Oregon libraries create Orbis

A consortium of academic institutions in Oregon joined together to launch Orbis, the Oregon academic union catalog. The Orbis database includes over 2.6 million items—the holdings of seven university and college libraries: Eastern Oregon State College, Linfield College, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon State College, University of Oregon, Western Oregon State College, and Willamette University. The automated system is based on the Innovate Interfaces software already used by the initial member libraries. System start-up costs were minimized, and system management and maintenance is optimized by using existing hardware, software, and telecommunications facilities to the greatest extent possible. The holdings of the colleges of George Fox, Lewis and Clark, Reed, and the University of Portland will soon be added. Orbis is already serving patrons and staff for research, collection development, and interlibrary loans. Plans are under way to include other libraries and to allow for patron-initiated loans. The Orbis Consortium encourages all libraries to use Orbis. For public access, telnet: orbis.uoregon.edu. URL: http://www-vms.uoregon.edu/~libsys/hporbis.html. Additional information is available from the University of Oregon Library Systems Department at (503) 346-3049 or send a note to: libsys@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Rice replaces NOTIS with UNICORN

Rice University's Fondren Library has signed an agreement with SIRSI to replace its existing Ameritech NOTIS Horizon Beta system with the UNICORN Collection Management System. Kay Flowers, assistant university librarian for automated services at Rice, lists UNICORN's advantages: "UNICORN is UNIX-based, and we will be able to network the system across the campus. Our system will use SIRSI's WebCat with Z39.50, which allows us to provide access to our library catalog via the Internet. WebCat is also user friendly, allowing us to provide exciting, full-featured, and easy-to-navigate public access to users without having the headache of delivering and supporting library software on users' desktops."

USC chooses Ameritech's Horizon

Ameritech's Horizon system has been selected by the Health Sciences Library System at the University of Southern California. The recommendation to select the Horizon system was made unanimously by the Working Group on an Integrated Library System. The crucial factors cited in the recommendation of Horizon were: 1) the system architecture, which makes maximum use of the library's high-end workstations, 2) the simple and intuitive user interfaces, 3) the use of an industry-standard database management system (Sybase), 4) the corporate strength and expertise of Ameritech, and 5) the competitive price.

Call for technostress reactor panelists

ACRL's Instruction Section (IS) is seeking reactor panelists for its 1996 Annual Conference program, "Collaborative Solutions to Technostress: Librarians Lead the Way." The program, which is jointly sponsored by IS and the Library Instruction Round Table, will be held Sunday, July 7, 1996. Reactors should have taken a leadership role in collaborating with others to use new technologies to provide library and information services and have developed ways for your library's staff and users to deal with change and technostress. Reactors will respond to presentations by a well-known author and psychologist. To be considered, send an abstract of not more than 400 words describing your collaborative effort, the leadership role you took, and the benefits of the collaboration by November 1, 1995, to: Rebecca Jackson, Gelman Library, The George Washington University, 2130 H Street N.W., Washington, DC 20052; phone: (202) 994-6049; e-mail: rjackson@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu.

Topper joins ACRL staff

Elisa F. Topper is ACRL's new director of member services. Topper will primarily be responsible for providing support to ACRL's elected

Accreditation assistance available

ACRL maintains a list of accreditation advisors who are available to assist libraries and librarians preparing for accreditation. They are resource people who can assist in preparing documentation or for a team visit. Each advisor has served on at least three regional accreditation teams and/or has expertise in accreditation by professional associations. Most regional accrediting organizations are represented. This list is maintained by the ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee. The advisors' areas of expertise are given after their names.

Directory of ACRL Accreditation Advisors 1995–1997

Carolyn Dearnaley
Associate Director for Library Services
Rider University
2083 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, N J 08648
voice: (609) 896-5112
fax: (609) 896-8029
e-mail: DEARNALE@ENIGMA.RIDER.EDU
Area of expertise: Middle States

Edward D. Garten
Dean of Libraries and Information Tech.
The University of Dayton
300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469-1360
voice: (513) 229-4265
fax: (513) 229-4590
e-mail: garten@udavxb.oca.udayton.edu
Areas of expertise: North Central, Southern, COA/ALA

Deborah J. Grimes
Director of Library Services
Shelton State Community College
202 Skyland Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Preferred address:
5405 James River Drive
Northport, AL 35476
voice: (205) 391-2233
fax: (205) 391-2233 (call first)
e-mail: dgrimes@ua1ix.ua.edu
Area of expertise: Southern

Bessie King Hahn
University Librarian
Brandeis University
South Street
Waltham, MA 02254-9110
Preferred address:
148 Sudbury Rd.
Weston, MA 02193
voice: (617) 736-4710
fax: (617) 736-4719
e-mail: BHAHN@ LIBRARY.BRANDEIS.EDU
Area of expertise: New England

Antoinette M. Kania
Dean of Libraries
Suffolk Community College
533 College Road
Selden, NY 11784
voice: (516) 451-4174
fax: (516) 451-4697
e-mail: kaniaa@sunysuffolk.edu
Area of expertise: Middle States

Ronald G. Leach
Associate Vice President for Information Services and Dean of Library Services
Indiana State University
650 Sycamore St.
Terre Haute, IN 47809
Preferred address:
4815 Wolftree Drive
Terre Haute, IN 47805
voice: (812) 237-3700
fax: (812) 237-3376
e-mail: liblech@cml.indstate.edu
Area of expertise: North Central

Joseph F. Lindenfeld
1764 Central
Memphis, TN 38104-5116
voice: (901) 276-6463
e-mail: JoeLibrary@aol.com
Area of expertise: Southern

Beverly P. Lynch
Professor, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies

3026 Moore Hall
University of California, Los Angeles
405 Hilgard Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1521
Preferred address:
3761 Ballina Canyon Road
Encino, CA 91436-4111
voice: (310) 206-4294
fax: (310) 206-6293
e-mail: IYH7BPL@MVS.OAC.UCLA.EDU
Areas of expertise: New England, North Central, Western, Northwest, ALA/COA

Jay K. Lucker
Adjunct Professor
Simmons College
Boston, MA 02115
Preferred address:
53 Buckman Drive
Lexington, MA 02173
voice: (617) 862-4558
fax: (617) 860-0545
Areas of expertise: Middle States, New England

Terrence F. Mech
Vice-President for Inform. and Instructional Technologies and Director of the Library
King's College
14 West Jackson Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
voice: (717) 826-5943
fax: (717) 825-9049
e-mail: TFMech@rs01.Kings.edu
Area of expertise: Middle States

Marcia J. Myers
Director of Libraries
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, KY 40475-3121
voice: (606) 622-1778
e-mail: LIBMYERS@ACS.EKU.EDU
Area of expertise: Southern

James F. Parks Jr.
College Librarian
P.O. Box 15018
Millsaps College
Jackson, MS 39210-0001
voice: (601) 974-1070
fax: (601) 974-1082
e-mail: parksjf@okra.millsaps.edu
Areas of expertise: Southern, Mississippi Commission on Colleges and Schools

Luella Teuton
Director, Library Services
South Florida Community College
600 W. College Dr.
Avon Park, FL 33825
voice: (813) 453-6661
fax: (813) 452-6042
Area of expertise: Southern

David B. Walch
Dean of Library Services
California Polytechnic University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
voice: (805) 756-2345
fax: (805) 756-1415
e-mail: du525@ACADEMIC.CALPOLY.EDU
Area of expertise: Western

Tom G. Watson
University Librarian
University of the South
University Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37383
voice: (615) 598-1266
fax: (615) 598-1702
e-mail: TWATSON@SERAPH1.SEWANEE.EDU
Areas of expertise: Southern, COA/ALA

David C. Weber
Director Emeritus
Stanford University
863 Lathrop Dr.
Stanford, CA 94305
voice: (415) 857-9219
Area of expertise: Western

Joan H. Worley
Director, Library
Maryville College
Maryville, TN 37801
voice: (615) 981-8257
fax: (615) 981-8170
e-mail: jworley@utkvx.utkvx.edu
Area of expertise: Southern

Mickey M. Zemon
Director of Libraries
Emerson College
150 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02116
voice: (617) 578-8670
fax: (617) 578-8549
e-mail: ecl_maz@flo.org
Area of expertise: New England

Coming in '96: IPEDS adds new data items

New data items will be included in the IPEDS Academic Libraries survey form (ALS) that will be mailed in July 1996. IPEDS—the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System—is a set of nine questionnaires distributed periodically by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Most are annual but the Academic Libraries survey is one of three sent biennially.

For many years the ALS had five parts (A–F): Outlets, Staff, Expenditures, Collections, Services Per Fiscal Year (e.g., circulation), and Services Per Typical Week (e.g., reference). A new Part G, Electronic Services, will be added in '96. Unlike other parts of the form, Part G asks the respondent to give only a Yes/No answer to whether or not the institution offers 13 different electronic services. The new Part G will probably not be in a permanent part of the ALS. Instead it will gather data to describe where libraries are now in a rapidly changing aspect of their services.

Additions were also made to Part E which includes: Document Delivery/Interlibrary Loan. Previous surveys asked only for the number of items provided to other libraries and received from other libraries. The new form asks for a breakdown of each total into "returnables" and "non-returnables." The new items were added in recognition of the fact that interlibrary loan is not what it once was—loans between libraries. Today agencies other than libraries are often involved and many items are sold or given away, not loaned. The current change recognizes that and will enable IPEDS to document what is happening.

Several other changes were made, not to add items, but to update or clarify intent. The instructions on Expenditures and Collections were modified to take into account electronic journals and automated catalogs. The instructions for gate count and reference transactions were modified to clarify that respondents should report figures for a "typical week."

The 1992 ALS report does not include figures for those variables because NCES noticed several problems in the data just before publication. In order to plan for the future, the ALA Office for Research and Statistics worked with a contractor and an Advisory Committee of academic libraries to analyze the 1992 data in search of a formula that could be applied to 1994 data at an early point in survey processing. That formula discovered 515 libraries whose 1994 data for one or both of the two variables was suspect. Those libraries were contacted and data were either corrected (most cases) or confirmed (a few cases). The process of correcting or confirming those figures was labor-intensive and cannot be repeated. It is hoped that changes on the form will alert people to what is wanted.

Additional detail on these changes, including a copy of the new Part G, definition of returnables and nonreturnables, and names of Advisory Committee members, may be found on the ALA gopher. Point your gopher to University of Illinois at Chicago in the menu of all servers maintained on gopher at the University of Minnesota. Alternatively, you can connect your favorite gopher client directly to host "gopher.uic.edu:70", select The Library, ALA, XV. Offices, then Office for Research and Statistics, then "Coming in '96: IPEDS Adds New Data Items."—*Mary Jo Lynch, ALA Office for Research and Statistics*

and appointed members in chapters, sections, committees, and discussion groups. She will also plan, develop, and manage ACRL's preconferences and Annual Conference programs. In addition, Topper will provide advisory services on issues of interest to academic librarianship and function as a member of the ACRL staff managerial team.

Topper had been with the Jewish Vocational Service, an affiliate of the Jewish Federation in Chicago, since 1983, most recently as director of information services. She managed the library and the Information Services Department at the nonprofit agency, counselling and providing professional development to individuals at all career stages. Prior to that Topper was director of training and the career librarian at the Chicago Public Library. She received her MLS from Florida State University and a master's of industrial relations/career development from Loyola University in Chicago. She is a member and former Career Development Chair of the

Illinois Chapter, Special Libraries Association. In the spring of 1995 Topper received a certificate of Service from the Association for Computer-based Systems for Career Information. *(Ed. note: For a photo of Topper see page 650.)*

New MLA listserv

ACRL's MLA International Bibliography in Academic Libraries Discussion Group has established a listserv intended to promote discussion of the MLAIB as a research tool. Questions or comments dealing with pedagogy, the structure of the bibliography, database vendors, search techniques, etc., are welcome. The list will also share administrative information about the group's meetings. To subscribe to the list send the message: subscribe mlaib your name to listserv@gwuvm.gwu.edu. Messages to the list should be sent to mlaib@gwuvm.gwu.edu. Scott Stebelman is the list administrator and may be reached at scottlib@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu.

Only Post-It™ on expendable items

Julie Page, preservation librarian at the University of California, San Diego, reminds us that Post-it Notes™ should not be used on books. The seemingly harmless "markers" were designed for short-term application on expendable documents and leave behind their adhesive, even when removed immediately. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) conducted research that determined that even when removed immediately, the adhesive residue remained. Even more dramatic effects result when used on newsprint (some of the ink is removed) or on brittle, fragile paper where removal may result in tearing. The NARA report concluded, "these notes will cause increasing preservation problems when used with permanent records and should be avoided."

HealthWeb developed by CIC members

The health sciences librarians and information professionals from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) member universities (the Big Ten plus the University of Chicago) are building HealthWeb, a tool to facilitate access to health-related electronic information resources found on the Internet. The first prototype for HealthWeb was developed at the University of Michigan in the field of nursing and may be found at: http://www.lib.umich.edu/tml/nursing.html. Under development are pages on radiology and minority health. HealthWeb is available at: http://www.ghsl.nwu.edu/healthweb/. For additional information contact the communications representative at healthweb@umich.edu.

Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission

An exhibit highlighting the accomplishments of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC) will be shown through November 1, 1995, at the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library. On display are photos, maps, reports, books, and artifacts from the ABCC Collections. The material in the exhibit covers nearly 50 years and illustrates the collaboration between Japan and the U.S. to investigate the effects of A-Bomb radiation on human health. Founded in 1947, the program was reorganized in 1975 as the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF). The results obtained from the continuing study of individuals exposed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki have given the world a large base of information with which to understand and protect against the effects of radiation, and have provided information that has guided national and international organizations in assessing the potential health risks that are associated with radiation exposure. For additional information contact Margaret A. Irwin, special collections librarian and coordinator for the ABCC collection at (713) 799-7141. ■

H. Grant Taylor Collection, ABCC Photograph Collection

A reception room at an Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission clinic for screening of genetic problems and radiation illnesses, Hiroshima, 1950.

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