
GENERATIVE AI RESEARCH ASSISTANTS IN THRIFT LIBRARY RESOURCES

February 6, 2025

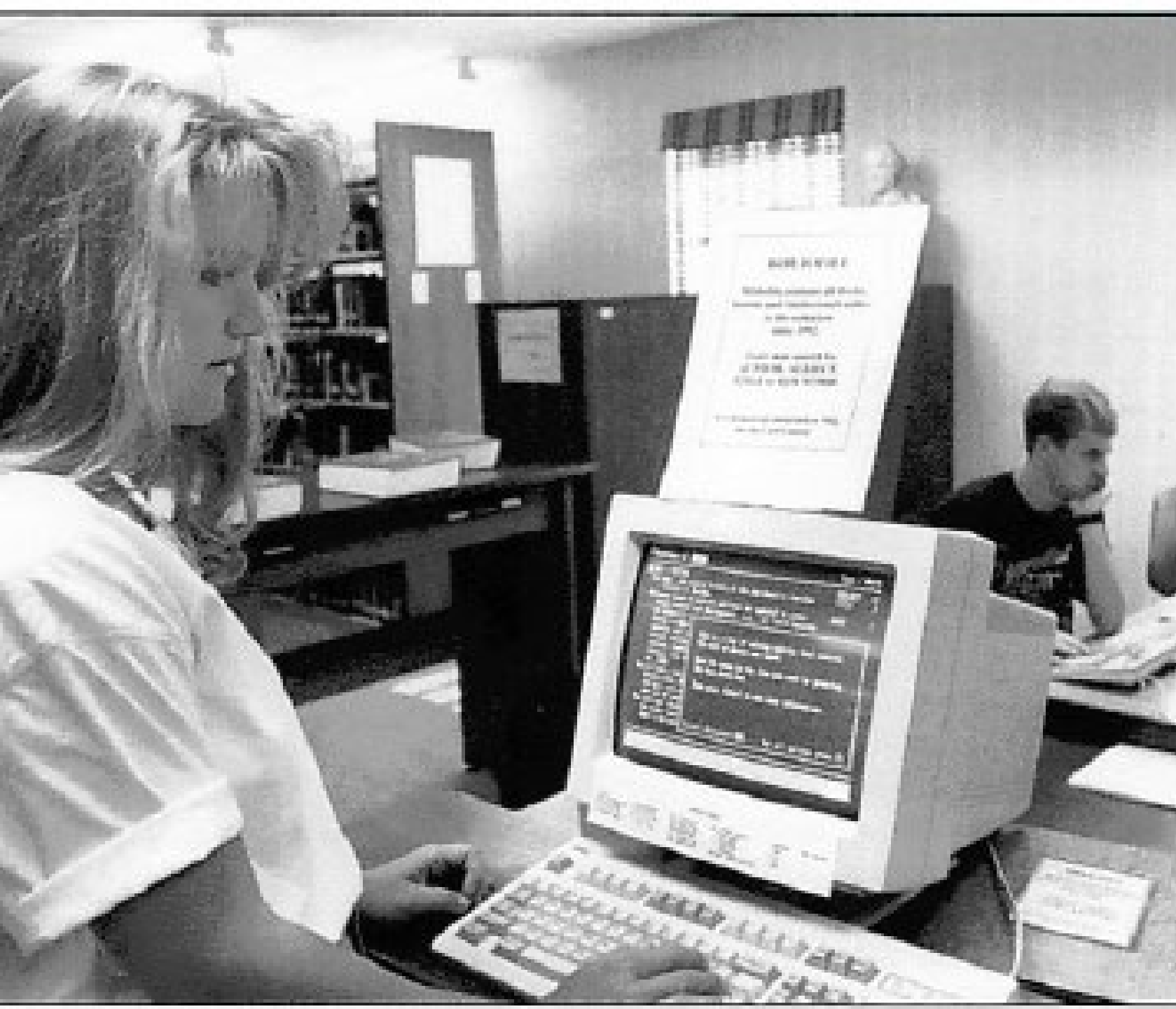




THE CARD CATALOG AT ANDERSON COLLEGE

Anderson College's Head Librarian Annie Frances Blackman uses the card catalogue, which was the heart of the library before computers were introduced.

Photo credit: *Anderson University* by Joyce Wood, p. 56.



THE ELECTRONIC CARD CATALOG AT ANDERSON COLLEGE

The card catalogue was replaced by an electronic catalog system in 1994.

Photo credit: *Anderson University* by Joyce Wood, p. 56.

THE STACKS

Journal Stacks



Book Stacks



Historical photos from Anderson College's Johnston Library

THE LIBRARY IN 2025



Thrift Library
at ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

About the Library ▾ Services ▾ Neighbors ▾





SEARCHING THE CATALOG AND DATABASES

[Introduction to the Thrift Library Catalog](#)

[Library DIY: Searching for Information](#)

- Choosing a Database
- Choosing & Using Keywords
- Search Techniques, Parts 1 & 2
- Refining Search Results



THE NEW SEARCH FRONTIER

Keyword vs. Natural Language
Search

Benefits	Potential Concerns
Provides a structured set of initial resources	Limited to five sources per search
Provides a helpful summary	Sources may exclude certain materials
“More Results” button connects user to the main catalog to promote deeper exploration	Potential usage limits
Natural language compatibility	Very different from traditional keyword searches
Intuitive interface	Learning curve
Provides prompt examples	

PRIMO RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN LIBRARY CATALOG

[Video: Introduction to Research Assistant](#)

EBSCO DATABASES GENERATIVE AI INSIGHTS

[Video Overview \(0:45-5:50\)](#)

Benefits	Potential Concerns
Continual research and testing conducted with librarians and academics	Development is slow and ongoing
Constantly fact-checks itself to reduce/eliminate hallucinations	As of February 4, 2025, it provides only a summary (3-5 points) of an article
Established AI tenets	Not all databases yet include the tool: List of Enabled Databases
Users can choose to turn it on or off	
AI-generated summaries provide less technical jargon and can note different points than article abstracts	

JSTOR DATABASE INTERACTIVE RESEARCH TOOL

[Video Overview \(0-6.54\)](#)

Benefits	Potential Concerns
Provides a key point highlight for the selected article	Must create an individual account in addition to authentication with AU credentials
Interactive: Answers questions about the article; highlights relevant content and provides citations	Can only interact with one article at a time
Uses natural language	Requires more than keyword search terms to return the best results
Customization options	Does not yet work with images or text-based primary sources
Will only draw content from the article being viewed	Still in development
Will not complete research/assignments for the user	



CONTACT US

We're here to help and we value your feedback!
