

# **Resolved :**

## **A Chronicle of Technical Services**

### **Report of Technical Services Activities During January 2007**

**Some have already read the first item as an e-mail, but I wanted to be sure you all knew**

#### **What's with this record?**

I've received a couple of reports recently about the Online Catalog not responding with bibliographic information when it is being searched. Essentially, what happens to a person searching the system is that they do see an index screen and make a selection -- but after the selection is made no detailed information about the selection really comes up.

Why does this happen? There is a "known glitch" in Voyager programming in what are known as the "VAR" files. What the problem basically comes down to is a file filling up with results more quickly than Voyager can empty out "expired" data. This doesn't happen often, so we don't see this on every search. However, there are times when the system is busy enough -- either from our searching, or what is happening in the background -- that this file doesn't empty as quickly as it should.

Can the problem be fixed? We are trying. Erik has written a program to "flush" the file periodically to try to prevent the backloging problem. We can see if this helps.

So you wonder...

If have I have the problem when I am searching the system what do I do immediately? Believe it or not, just do the search again. The odds are really in your favor that the search will not fail the second time. Often the "overload" period is really only a few seconds at a time.

I haven't received any more reports of this happening after the 23rd. However, if you do continue to encounter this could you report it to me as soon as possible? Erik and I will continue to try to work together to be sure the file is "flushed" as often as necessary and we are still working out how often to run the program.

Let me know if you have questions...

**Serials that have died or been discontinued:**

**Status is changing:**

Dance Annual Directory

The 2007 edition will not be published, but status of volumes after 2007 is not determined at this time.

**Publishers have discontinued:**

Directory of Executive Recruiters

Discontinued with 14<sup>th</sup> edition (2005), vols. 1-2. (Please note that 2005 is on Index Table 6.)

Economic Survey of Europe

Series discontinued with 2005 edition, number 2. (Please note that 2005 is in Index Table 6.)

Educational Rankings Annual

Series has been discontinued after 2006 edition. (Please note that 2006 is currently on Index Table 6.)

**E-Books added to the OPAC:**

In honor of Kansas Day, a variety of open access titles associated with Kansas History are being added.

**URLs added/corrected:**

Wichita Public Schools. Policy Manual. (also known as Board of Education Policies).

Requested by Janet.

**“Newsworthy” sites added to the OPAC:**

Digital Scores Collection. (Harvard College Library)

Requested by Rachel.

**Other Updates:**

The name conflict for Mark Wheeler (reported by Liorah) has been corrected.

The WSU Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series is now cataloged.

The “access to ledgers” problem reported by Cathy and Mary is now fixed (thanks to Hongfei for tracking the problem down).

### **Other Technical Services Activity during January:**

The combined efforts of John, Joan, Jack and April have resulted in ordering/expenditure of 2.2 million in funds so far this fiscal year. They’ve been busy!

Doug is working through his annual series of January headaches as publishers of our periodicals change publication frequency, titles, and much else. January is always a very busy month for Doug.

John, Joan, Judy and Bev have been working on a project designed to improve the quality of Circulation reports by updating all the item statuses for current periodical issues. This project (which involved many records) is now completed.

We welcome our new student assistants! The departmental student supervisors are proceeding with training. By the way, the Processing students have done a great job with “catching up” – holiday break does cause us to backlog a bit. The processing shelves that were once full are now almost empty.

And speaking of backlogging: Diane and Laurie have made great strides in cataloging the accelerated number of new books coming into Cataloging thanks to the CD librarians’ ordering activity and Acquisitions’ efforts.

Laurie Allen attended a SCKLS book repair training workshop this month.

The New Book List does need some work – and is slated for enhancement – but even as the list functions today you can see how busy the Documents cataloging operations have been in the last month. Sandy also faces a challenging month of new boxes/new e-resource lists each January when she returns.

Incoming serial, periodical and continuation titles have kept serials cataloging busy this month. As one person commented to me “I get rid of ten books and get twenty more!” But Bev and Judy are excellent progress as they handle the annual “what the publisher decides to change in January” updating of the serial and periodical records. In preparation for the HLC site visit, Judy has also been working on a project to update records with the “electronic books” subject heading in the online catalog.

Speaking of HLC preparations, Sai has finished the initial assignment of metadata to all the indexing records being prepared to accompany the Wichita State University Self Study. Sai has also continued her work with the Goldbarth collection this month.

Susan and George are continuing to provide timely access to our music and media resources. George actually has also “inherited” some of the gift “old” (90’s and early 2000’s computer books with accompanying software) which always lead to cataloging and processing challenges.

Susan has continued to add SOAR collections this month and is working on the improvement of SOAR documentation (Sai is also engaged in working on SOAR documentation). Susan has been talking to others in the library about additional SOAR collections. You will remember her message that SOAR is now harvested by OAlster.

Both Susan and Sai will be presenting at conferences this spring: Susan’s submission to the Kansas Library Association annual conference has been accepted, and Sai and Hongfei will be presenting to the annual EndUser conference.

Connie and Nancy are working through the “what was left unfinished in Ted’s office” backlog. Connie has also been working with technology this month, resolving assorted cataloging oddities, and is working on a new display which will debut in February.

I know I forgot a great deal, but this is an overview...

Finally, lingering questions:

1. What about the new book list and improved call number searching for SUDOC numbers? These are on the Voyager enhancement list.
2. Why isn’t the current University budget in Reserve? I know it isn’t easy to explain this to the public at large – but this isn’t related to the Reserve OR Cataloging Departments. The budget hasn’t been issued yet – and yes, we know it is long overdue. We have called to inquire about the status of the budget and are told that due to the demands of HLC accreditation and Banner implementation the budget hasn’t been prepared in a “paper release” format yet. And no, it is not in a place where the Libraries can offer online access. As always, the budget will be rush cataloged when it arrives. Until then, Reserve is offering to keep a list of people interested in seeing the budget. Reserve will contact anyone on the list as soon as they receive the final WSU budget.

Other questions? Please let me know...

Nancy Deyoe