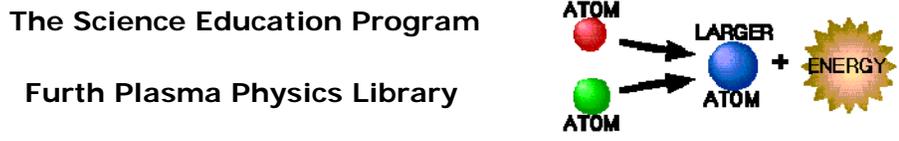


# Taking the Fusion Reaction beyond the Reactor's Walls

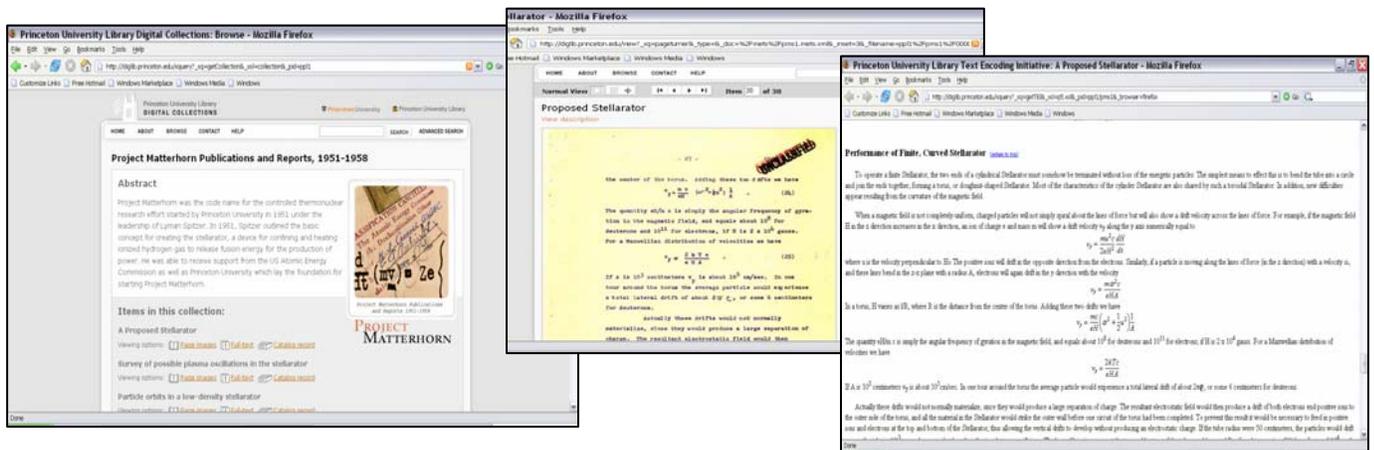
Adriana Popescu, Princeton University Library (popescua@princeton.edu)

Furth Plasma Physics Library is a branch library of the Princeton University Library system, which supports the research and educational activities of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), a research laboratory funded by the US Department of Energy (DoE) and managed by Princeton University. In addition to its role in supporting the fusion energy research programs at the laboratory and at Princeton University, the library has also started playing an active role alongside the lab's Science Education Program in promoting plasma physics and fusion energy educational resources to local schools and dynamically participates in the laboratory's training activities offered to physics teachers (K-12) in the region. One unique contribution of the library to the PPPL Science Education Program is the enhancement of the physics curriculum by integrating information evaluation and library research elements.



- The Science Education Program**  
**Furth Plasma Physics Library**
- By uniting our efforts, we aim to help teachers balance the demands of teaching the physics curriculum while also integrating tools for teaching information evaluation skills through:
- An active library presence in all Science Education activities held locally
  - Creation of a repository of assignments to include information evaluation building skills
  - Work with school media specialists to encourage their active participation in teaching information evaluation skills
  - Presentations at American Association of Physics Teachers Conferences
  - Library workshops at NJ Science Teachers Convention, 2006

To complement these activities, the library has also created a digital collection of the early publications issued by the laboratory during 1951-1958, a period when fusion research was classified. Building on the infrastructure of the Princeton University Digital Library Initiative, Furth Plasma Physics Library is developing a digital archive of the early publications issued at the laboratory (1951-1958) under the code name Project Matterhorn. The digital collection which is currently under development has historical and scientific significance and is freely available at: <http://diglib.princeton.edu/>



By assisting teachers in the local community with professional development efforts and by creating original content to be incorporated in the physics curriculum, the Furth Plasma Physics Library is reaching out physically and digitally to a wider user community that can benefit from the library's unique and specialized collections of historical fusion research materials and the staff's expertise in integrating information literacy in the physics curriculum.