Outreach to Underserved Communities

Collaborations with public and private educational institutions and private organizations expanded the library's outreach services to traditionally underserved communities.

These included:

- Formalizing a partnership with Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, to facilitate urban agriculture programs involving minority-serving K-16 educational institutions.

- Supporting approval of membership in the AgNIC alliance of the Oglala Lakota College (OLC), a Tribal Land-Grant College in Kyle, South Dakota. The Oglala Lakota College now manages the AgNIC website on bison ranching (http://library.olc.edu/bison.htm).

- Hosting at NAL the 2001 Tribal College Librarians Professional Development Institute, usually held at Montana State University, and supporting travel to the institute in 2000-2002 of librarians and library technicians from Tribal Colleges.

- Creating, through NAL's Water Quality Information Center, a Web page (http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/Spanish.html) with annotated links in Spanish titled "Información Español Sobre Agua" (Spanish Language Information About Water Resources).

- Through NAL's Rural Information Center, publishing guides for rural development officials and rural health practitioners to Innovative Approaches in Rural Education (http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/educate.pdf) and Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas (http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/funding/federalfund/fed03ful.pdf).

- Creating, through NAL's Rural Information Center, Web pages of key resources for Native Americans (http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ruralres/nativeam.htm) and special populations (http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ruralres/minority.htm), including organizations, planning resources, best practices, funding and program assistance, statistics and contacts, and publications.

NAL staff gave presentations on the library's educational resources to African American librarians and to public school teachers in Washington, D.C., in 2001 and on "Pioneering Agricultural Literacy" to the 2002 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. NAL staff also gave presentations on electronic information

4,084,895
Bibliographic records cited in AGRICOLA, September 30, 2002, including 32,608 linked to full text content.

Two farmers cutting and bundling wheat. Photographer and date unknown. USDA History Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

systems at the 2000 and 2001 meetings of the Congressional Black Caucus; at the 2000 and 2002 meetings of the National Association of Women, Infants, and Children Directors; to the National Association of Agricultural Educators in 2000 and 2001; and at the 2001 Computers in Libraries Conference.

NAL exhibited each year at the USDA Technology Showcase in USDA's Whitten Building in Washington, D.C., the USDA Outlook Conference in Arlington, Virginia, the FFA National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, and the Annual Conferences of the American Library Association and Special Libraries Association.

Reaching Audiences Via the World Wide Web

NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) produced several education and training resources for targeted audiences that are accessible via the Web, including:

- Food Stamp Nutrition Connection (http://www.nal.usda.gov/foodstamp/), a resource for Food Stamp Program nutrition educators, developed with the University of Maryland.

- Cultural and Ethnic Food and Nutrition Education Materials: A Resource List for Educators (August 2001) (http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/pubs/bibs/gen/ethnic.html).

- Nutrition and the Elderly: A Resource Guide for Community Educators (November 2002) (http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/pubs/bibs/gen/nutritionelderly.html).

- Nutrition Education for Low-Literate Teens & Adults (September 2002) (http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/pubs/bibs/gen/lowlit.html).

- Consumer Corner (http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/consumersite/index.html), a single website with links to information on the food and nutrition topics that the public asks about most often, much of it presented in full-text documents.

NAL also began to provide the food service retail community with food safety information management services via the Food Safety Training and Education Alliance (FSTEA). NAL staff developed and maintained the organization's website (http://www.fstea.org/) and assisted with arranging meetings for information sharing.

NAL's Water Quality Information Center compiled and published print and online bibliographies on a broad array of topics related to agriculture and natural resources:

- An extensive resource for agricultural aspects of drought, weather, and climate, the Web page contains links to

114,552
Approximate number of USDA employees authorized access to DigiTop, the Digital Desktop Library for USDA, November 2002.

Printing blocks created from original C.V. Riley drawings used to illustrate entomology publications. C.V. Riley Printing Blocks Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

prediction and monitoring tools, drought and weather organizations, State-specific drought information, and related full-text papers and articles, available on the Web at http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/drought.html.
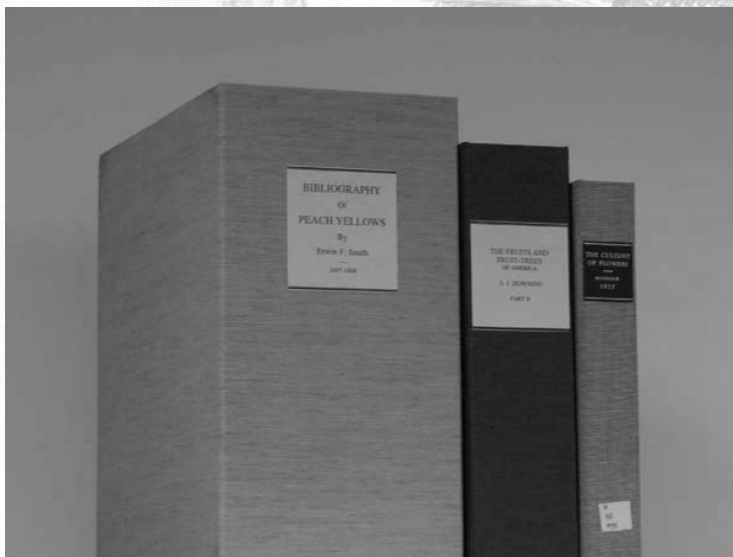
- Over 300 electronic resources related to water and agriculture that appear on the WQIC website, cataloged with help from NAL's Cataloging Branch, and linked to records in the AGRICOLA database.

- A "Database of Online Documents Covering Water and Agriculture" (http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/wqdb/esearch.html) containing almost 1,000 titles. The Web service provides unique access to documents because of the special assignment of data tags (metadata) and keywords, improving the retrieval of the most pertinent materials.

NAL's Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC), in collaboration with USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program and the National Organic Program (NOP), developed a website on organic food production and USDA's Organic Standards rule.

AFSIC also published, in print and on the Web, an array of information resources to assist and educate other groups of food producers and consumers, including:

- Urban Agriculture (http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/urbanag.htm) (2000).

- Selected Aquatic Resources for Teachers (2000) (http://www.mda.state.md.us/aqua/teachers.htm).

- Educational and Training Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture (http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/edtr.htm) (2000, 2001, 2002).

- Great Places To Find Information About Farming Alternatives (http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/findinfo.htm) (2000, 2001).

- Sustainable Agricultural Resources for Teachers, K-12 (http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/k-12.htm) (2000, 2002).

- Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Resources for Producers (http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/csafarmer.htm) (2001).

Boxes specifically designed for fragile volumes in NAL's collections as part of the ongoing preservation effort.

Educational Workshops

On April 12, 2000, NAL held a symposium on "Who Will Pay for On-Farm Environmental Improvements in the 21st Century?" coinciding with the reopening of NAL's newly renovated public reading room. The symposium gave individuals with different perspectives on the economic aspects of agricultural operations and environmental quality the opportunity to exchange views and ideas on the topic. Participants in the day-long symposium included representatives from agribusiness, environmental groups, Government, and farmers. For more information on the symposium and a useful resource guide published by NAL, visit http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/Bibliographies/agecon.html.

NAL's Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) has for many years offered a workshop, "Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act," to all those regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/awicworkshops/awicworkshops.htm). In 2002, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration asked NAL to provide a modified version of the workshop to 50 FDA scientists, administrators, and information specialists who use animals in research. This was the first time that another Federal agency has asked AWIC to train such a large group. AWIC is also collaborating with the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a Web-based training program that will help VA researchers meet the information requirements of the Animal Welfare Act.

315,000
Total square feet, NAL's 200' tall Abraham Lincoln Building.

Mission 4: NAL provides leadership in information management

Library Management System

NAL began the process of evaluating, selecting, and implementing a new library management system to replace the VTLS library management system installed in 1988.

In April 2002 NAL selected the Voyager system, a fully integrated, multitiered system produced by Endeavor Information Systems, Inc. When fully implemented at NAL [implemented on schedule in 2003], the new integrated system will support the basic library operations of acquisitions and fund accounting, bibliographic control and access, circulation, and collection management of traditional printed and audiovisual library materials. NAL's Voyager system and Citation Server will also support the integration

Landscape near Ching Lung Chiao, Chihli, China. View of the Great Wall of China. According to field notes, plant explorers P.H. Dorsett and William J. Morse thought this view of the Great Wall of China showed the general character and appearance of the Asian countryside. Dorsett-Morse Oriental Agricultural Exploration Expedition Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

and management of the increased volume of digital resources hosted on the library's own servers and from remote hosts on the World Wide Web. With improved reporting capabilities, the new system will make it easier to manage all facets of NAL operations.
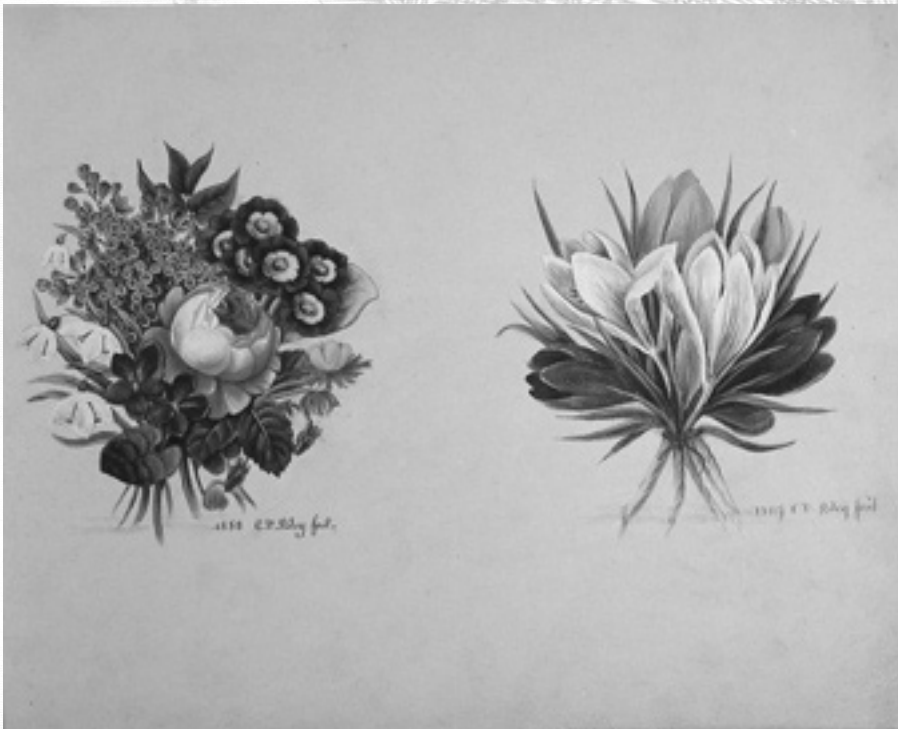
Controlled Vocabulary

On January 1, 2002, NAL published the first edition of its thesaurus (http://agclass.nal.usda.gov/agt/agt.htm) of over 56,000 agricultural terms. The NAL Thesaurus broadly covers the topic of agriculture and includes specific terminology in the biological, physical, earth, and social sciences.

The NAL Thesaurus terms can be used to describe, organize, and classify agricultural resources. The thesaurus is used as the controlled indexing vocabulary for the Agriculture Network Information System (AgNIC) and the Agricultural Research Service's Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS) database. NAL will implement the new thesaurus as the controlled indexing vocabulary for AGRICOLA in conjunction with the implementation of its Voyager integrated library management system.

164/80
NAL Federal employees/contractors, FY 2002.

Upgrades to Information Technology Infrastructure

NAL continued to build the capacity of its telecommunications systems to improve the accessibility and use of its programs and services in 2000-2002. NAL implemented use of Relais Express, an automated delivery system, in March 2002 for delivering articles in response to document delivery requests. With Relais Express, articles are scanned directly from the original document; the system then identifies the requester's address information and preferred delivery method based on the information in his or her patron record and automatically delivers the article by the patron's preferred method. Relais Express enabled NAL to expand our delivery options to patrons to include e-mail and post-to-web delivery while also streamlining processing of requests by staff. By April 2002, turnaround time on document delivery to NAL patrons was reduced to 2 days from an average 5-7 days. By May 2002 over 40 percent of all document delivery articles supplied by NAL were delivered to patrons as post-to-web documents, providing desktop delivery to patrons without requiring them to purchase or install specialized software.

Floral painting of two bouquets. 1858, 1859. C.V. Riley sketchbook of art studies from 1856 to 1859. C.V. Riley Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

Implementation of Relais Express marked NAL's first step toward truly automated document delivery and opened the door for future enhancements to the document delivery process.

Mission 5: NAL maximizes access to information through collaborative efforts and utilization of technology

Collaborations with many other agencies, libraries, universities, and commercial and nonprofit organizations have made it possible for NAL to make information on food, agriculture, and natural resources even more widely available.

NAL is an active participant in the Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC) [http://www.agnic.org], an alliance of partners working together to bring quality agricultural information resources to the Internet and provide reference assistance in specific subjects relating to agriculture. The AgNIC alliance grew from 34 members in 2000 to 40 members in 2002, including the addition of one not-for-profit organization—the American Farmland Trust—to membership. Aggregate hits to AgNIC websites increased by 80 percent from 2000 through 2002.

Some other notable collaborations in 2000-2002 include:

- NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center, with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, developed an International Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements (IBIDS) database (http://ods.od.nih.gov/Health_Information/IBIDS.aspx). FNIC also collaborated with industry groups to produce a Food Service Internet Training Module and Food Safety Information Handbook.

- In conjunction with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, NAL staff compiled information sources and data supporting the formulation and characterization of scenarios related to exposure to residual radioactivity in reused soils. The resulting report (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1725/) compiled, for the first time, citable data and information sources for variables specific to soil reuse. NRC staff and contractors are using this information to define realistic soil reuse scenarios and estimate variables for simulating exposure pathways if soil is removed from NRC-licensed facilities and reused.

- NAL's Animal Welfare Information Center collaborated with the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago to develop standards for a manual on how to buy, store, and process frozen food for captive animals (http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/pubs/meatprey.pdf). AWIC also collaborated with the

$19,989,980
Funds appropriated for salaries and programs at the National Agricultural Library for FY2002. Another $898,020 was appropriated for building repairs and maintenance.

Ag 84Hs
#239 **Weed Control in Lawns and Other Turf**

United States Department of Agriculture

PREPARED BY Agricultural Research Service and Extension Service

Home and Garden Bulletin Number 239

One of the many USDA Home and Garden Bulletins digitized in collaboration with AgNIC and Michigan State University.

National Library of Medicine to develop a list of terms related to reducing and replacing use of experimental animals.

- NAL worked with Cornell University in 2001 to produce a 25-minute videotape, "Precious Seeds: The Legacy of Hank Beachell and Fellow Rice Scientists," available for loan. The video history is built from oral history interviews of Hank Beachell, a pioneer in rice breeding. Beachell received the World Food Prize in 1996 for research on dwarf varieties that laid the foundation for the "green revolution" that now provides food security to nations in Asia and elsewhere.

- With the U.S. Agricultural Information Network (USAIN), NAL identified key journals in several subject areas of interest to agriculture, particularly those not already indexed in AGRICOLA.

- With AgNIC and AgNIC partner Michigan State University, NAL began digitizing USDA's Home and Garden Bulletin publication series (HG) (http://www.agnic.msu.edu/hgpubs/index.html) as a demonstration of the logistics of digitizing publications according to the NAL digital preservation guidelines. HG had previously been identified as a top candidate for digitizing because of heavy demand through interlibrary loan and the Cooperative Extension System.

- NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center partnered with the University of Maryland Department of Nutrition to offer a dietetic internship with an emphasis on technology. Approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetic Education, the program may be the first of its kind to emphasize information technology.

- NAL's Technology Transfer Information Center worked with the Federal Laboratory Consortium and Louisiana Tech University to identify and transfer Federal technologies (for example, night vision, landmine detection) that can be used to locate underground utilities.

- NAL's Public Affairs Office worked with the University of Arkansas Center for Agricultural Law Research and Information to organize an International Symposium on Agricultural Trade, held in Beltsville, Maryland, May 2001.

- NAL collaborated with the Joint Institute for Food Safety Research to launch the Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO). FSRIO is serving the needs of the research community through its website (http://www.nal.usda.gov/fsrio) featuring a searchable database of research abstracts and a reference service. The database will assist food safety researchers and policymakers in assessing research needs and priorities.