

# MathLib News

Mathematics Research Library

December 2008

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## Summit Changes

As a library user, you're probably familiar with Summit, the unified catalog that combines information from a consortium of regional academic libraries into a single searchable database. Summit provides you with access to over 28 million items from 36 academic libraries throughout Oregon and Washington.

The Summit catalog is currently being upgraded and improved. As a member of the Orbis Cascade Alliance (the consortium that supports and maintains the Summit catalog), UW Libraries is actively involved in ensuring that services to you and other library customers continues during this transition.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Why is the Summit unified catalog being upgraded and improved?

The Summit catalog was installed in the mid-1990s, and although it has been regularly upgraded since then, recent developments in library services and products all indicate that it is time for a significant change. Summit library members have created an implementation plan for an improved library catalog that promises to be sustainable, cost-effective and user-friendly. Building on the successes of the existing catalog, the new Summit catalog will include a significantly enhanced search function that will make it even easier for you to find and request the books you need.

### How will my ability to search for items improve when the new Summit catalog is installed?

With one search, the new Summit catalog will present results from the collections of the Summit's member institutions in Oregon and Washington, followed by results

from libraries around the world. In all, the new catalog will give you access to over 107 million library records, made accessible through powerful and easy-to-use search capabilities.

### Tell me more about the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

Serving over 211,000 students throughout the Pacific Northwest, the Orbis Cascade Alliance is a library consortium involving 36 universities and colleges. Through the Summit catalog, Alliance members share about 400,000 books and other items a year—an average of over 1,000 a day! Per student, the Orbis Cascade Alliance has higher circulation than any other similar library consortium in the U.S., and is nationally recognized for its speed of delivery and successful fulfillment rate.

### What kinds of temporary changes in services should I expect during the Summit catalog replacement and how can I help things go smoothly?

We encourage you to continue to use the Summit catalog as you normally would to find and request the materials you need. UW Libraries staff will be on a learning curve as they implement the new system. We appreciate your patience, flexibility and support during this process, which may include some minor service interruptions.

### What does the change mean for UW borrowers?

Requesting in the new system has started. Materials checked out in the new system have a 6-week loan period with no renewals. Items that have been requested will not show in your UW library account for 2-4 days.

The ability for UW borrowers to visit other libraries and check out materials will continue, although they will need to verify their status at the remote library by logging into their UW library account. Once the UW borrower is "adopted" in this manner by the remote library they can

request that books from other libraries be delivered to that library.

## Updates

- You can now immediately access your Summit requests made on or after December 1 from the [Summit catalog](#). Click on "My Summit Account" in the upper right corner.
- You can now request materials from Summit that are Library Use Only at UW (the first week the system was up you couldn't do that).
- Summit materials are showing a "Check Electronic Resources" button in all cases, whether the title is electronic or not. This problem should be fixed in mid-January.

We also encourage you to share any concerns you have about the catalog upgrade. Your feedback is invaluable to us in our efforts to ensure that the Summit catalog continues to meet customer needs.

Questions can be sent to the Libraries' [AskUs](#) service. For updates on the system, please visit: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/services/summitchange.html>

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## Mathematics Research Library Hours December 13, 2008—January 5, 2009

Our regular interim hours are:

M-F, 1PM-5PM; Closed Saturdays and Sundays

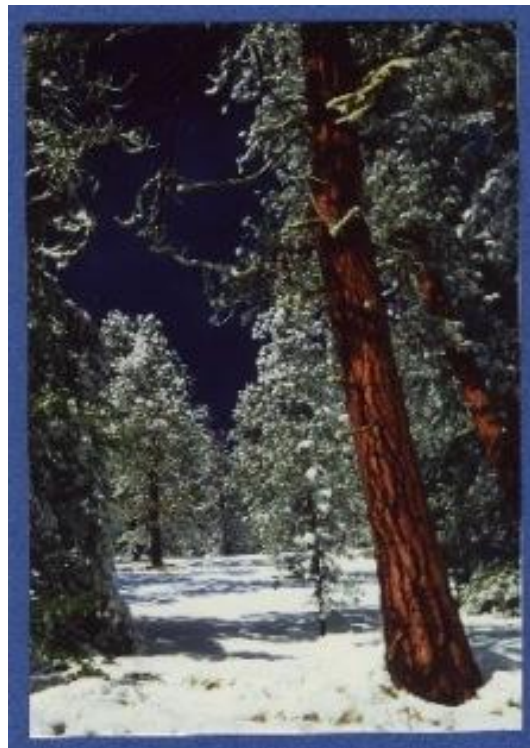
We will be closed **December 24, 25, and 26; and January 1**. Check all UW Libraries' hours at:

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/about/hours/>

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## Course Reserves

Remember to submit your [course reserve requests](#) ASAP so that all will be ready for your students on January 5.



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*Happy Holidays!*  
*Martha, Saundra,*  
*Aaron, Cassidy, & Colleen*

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