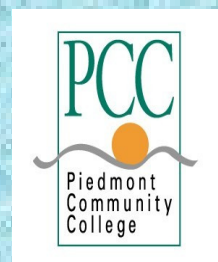


FRESH FROM THE JAR

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Do You Remember Microfiche? Vanessa L. Bass, Reference Librarian

Do you remember the “good ‘ole days” of microfiche? You ask . . . What is microfiche? These are valuable research and archive sources in libraries around the world. Microfiche is a 4 by 5 inch piece of photographic film that contains printed information in a size too small to be seen by the naked eye. Books, journals, and magazines are archived on microfiche. This is what allows libraries to carry printed resources they would otherwise never have the floor or storage space to hold. But, the days of libraries storing microfiche are slim. Students and faculty no longer have to sift through microfiche in order to find research articles for their papers, projects, or presentations.

NC LIVE offers North Carolinians online access to a diverse collection of electronic resources including complete articles from over 16,000 newspapers, journals, magazines, encyclopedias, and access to over 25,000 online print and audio books. Therefore, NC LIVE is an enormous resource. Within NC LIVE, you can access over 90 databases on subjects such as art, business, education, history, literature, medical, nursing, and much more. NC LIVE is available free of charge to faculty, students, staff, and the community, which can be accessed through the LRC or at home. NC LIVE is 100% better than any search engine because the articles are from creditable journals, magazines, and the best newspapers.



There are a couple of ways to search NC LIVE. On the main page of NC LIVE, there is an EZ-Search function that allows you to search over 30 NC LIVE databases at once. This is a good place to start if you do not know which database to use. When using EZ-Search, type in your keywords and click on the “search” button. The results page will display the number of hits for each database that was searched.

The second way to search NC LIVE is to browse the resources. You can browse resources through “Subject & Type,” “Alphabetically,” or by “Vendors,” which means by the company that owns the database.

In addition, there are several ways of displaying and accessing an article. You have the option of either non full-text or full-text. This means the article is either available with the citation and abstract or the complete text of the article. After accessing the article, you can either print, e-mail, or save articles.

NC LIVE has a mountain of information at your fingertips. You may ask yourself after using NC LIVE . . . Why was I sticking to just search engines? Here is a quick list of some databases in NC LIVE to wet your intellectual appetite:

Academic Search Elite — indexes over 2,900 publications, including scholarly journals in the social sciences, humanities, general science, education and multicultural studies, as well as popular magazines published from 1990-present. Full-text articles are provided for over 1,300 periodical titles.

American Slavery: A Composite Autobiography — slave narratives searchable by narrator, subject, interviewer, or county.

CINAHL w/Full Text — Covers nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines. Offers access to health care books, nursing dissertations, selected conference proceedings, standards of practice, educational software, audiovisuals, and book chapters. Indexing for 2,717 journals and full text for 320 journals, plus legal cases, clinical innovations, critical paths, drug records, research instruments, and clinical trials.

The CQ Researcher — detailed database that provides thousands of articles on social issues such as abortion, the death penalty, gangs, home schooling, and others.

LearningExpress Library — provides numerous practice tests such as the SAT, GED, TOEFL preparation, Nursing Entrance Exam, Nursing Assistant, EMS, GRE, and more. This is a useful database to practice for several tests to help ensure your success.

To access NC LIVE when you are on-campus, you can access the databases from NC LIVE with direct links from the LRC’s homepage at <http://www2.piedmontcc.edu/lrc>.

To access NC LIVE from off-campus, you must apply for a password. Go to the LRC’s homepage and click on **Online Forms** to fill out the off-campus access form.

For more information or help, contact Vanessa Bass at (336) 599-1181x235 at the Gordon P. Allen LRC, or Lionell Parker at (336) 694-5707 x231 at the Caswell LRC.

**Learning Styles and Study Habits
Libbie McPhaul-Moore, Distance Education Coordinator**

What is the role of learning styles and their impact upon study habits? Diaz and Carnal (1999) write that distance students favor more independent learning styles—making it good for instructors to offer more independent learning opportunities. In one study, they found that students in one distance learning class who had a more independent and conceptual learning style earned the highest average scores in all student achievement areas (Diaz & Carnal, 1999). In *Learning Styles and the Online Environment* (n.d.), it states that students who are well-suited for online learning are more introverted, have a less hierarchical approach to instruction, and are more independent learners.

Successful distance learning students are also more confident in their performance, have less need to relate to others, and are more self-directed. Face-to-face students, on the other hand, appear to be more dependent learners.

Since their learning style is less concrete, distance learning students seem to benefit from a wide variety of instructional strategies. Below is a list of the four primary learning styles with examples of instructional strategies/activities:

1. Visual/Verbal – an appropriate learning style for online learners because most of the course information is presented in written form
2. Visual/Nonverbal – a learning style that benefits from the use of graphical representation of information, such as charts, graphs, and images
3. Auditory/Verbal—benefits from group participation, collaborative activities, streaming audio, etc.
4. Tactile/Kinesthetic—examples of instructional tools are simulations with 3D graphics, labs completed at home, outside fieldwork, presentations, and discussion

The first rule seems to be know your students! The use of a learning style inventory at the beginning of a new semester lets the instructor know what type of instructional strategies to incorporate and provides students with the opportunity to better know themselves. (Free Learning Styles Inventory, <http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html>)

Diaz, D. & Carnal, R. (1999). Comparing student learning styles in an online distance learning class and an equivalent on-campus class. Retrieved May 2, 2007 from the World Wide Web: http://home.earthlink.net/~davidpdiaz/LTS/html_docs/grsls.htm

Illinois Online Network (n.d.). *Learning styles and the online environment*. Retrieved May 2, 2007 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.ion.uillinos.edu/resources/tutorials/id/LearningStyles.asp>

**Who Is This Lady?
Vanessa L. Bass, Reference Librarian
Barbara Gilchrist, Part-time Librarian**

Have you seen this lady? Does she look at all familiar to you? She is portraying a character in a play called "Huff N Puff: I Gotta Brickhouse Foundation..." written by Oren Marsh at The New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral in Durham, NC.



**Barbara Gilchrist
Part-time
Librarian**

She is Barbara Gilchrist, Part-time Librarian at Gordon P. Allen Learning Resources Center at Piedmont Community College. Ms. Gilchrist works at the GPA LRC on Tuesday nights. She has been in this position for 16 years.

Mrs. Gilchrist is extremely active in human rights. She has found gratification in helping others with projects through her church and throughout the City of Durham. This play is another way of Ms. Gilchrist bringing awareness to people in the community that there is a better way of life – a better life than poverty, low self-esteem among our teens, drugs, hopelessness, teenage pregnancy, and hunger.

Ms. Gilchrist portrays the character named Jackie Lynn. This character is a 16-year old drug dealer who is at odds with her mother. This character is very troubled because she does not listen to the advice and words of caution and wisdom from her mother.

Jackie Lynn is a character who thinks selling drugs is the answer to getting out of poverty, feeling better about herself, and making the people in her life happier.

This is a floater, play which means that it is a play being presented at different churches in the City of Durham. The United Church of Christ and The New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral of Durham have both presented the play.

In Durham, the play can be seen at various churches, so please keep an eye out for this musical play. You will enjoy it thoroughly.

This is yet another facet to library work—the theater.