

REFERENCE NOTES

A program of the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office (HESO) at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

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(WILS). She worked for MINITEX in the Request Management Unit briefly before joining MINITEX Reference. Beth enjoys cooking, biking, and spending time with friends and family.

Jeanette Woessner, Library Assistant II

Jeanette came to MINITEX after working in human resources at a Minneapolis software company. She enjoys road trips, cooking, parades, and watching "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

Susan Sackett, Assistant Librarian

Susan worked as a reference librarian for eight years in Bolingbrook, Illinois, eventually becoming head of the reference department. She then moved to Minnesota and became the system Reference Librarian at Washington County for a couple of years. Susan worked at Hill Library for several years, then came to MINITEX where she has worked for about four years.

Susan and her husband have a strong interest in the Arts and attend a number of concerts and plays during the year. Her husband has also turned her into an avid, if mediocre, golfer.

Mary Parker, Assistant Director and Electronic Resources Officer

Mary has worked for MINITEX the last ten years. You'll see her name linked with greater frequency to MINITEX Electronic Information Technologies (EIT) initiatives. Prior to this, she worked in special libraries. She's an avid gardener and enjoys traveling with her husband who photographs child labor around the world.

New MINITEX Reference Staff

The MINITEX Reference staff has seen many changes since the last *Reference Notes* was published. The voices you hear on the phone now belong to:

Jean Beccone, Assistant Librarian

Jean has been a reference librarian in a variety of libraries. Most recently she was a librarian at Macalester College where she was responsible for reference duties, bibliographic instruction and interlibrary loan. She also has had positions with the Legislative Reference Library and Minneapolis Public Library. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband and cat and is eagerly perusing gardening and seed catalogs in anticipation of spring.

Beth Friedmann, Assistant Librarian

Beth moved to the Twin Cities in June of 1998 from Madison, Wisconsin, where she worked as the Borrowing Librarian for Wisconsin InterLibrary Services



MINITEX Reference Department: Susan Sackett, Beth Friedmann, Jeanette Woessner, Jean Beccone, Mary Parker

● The MINITEX Office will be closed on Friday, March 26, 1999 ●

INFORMATION BITS

This column of *Reference Notes* will feature information concerning MINITEX Reference operations, upcoming library conferences, and other bits of information.

Reference Desk Hours As most of you know, the operating hours for the MINITEX Reference Desk are 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday. A reference staff member will always be available to take reference questions from 9:00-9:30am and 3:00-3:30pm. If we are researching a question and are not available, please feel free to leave a message with our support staff and we will return your call. Remember to call your questions in on the toll-free MINITEX WATS line at 800-462-5348 and ask for Reference.

Wednesday Trips to Minneapolis Public Library (MPI)

On Wednesday mornings, a reference staff member takes a bus ride down to MPI for information not available in the University of Minnesota Libraries collections. If you send us your questions on collectibles, consumer info, hobbies, and other "popular" subjects earlier in the week, it might expedite the reply.

What Sets MINITEX Reference Apart?

At MINITEX Reference we take those extra steps necessary to get your patrons the information they need. Recently, a patron was looking for a play by Frank Pike. We knew the play was called Smaller Heartaches, and it had been performed in Minneapolis. Our first step was to utilize the collections of the University of Minnesota Libraries. In this case, we found in a book by Frank Pike that he had been a doctoral student at the U of M and he had received a Bush Foundation Fellowship. We then called the Bush Foundation, but they had no record of him.

Next, we checked the *National Faculty Directory* for the 1970-80's and found a Frank Pike at Glassboro State College. A secretary at the college gave us the phone number of his son, Frank Pike, Jr. He informed us that the entire play had never been published but he would ask his parents to check around their house for it. He suggested we contact the Midwest Playwright Center in Minneapolis, where his father was a playwright in residence.

We never found a directory listing for that business so we contacted the University Libraries subject specialist, Richard Kelly. He thought that the Midwest Playwright Center was affiliated with the Loft. We telephoned the Loft and they directed us to the Playwright Center. Unfortunately, we never did locate the play, but we exhausted every lead we had. Taking those few extra steps is what sets MINITEX Reference Services apart.

WEB SITE HITS

The World Wide Web has proven to be a very useful tool in researching the varied questions we receive. In upcoming issues of *Research Notes*, we will highlight some of our favorite web sites covering a number of different subjects.

Sheet Music

"Digital Librarian: Sheet Music, Lyrics, Librettos, Scores"
<http://www.servtech.com/~mvail/sheet.html>.

This site is maintained by a librarian and has links to nearly 50 sites that provide indexing, lyrics to sheet music and songs, information about publishers, etc. The sites' subjects range from jazz to folk and choral music. They range in scope from a Gilbert and Sullivan Archive to the Library of Congress site "Music for the Nation: American Sheet Music, 1870-1885" which has "tens of thousands of pieces of sheet music registered for copyright during the post-Civil War era."

And don't forget that MINITEX has access to the Minneapolis Public Library's great popular song index which gives us access to thousands of copies of sheet music.

Phone Number Directories

"Switchboard" <http://www.switchboard.com/>

Switchboard helps you find phone numbers and addresses for individuals and companies around the country. For companies, select a type of business and the name of a town or state and Switchboard produces a list of all the companies of that type in the area specified. As a last resort, we have used Switchboard white pages to contact authors directly to find out if their stories have been published. When all else fails, they might be the only source.

We also used Switchboard for a question we had about a scientist's birthdate. We were unable to find it anywhere but we found some biographical information, including an address, his wife had published in the front of one of the scientist's books. After explaining who we were and a few tactful questions, she was very willing to help us.

Another phone number directory on the Web and identified under "Reference" in Yahoo is:

"Fone Finder" <http://www.primeris.com/fonefind/>

Fone Finder identifies the city associated with a specific area code and prefix. It also identifies international country codes and the geographical location of the telephone.

NEW ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

OCLC FirstSearch

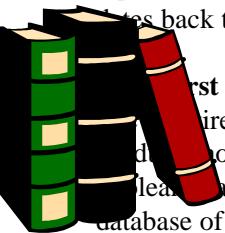
OCLC has offered a FREE 3 month trial of OCLC FirstSearch to MINITEX participants. MINITEX is the OCLC affiliate network for MN, SD, and ND. Alane Wilson and Colleen Way are the OCLC FirstSearch contacts (800-848-5878) for this trial which began on Feb. 1 and ends April 30. All the regional public library systems in MN are participating. We hope you're taking advantage of this free access to explore the wealth of information in FirstSearch.

OCLC FirstSearch contains over 70 databases, many include full-text. In the next few issues of *Reference Notes*, we will be highlighting some of these FirstSearch databases.

- Alternative HealthWatch

These days it seems like everyone is interested in alternative medicine and healthcare. Alternative HealthWatch is the perfect source for those questions and concerns about complementary and alternative aspects of healthcare, such as aromatherapy, chiropractic, acupuncture, homeopathy, lifestyle choices, food, and many more areas of integrated medicine. It is available in full-text with images.

Alternative HealthWatch contains articles from 120 consumer magazines, peer-reviewed journals, newsletters, and research reports. It is updated quarterly and contains information that goes back to 1990.



NetFirst is a database of AltaVista or other search engines that return thousands or millions of hits, even when you've used clear search phrases? Give NetFirst a try! Netfirst is a database of resources on the Internet that are selected by OCLC catalogers to specifically help librarians and library users find authoritative, reliable information on the Internet.

The items selected for inclusion in this database, containing approximately 100,000 records, include World Wide Web pages, interest groups, library catalogs, FTP sites, Internet services, Gopher servers, electronic journals and newsletters. The items are cataloged and given subject headings. OCLC evaluates the sites for substance, currency, durability, and interest. They also actively solicit input from librarians for inclusion of useful sites which are then evaluated according to their selection criteria. OCLC continuously updates and verifies that items are still available on the web.

If you are using FirstSearch on the web, you may link directly to the catalogued resources from the database.

Because this service is designed especially for libraries, you probably will find it will become a most useful tool for finding what you need out in that unstructured, amorphous mass of information on the Internet.

NEW PRINT RESOURCES

The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Libraries are constantly expanding their reference collections. The following are a few examples of the new sources we may take advantage of while researching your reference questions. As a salute to Women's History Month, we would like to highlight the following books:

[Women of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League: A Biographical Dictionary](#), by W.C. Madden (GV875.A56 M34 1997, ISBN: 0786403047)

Vital dates, place of birth, height, weight, defensive position, teams played for, seasons active, and other statistics are provided for each player. In most cases, a brief biographical sketch that details the player's career, how she came to play in the league, and information on her post-baseball career is also included. Most of the photographs are from the personal files of the players and have never before been published.

This book is a good example of the highly specialized resources available in the University Libraries, on a long-neglected topic.

[Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion](#), edited by Serinity Young (BL458.E53 1999, ISBN: 0028646088)

This two volume set provides articles, in subject order, on topics such as the Amazons, divorce, female personification, Lilith, Susanna, and witchcraft. A bibliography on the subject follows each article. A synoptic outline and an index close out the second volume. These volumes will be a useful starting point for questions concerning women and women's issues in the context of world religions.

Reference Notes

MINITEX Library Information Network
University of Minnesota, S-33 Wilson Library
309 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0414

Reference Phone.....612-624-4150, WATS 800-462-5348
Main/Reference Fax.....612-624-4508

Beccone, Jean.....612-626-9843, becco001@tc.umn.edu

Friedmann, Beth.....612-624-7873, fried004@tc.umn.edu

Parker, Mary.....612-624-1024, m-park1@tc.umn.edu

Sackett, Susan.....612-624-4336, sache008@tc.umn.edu

Woessner, Jeanette.....612-624-5025, woess001@tc.umn.edu

Main Website.....www-minitex.lib.umn.edu

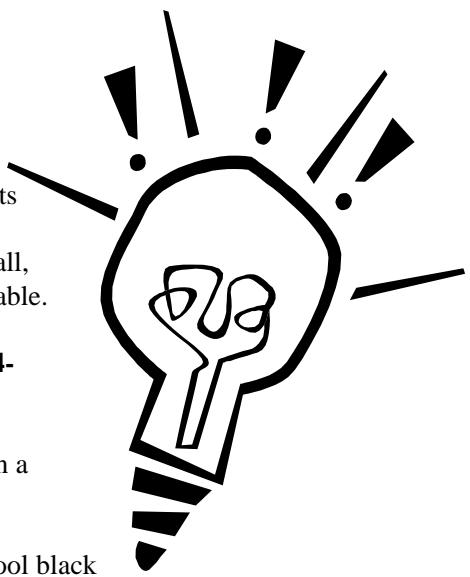
Office Hours.....Mon-Fri., 8:00am-4:30pm

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Occasionally, MINITEX Reference Services receives a request for a poem, quotation, picture, story or something that cannot be found by checking standard sources. The Reference staff would like to appeal to the collective memory of MINITEX participants for assistance. We also submit these stumpers to the STUMPERS list on the Internet. Although the overall number of requests we receive for these types of questions is small, they are often the most elusive and difficult to find. Your help in this search is invaluable.

Please forward any leads on the following questions to Reference Services at: **612-624-4150 or 800-462-5348**. Here is what we are looking for:

- 1.) A CD containing the Julie Andrews song "Violets in the Snow." It was possibly on a Christmas album. (620)
- 2.) The music, title, and songwriter for a song that contains the lyrics: "Witches hat, cool black cats, broomstick rider, mice and rats." (782)
- 3.) The name of the song that contains the lyrics: "I built a mansion in the valley. I even bought a little band of gold. I thought someday I'd place it on your finger." (834)
- 4.) Information on the artist Russell Morgan. He produced prints of African-American women around 1907. (849)
- 5.) The poem "Oh, What a Beautiful Wash" by Mary Alice Oman. (844)



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What do you think about *Reference Notes*?

great reference books



fantastic web sites

topics you would like addressed



spotlight on your
reference library

We would like to know what you would like to see in upcoming *Reference Notes*. Please either call us at 800-462-5348, send us an e-mail (see page 3 for addresses), or fill in your comments below and mail this form to MINITEX Reference.

Terrific web sites, reference books, and other sources you use:

Comments / Suggestions:

Name: (optional) _____

Library: (optional) _____ Phone: (optional) _____

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