Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Support Services

Crerar Library now offers support for all students and faculty using or interested in using geographic information systems (GIS) through the help of the new GIS Resident Librarian, Taylor Hixson.

Taylor can assist users in the Physical Sciences Division by:

- identifying spatial data resources
- helping organize, format, and join spatial datasets
- providing basic instruction for desktop GIS and web mapping tools

Additionally, ArcGIS, QGIS, and GeoDa are now available on the PCs in Crerar.

Using GIS in the physical sciences can go beyond geologic mapping. Even astronomers have found uses for GIS, and 3D modelling of surfaces with ArcGIS is useful in both earth sciences and engineering.

If interested in learning more about GIS or using spatial data, visit the new library guide for GIS (guides.lib.uchicago.edu/GIS), or contact Taylor at taylorhixson@uchicago.edu.
Knowledge@UChicago Sciences Data Repositories

Knowledge@UChicago is the University's institutional repository for preserving and sharing "scholarly, creative, and administrative assets of the University." Managed by the Library, it is a valuable service that is available to you. Please contact a Science librarian to learn more about how to preserve your data sets, have open access options for your scholarly articles and dissertations, and how to meet public access requirements for your grant-funded research.” For more information, please see:

https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/research/scholar/digitalscholarship/institutional-repository

ProxyIt for Mobile Devices

Having difficulty accessing articles, ebooks, or other library resources on your phone or tablet? Use ProxyIt for mobile devices! Once installed, anytime you go to a web page for one of the Library’s electronic resources, use ProxyIt! to reroute the page through the proxy server so that you may login and access the material.

More information about accessing resources while off-campus is available at: http://guides.lib.uchicago.edu/off-campus.

New Ebscohost MathSciNet Platform

The Ebscohost platform now offers a search interface for MathSciNet. This new interface offers some features not available on the AMS platform features, particularly a more flexible search. However, some elements available on the AMS platform are lacking. Below is a comparison of some key differences:

**Simple Search**

Ebscohost also a simple search box as the default search. This search is easier to use for students less familiar with field searching and more familiar with Google. Use the advanced search to access fields for more precise searching.

**Author Search**

The Ebscohost interface offers a more flexible author search than the AMS version. Commas delineating first and last name are not necessary on the Ebscohost platform, nor is the last name first name order necessary. The Ebscohost platform will also search for an author affiliation in the author search field. E.g. a search for the name "Brandeis" include authors from that university.

**Math Subject Classification Search (MSC)**
Instead of using subject word tagging for content, MathSciNet has a unique Mathematics Subject Classification (MSC) which uses a number-letter-number code to classify subjects. The AMS interface will search the first part of the code or the first and second together. But Ebscohost has not adopted this search method and instead appears to search the code as a string anywhere in the MSC, returning significantly different results.

For more information, consult this in depth study of the differences between the two interfaces.

Exhibition

**Discovering the Beauty and Charm of the Wilderness: Chicago Connections to the National Park Service**

**Crerar Library Atrium**

October 31 – December 31, 2016

The National Park Service was established by Woodrow Wilson in August 1916. Offering a rich variety of natural resources for discovery, park landforms, flora, and fauna have been the subjects of many University of Chicago scientific studies. The parks have also served as inspiration for art, photography, and literature. To mark the 100-year anniversary, we delve into the Library’s archives and rare collections to look at Chicago connections to the parks.

**Associated Web exhibit**

**The Physical Sciences Update is edited by Jennifer Hart**

I invite your comments about *The Physical Sciences Update*. Please email me at hartj@uchicago.edu or at 773-702-7569 with any questions about Library resources and services, or with any comments about the content and design of this newsletter.