



NEWS

MesaStateCollege
Office of Development
1100 North Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122
Phone: 970-248-1868
Fax: 970-248-1076
www.mesastate.edu

For Immediate Release: August 3, 2009

Contact: Dana Nunn
970.248.1868
970.640.0421

Mesa State joins the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries

Grand Junction - The Board of Directors of the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries has unanimously approved adding Mesa State College as an alliance member, which gives access for Mesa State students to more than 25 million books, research materials, videos, e-books, DVDs, CDs and more.

“The world that it opens up to our students and our faculty is amazing,” said Betsy Brodak, MSC Library Director. “And, as much as we love having students and faculty in the library, this is incredibly convenient for them because it can all be done online.”

Membership in the alliance gives Mesa State students access to the libraries of the Colorado School of Mines, all the University of Colorado campuses, Colorado State University, Regis University, the University of Northern Colorado, the University of Wyoming, Colorado College, and the Denver Public Library. It also gives students and faculty at those institutions access to materials in the John U. Tomlinson Library at Mesa State.

“There are a lot of things going on at Mesa State and they are interested in things in our library as well,” Brodak said, adding that she believes being part of the alliance will be particularly helpful to students enrolled in the mechanical engineering program delivered at Mesa State through a partnership with the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Of the 25.3 million items available through the alliance, almost 67 percent are unique to one library and another 14 percent are in only two of the libraries.

Membership also allows Mesa State to become part of a buying consortium for databases and expands the amount of online material available to students. Another big advantage is that Mesa State can begin providing a digital repository for such things as faculty publications, master degree students’ final projects and theses, and even such items as old yearbooks.

The library consortium was launched in 1974 when five library directors met to consider ways of sharing resources. That was the start of what was called the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries or "CARL" and later "The Alliance" when CARL Systems Inc. and the CARL name were sold to Knight-Ridder Information Inc. Resource sharing remains the alliance mission, made even more important in these days of restricted funding.

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