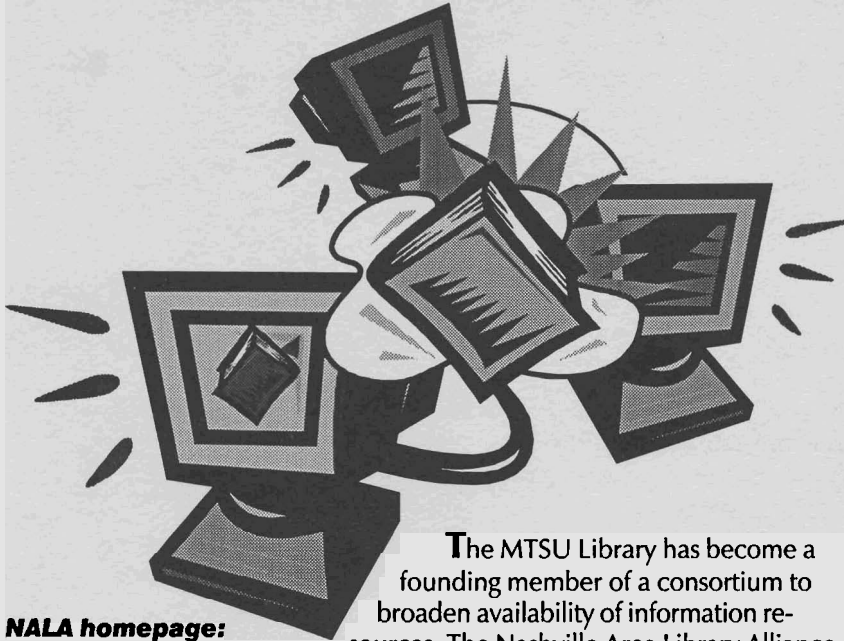
# TODD LIBRARY UPDATE

Number 16

Middle Tennessee State University

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## Sharing Resources: The ATHENA Project



**NALA homepage:**  
<http://www.webz.library.vanderbilt.edu:8004>

The MTSU Library has become a founding member of a consortium to broaden availability of information resources. The Nashville Area Library Alliance (NALA) was created recently to deal with the rapid increase in the cost of library materials through sharing of library holdings. The first endeavor of the Alliance, Project ATHENA (Accessing Technological Horizons to Educate the Nashville Area), will put over 5 million books at the fingertips of MTSU students, faculty, and staff. Using computer and telecommunications technology that will join

a variety of different library catalogs, the project will enable users at each of the participating libraries to search other member on-line catalogs to identify and request books, regardless of location. It will be one of the first applications in the nation of the software allowing broadcast searching of multiple library catalogs simultaneously. This project will improve accessibility to information for all participating institutions. Member institutions taking part in the project include Austin Peay, Belmont, Fisk, Middle Tennessee State, Tennessee State, Trevecca Nazarene, and Vanderbilt universities, along with the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County.

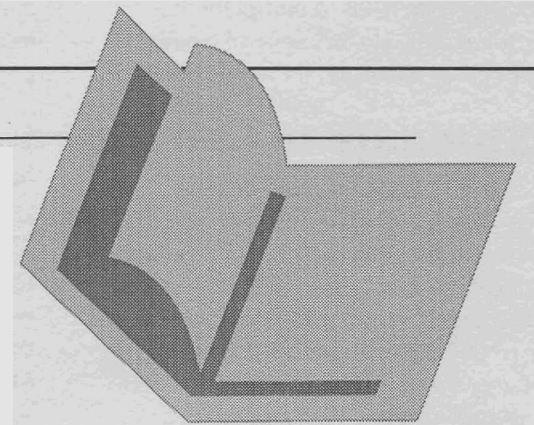
NALA is composed of 13 public and private institution libraries within a 50-mile radius of Nashville. In addition to ATHENA Project participants, membership includes Lipscomb University, Meharry Medical College, the Metro Public Schools, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Volunteer State Community College.

Project ATHENA will bring member participants together to enhance traditional interlibrary loan and help balance demands on collections from one institution to another.

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- Infotrac Searching Tips
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- Tenn-Share Gets Trial Period



**and more...**

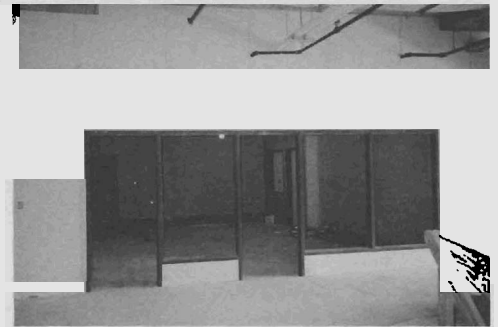
## New University Library Construction Moves Toward Completion

"Will the new library have all new books?" is a question that has been posed more than once by students since the new library construction started. Obviously the answer to this question has to be "no," since much of the collection is in no need of replacement and due to the fact that the construction project budget has no allocation for library materials at this point. While the collections are small when compared to peer libraries, there is no plan to increase their size as part of the construction project. The idea that collections would be improved due to construction may have come from a *Daily News Journal* editorial dated July 18, 1997, that stated, "Meanwhile, MTSU is in the middle of a library construction project that will finally provide the number of books and other materials necessary to allow it to meet requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, an accrediting group." While the construction project will not provide additional library materials, it will provide us with needed space for expanding these collections. The University has begun the process of increasing the base library budget as part of its commitment to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools with an increase of \$325,000 for FY 1997-98. The majority of this increase will be needed to accommodate the annual increases in periodical subscription costs for the past two years.

One question on everyone's mind these days is when the new library will be completed. While Hardaway Construction Corporation has until September 1998 to complete the project, it is already several weeks ahead of schedule. If the current pace



*Construction of the new library continues as the exterior nears completion, above. One of the rooms in the new library, at right, shows the stage of completion on the interior of the facility.*



of activity continues, then the construction could be completed earlier, however an approximate date is still impossible to predict at this stage of the project. While the exterior of the building is nearing completion, there is still much work to be done on the inside. We would like to invite you to visit the library's web page, <http://www.mtsu.edu/~library> in the coming months where you will be able to see pictures displayed of the progress being made inside the build-

ing. This is also a good place to visit to see images of the construction from the beginning until just a few weeks ago. If you are new to the campus, you may be surprised at the progress that has been made on this facility in just twelve months.

We appreciate all the favorable comments made regarding the construction project and we know that you will be pleased with your new university library when it is finished.

## Students to Benefit from Addition of New Electronic Databases

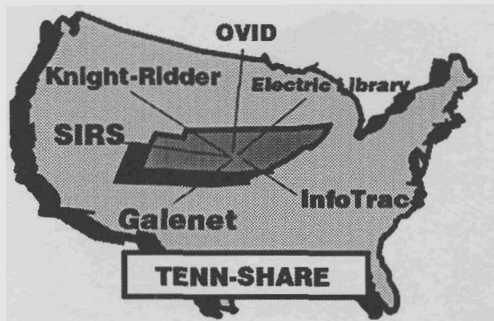
Todd Library has several new electronic databases purchased with student technology funds. These are one-time purchases for the benefit of the largest number of students possible.

New databases include *DISCovering Careers and Jobs* which helps students identify careers which match their interests and provides descriptions of

the careers, the projected outlook, and companies which employ people with each major. *Exegy* provides current hard-to-find information on countries of the world. *PAIS Select* includes the full text of articles on public policy questions. *A Matter of Fact* gives short paragraphs of statistical information on many, many subjects in an easy format.

Other databases are an easy-to-use version of the 1990 U.S. Census data, a quotation index, a poetry index, a biography index, and the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Try these new electronic resources at the local area network in Todd Library.



## TENN-SHARE Trial Period to Further Library Cooperation

TENN-SHARE is an organization made up of academic, public, school, and special libraries across the state. Its purpose is to further co-operation among member libraries. It has arranged for free access to online databases from several vendors for the purpose of testing and evaluation. The trial period continues until December 15, 1997.

Vendors included are EBSCOhost, Electric Library, Galenet, Information Access Company (InfoTrac), Knight-Ridder, OVID, SilverPlatter, SIRS, and UMI ProQuest Direct. Among the many databases included are *Newspaper Abstracts* (UMI), *ABI/INFORM Global* (UMI), *Academic Search FullTEXT Elite* (EBSCO), *Current Contents* (OVID), *PsychInfo* (OVID), *EconLit* (Silver-Platter), *Accounting & Tax Information Source* (UMI), *OVID Nursing Collection* (full text), *Sirs Researcher* (SIRS), and many others.

TENN-SHARE will use information gathered from these tests to determine which products would be most useful for member libraries, to negotiate price discounts with the vendors, and to locate sources of external funding for shared access to databases.

To obtain information about how you may try these databases individually or to set up a demonstration for a department, library representatives, or any faculty members, contact Lynn Flanagan at the library at extension 2526 or 2817.

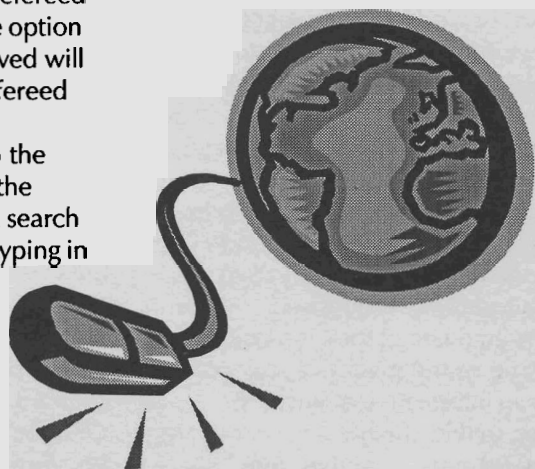
## Tips Given for Searching Infotrac Limiting by Journal Type

The library pays for electronic access to a number of research and information tools. In using the popular Expanded Academic Index, you can limit your search to refereed journals only.

In the Web version, first perform the search by entering your search terms. If more than 20 citations meet your criteria, a "Limit Search" button will appear at the top of the results screen. When this limit button is selected, several options will be displayed, one of which is refereed journals. Simply click on the option and the list of articles retrieved will be limited to those from refereed journals only.

In the text version, go to the PowerTrac mode by typing the percent symbol (%). Enter a search for refereed periodicals by typing in

the search window `re=`. Press enter to pull the results into a results set list. Now combine the refereed periodicals with any other results set or with a topic. For example, if the `re=` search is results set `r1`, type **r1 and ke information systems** to retrieve articles from refereed journals containing the keywords "information systems."



## What's New?

The *What's New?* column on the Library's Home Page features listings of new books and best sellers, as well as bibliographies of library resources and Internet sites for topics of current interest. New bibliographies are featured on a regular basis. Topics have included poetry, summer travel, and African-American writers.

New library services are also listed under *What's New*. Visit the new Library Development Page to learn about "Bricks for Books;" see the latest photographs of the new library building; or find out the schedule for open library instruction classes.

Check this column on the home page frequently for new books and services.

## ATHENA

(continued from page 1)

The system will work well for requesting materials not owned by MTSU, but it will also effectively obtain items that might be in high demand at a particular time at MTSU, but not at one of the other institutions.

NALA will be working to create enhancements in its first project, bring other members on-line, and develop other initiatives which will enrich the learning community. For more information on NALA and its projects, check the NALA homepage at <http://www.webz.library.vanderbilt.edu:8004>.

ATHENA is available on the MTSU library's homepage.

## Library Adds New Faculty and Staff Members

**Sandra Fuentes** (instructor) joined the User Services Department this fall with specific responsibilities for the micro-text area and public services desks operation on Saturdays. She is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, with a masters degree in library and information science. She also has a master of theological studies degree from Vanderbilt University and a bachelor of arts in journalism/religion from Baylor University in Texas. Her previous experience includes work in libraries at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Vanderbilt University. She also has worked in various corporate environments with administrative responsibilities, including document delivery.

**Karin Hallett** (instructor) has been appointed to the position of user services librarian and assumes responsibilities for providing reference and instructional service to library users especially during evening hours. She is a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee with a master of science degree in information sciences. In addition to this, she has a master of arts degree in American studies from Michigan State University. She also has completed a master of arts program in American studies at the Free University of Berlin, Germany. During her education she has received fellowships from



*New library employees, from left, are Amy Merritt, computer technician; Karin Hallett, user services librarian; Michael Brandon, library assistant in Circulation; Sandra Fuentes, user services—micro-text area and public services; and Tammy Saam, discharge supervisor.*

the U.S. Department of Education, Michigan State University, and Indiana University. Her previous experience includes work as an administrative assistant with Ensafe, Inc., of Nashville, GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc., of Phoenix, and U.S. Technical Environmental Consulting, Inc., of Tempe, Arizona.

**Tammy Saam, Amy Merritt, and Michael Brandon** joined the library staff this year. Tammy was employed in

April as discharge supervisor in the Circulation Department. She had previously worked at Warner/Elektra/Atlantic Corporation. Amy joined the staff in June as computer technician in the Automation Department. Prior to coming to MTSU, she had worked for Consolidated Mill Supplies, L.L.C. Michael was hired in July as library assistant in Circulation. Before his appointment, Michael worked at Davis-Kidd Booksellers.

### Todd Library Update

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