

# ODIN delivers new sources for students

By Kim Guzzi

If you're having trouble finding sources for a research project, you just might be in luck.

The Heindel Library is currently using the Online Database Information Network — a computer which stores a large number of databases in diverse fields of study.

ODIN, as it is more popularly known, can search for informa-

tion sources by computer access with much more immediacy. Manipulating the databases can provide you with those hard-to-find lists of citations for articles, technical reports, books, dissertations, and other material relating to your research topic.

"ODIN is an additional tool we have in the library which increases our ability to match people's information needs," says Charles Townley, Division Head, Heindel Library. "Some

informational searches are done best by ODIN while others are done best by hand. It depends on the nature of the research topic," stresses Townley.

For example, if your topic is "The Use of Computers in Student Personnel Divisions in Pennsylvania Colleges and Universities," and you're having some difficulty finding sources in your manual search, then an ODIN search may help. You must first complete the

ODIN search form which will enable you to define key words relating to your topic. Special thesauruses are available for the use of locating these synonyms.

A reference librarian who is specially trained to use ODIN will then punch in the information you have provided into the ODIN system.

The computer begins to print responses to the number of sources relating to the key words. In this case, the synonyms are student personnel services, computers, higher education, and Pennsylvania. By intermixing these synonyms, the computer then narrows down the number of relevant sources. For this particular topic, thirty-one sources are available.

The librarian may instruct ODIN to print each bibliography with or without an abstract. ODIN presents sources — it does not analyze them for you.

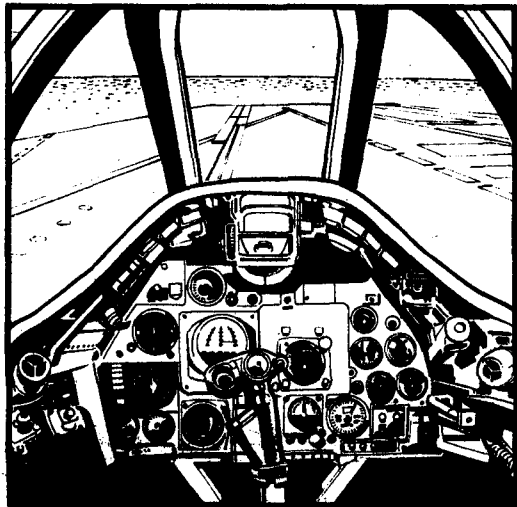
It is up to you to locate the sources which are found on microfiche or in hard copy in the Heindel Library, or may be obtained through an inter-library loan.

The ODIN search system may provide you with valuable sources that you otherwise might have overlooked, and is available to graduate students and faculty, and in cases where the information is otherwise unattainable, to undergraduates as well.

Graduate students beginning thesis research should stop by the reference desk or call the Heindel Library at 948-6073.

In Norse mythology Odin is, among other things, the god of knowledge and wisdom. Maybe the ODIN here at Capitol Campus can put its knowledge to work for you.

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