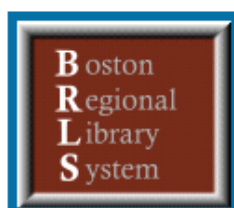


# NECB eLibrary Newsletter

## Highlights:

- NECB becomes the first online college to be accepted in the BRLS
- Statistical Abstract of the U.S. has a wealth of data
- Check out the Biography Resource Center



*New England College of Business is constantly adding online resources to assist you in your studies.*

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## NECB Joins Boston Regional Library System !

Did you know that NECB has been accepted as a member of the Boston Regional Library System (BRLS)?

The BRLS was created in 1997 to provide library support services and resources to its member libraries, which include 37 academic libraries such as Boston University, Northeastern, and Tufts.

NECB holds the distinction of being the first online college to be granted membership!

The BRLS' services are provided through state funds administered by the

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Our membership in the BRLS provides our NECB students with full access to over twenty databases that support courses our general education and business curriculum including *Academic OneFile*, *Business & Company Resource Center*, *Massachusetts Newsstand*, and *Global Issues in Context*.

These databases combined, contain thousands of full-text periodicals in a wide range of disciplines, as well as company and

industry data that are available to the NECB community for research.

As members of the BRLS, NECB also gains access to a variety of services such as interlibrary loan, document delivery service with the BRLS region, participation in the statewide materials cooperative purchasing program, and consulting & advisory assistance. Benefits also include continuing education programs for member library staff on reference training, customer service, use of the Internet, and other topics.



## Do You Know?

Do you know about the reference source, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*?

This is a fascinating, comprehensive, and very-well organized source of statistical data on a wide variety of subjects. "Stat Abstract," as it is commonly called, has been published annually by the U.S. Census Bureau since 1878. It continues to be published in print but now the contents of every edition from 1878 to 2010 are available at <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>.

Some of the most recent data at this website is exportable to Excel. We also provide a link to it at the NECB eLibrary Virtual Reference Shelf.

Subjects covered range from health care to banking, agricultural to education, crime to economics. One important benefit of using this reference book is not only the statistical data itself but the sources given for the data because it helps researchers identify additional sources for data.

For students engaged in market research it can also be a goldmine of data. For example, the breadth of subjects covered by the data in Stat Abstract includes:

- Adult attendance at sports events
- State lottery revenue and administration, by state
- Number of ATM cash withdrawal

transactions and average amount

- Characteristics of mutual fund owners
- Percentage of students participating in after-school activities by activity and student characteristics
- Composition of state legislatures by political party affiliation
- Black elected officials by office and state
- State government expenditures and debt by state
- Department of Defense payroll and contract awards
- Doctorates conferred by academic field and characteristics of recipients
- Domestic fish and shellfish catch and value by major species

## Meet the NECB VP of eLearning

Did you ever wonder who makes the decisions about which online tools to offer to NECB students?

Meet Paula Bramante, NECB's Vice President of eLearning. Paula was instrumental in starting the online division of the College in 2002.

Under her watchful eye, the online programs have grown in popularity with NECB students. Today, there are minimal on-campus courses, with approximately 98% of the student body choosing to study online.

In 2008, as the College's online population grew, Paula researched options for expanding the library services and chose Jones eGlobal as the College's partner in offering a state-of-the-art online library.

Prior to joining NECB in 2002, Paula was a VP and Director of Learning Technologies at Fleet Financial Group in Boston.

She has an extensive background in working with adult learners, in instructional design at the corporate and collegiate

level, and expertise in delivering training and education in the online learning environment.

During the past two years, Paula and April Morin, NECB's Director of Instructional Design, have taken on the daunting task of redesigning all of the online courses into the new Epic learning management system.

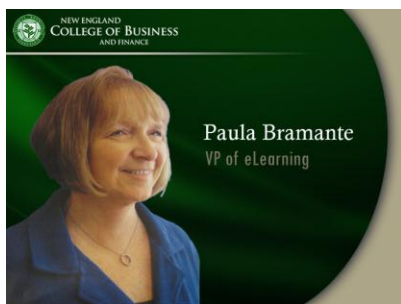
Together with Jeff Cronin, the NECB Librarian, Paula maintains the NECB eLibrary and develops this monthly newsletter.

## U.S. Census Bureau



### *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

For students engaged in market research it can be a goldmine of data!



*Paula Bramante*  
NECB VP of eLearning

Whether it is a broken link or a suggestion on how we can improve the online services, Paula and her team are here to help you succeed. She can be reached at [paula.bramante@necb.edu](mailto:paula.bramante@necb.edu)

## Database of the Month!



Do you need to write a biography or learn more about a particular person to include in an essay? Are you interested in learning about the backgrounds of successful people? Don't waste your time doing a search on Google.

Through the NECB eLibrary, you can access The Biography Resource Center which has thousands of biographies.

From your course, just click on the link to the NECB eLibrary. On the left side of the screen, you will find the listing for the Biography Resource Center under the General Education Resources heading.

For example, a sample search on Bill Gates returns entries from seventeen reference works profiling his life including a seven-page report from International Directory of Business Biographies and an eight-page report from Business Leader Profiles for Students.

It also retrieved 540 full-text articles covering various aspects of Gates' life from periodicals including The New York Times, Forbes, and New Scientist.

Lastly, it provides links to websites that provide biographical information.

Other features that make this a useful resource for obtaining information on individuals include the "Category Browse" and advanced search features.

Using the "Category Browse" feature, one can review a list of, say, all American Vice Presidents or Nobel Peace Prize winners and down load or print biographical information for each.

With the powerful advanced searching option one can screen the database of over 380,000 people using criteria such as nationality, date of birth or death, occupation, gender, and ethnicity.



### Biography Resource Center Spotlight on... *Shani Davis*

Speed skater Shani Davis (born 1982) was the first African American to win a gold medal for an individual sport at the Winter Olympic Games. His victory came in the 2006 Olympics in Turin in the men's 1,000-meter race. He also won silver in the 1,500-meter race. Davis began speed skating as a child growing up in Chicago and joined the U.S. Olympic speed-skating program as a teenager. In 2005, he set three world records in competition. Davis is considered a favorite in several speed-skating events at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

## Sampling of Sources for the Biography Resource Center

The Biography Resource Center combines over 450,000 biographies on more than 380,000 people from over 1,000 volumes of more than 135 respected Gale sources such as:

- ❖ *Contemporary Authors,*
- ❖ *Encyclopedia of World Biography,*
- ❖ *Newsmakers,*
- ❖ *Contemporary Theatre, Film, and Television,*
- ❖ *Contemporary Musicians,*
- ❖ *Historic World Leaders,*
- ❖ *Notable Twentieth-Century Scientists,*
- ❖ *Contemporary Black Biography,*
- ❖ *Religious Leaders of America,*
- ❖ *International Dictionary of Art and Artists, and*
- ❖ *Writers Directory.*

There are also full-text articles from more than 300 magazines and newspapers including:

- ❖ *American History,*
- ❖ *The Christian Century,*
- ❖ *Saturday Night,*
- ❖ *U.S. News & World Report,*
- ❖ *The New York Times,* and
- ❖ *USA Today.*

### Library Research Webinars

*Have questions?  
Want to learn more?*

Watch your emails for an invitation to join one of these terrific webinars conducted by the NECB librarian, Jeff Cronin.

Library Research Webinars are held at the start of every term.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.necb.edu](http://www.necb.edu)

## Tips for Students

The NECB eLibrary contains invaluable resources that will assist you with your assignments. It will be well worth your time to explore its many offerings. To get you started this is how it is organized:

**Databases** – There are over 24! These databases are grouped under the headings of either “General Education Resources” or “Business Resources” so that you can more easily identify the databases that will best suit your needs. If you mouseover any one of these titles such as “Contemporary Literary Criticism” a popup will appear that concisely describes the type of content that can be found in these databases.

**Virtual Reference Shelf** – Are you looking for an online dictionary, almanac, thesaurus, or encyclopedia? This is the

place to visit! Do you need some statistics for your paper? Check out *Statistical Abstract of the United States* – the best one-stop source for data on a wide range of topics.

**APA and MLA Citation Guides** – These are excellent reference guides that provide clear and concise instructions on how to properly cite using MLA and APA citation styles. They are produced by EasyBib in PDF format. Please print them out – it will make the task of citing substantially easier.

**Subject Guides** – There are 22 guides created by the NECB librarian covering subjects taught at the college. Each subject guide contains a list of databases recommended for research in the subject as well as a selected list of web resources.

**Reference Assistance** – Located in the “Student

Resources” section of the eLibrary website. As a student at a Massachusetts college, you have access to the Boston Public Library’s reference assistance, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, from experienced reference librarians who can help you with your research needs. Just go to the Student Resources section of the NECB eLibrary and click on “Chat with an Online Librarian.” If you’re still stuck with your research and you aren’t able to get the assistance you need from the Online Librarian service, reference assistance is available from the NECB Librarian, Jeff Cronin. He will attempt to respond to your questions as quickly as possible. To contact the NECB Librarian, send an email inquiry with your name, the name of your course, your instructor’s name, and your specific question to:

[librarian@necb.edu](mailto:librarian@necb.edu) .

## ***About New England College of Business and Finance...***

New England College of Business and Finance (NECB) is committed to providing students a high quality, well designed and supported online learning environment.

Whether your goal is to learn more about the world of business or finance, or you want to pursue an Associate’s, Bachelor’s or Master’s degree, you have come to the right place.

To learn more about the College and our unique online learning courses and degree programs, please visit our website at [www.necb.edu](http://www.necb.edu) .