

LITANEWSLETTER

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Vendor-User Discussion Group Talks

LITA President B Kenney opened the organizational meeting of the LITA Vendor-User Discussion Group by outlining several areas of common interest among vendors and between vendors and users. The use and continued development of standards in automated systems, compatibility and interconnectibility between various types of systems, and copyright and ownership problems were cited. She stressed that a discussion group was not an action-taking body nor was it designed to plan programs. Kenney then appointed Richard Rowe, president of Faxon, as acting chair.

Rowe led a discussion focused on perceived purposes and objectives of establishing the group. There was general agreement that what users wanted was a smooth transition from one system to another; that total compatibility was not feasible, but that interchange of data was. All present agreed that problems existed in the area of standards, their application and continued development. This discussion group will likely serve as an advocate for publicity about and implementation of standards and as a forum to discuss techniques and tools for interfacing systems. A steering committee comprised of Ernie Muro, Baker & Taylor; Sandra Paul, SKP Associates; Brian Aveney, Blackwell/North America; and Rowe will prepare an agenda for the Philadelphia meeting.

A broad spectrum of the library profession with interests in automation attended this first meeting. Vendor representatives included Baker & Taylor, Blackwell/North America, Dialog, Systems Development Corp., Bibliographic Retrieval Services, Faxon, and Ebsco. Other vendors were Geac, DataPhase, CL Systems, Interface Mechanisms, CTI, Research Libraries Group, The Source, SKP Associates, Oryx Press, and Knowledge Industry Publications. Other attendees included folk from the Council on Library Resources, American Libraries, Library of Congress, NYPL, Free Library of Philadelphia, and the public libraries of Wichita and Pasadena. Universities in attendance were Yale, Waterloo, Rice, Tennessee, and Northern Illinois.

LITA's on to Baltimore!

"Information & Technology: At the Crossroads" will be the theme of LITA's first national conference, set for September 17-21, 1983, in Baltimore. The National Conference Planning Committee needs your ideas for program topics, and also your help in organizing the conference. If there are areas you'd like to see included as program subjects, or if you can help with the conference itself, write or call the chairperson of the National Conference Steering Committee: Berna Heyman, E. G. Swemm Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Telephone (804) 253-4029.

LITA Legislation Committee Report

The LITA Legislation Committee met twice during ALA Midwinter, to formulate a plan of action for responding to proposed federal telecommunications legislation and to discuss an apparent trend toward reduced access to government publications.

The legislation referred to is H.R. 5158, which was introduced by Representative Tim Wirth (D-Colorado). This telecommunications bill includes sections of FCC regulatory powers, interexchange transmission, the telecommunications industry, and the protection and rights of rate payers. B Kenney, along with several other Colorado librarians, provided significant input to Representative Wirth before he drafted H.R. 5158. B is preparing testimony to give at the bill's hearings before the Subcommittee on Telecommunication, Consumer Protection and Finance, scheduled for late February and March. The Legislation Committee has asked the LITA Board for suggestions to help with the testimony, and to write various subcommittee members about the bill.

Representative Wirth's bill is essentially the House version of S.898, the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1981, introduced by Senator Barry

Goldwater and passed by the Senate in October 1981. Members of the House subcommittee, where the bill is under study, claim that the House version is more open in its drafting than S.898 was. Wirth himself says his bill is "pro-competitive" as well as "pro-user."

(Editor's Note: Eileen Cooke, Thomas Galvin, B Kenney, and others have prepared a position paper on ALA's behalf, which was sent to Representative Wirth on September 28, 1981. This paper appears in the March 1982 issue of Information Technology and Libraries—formerly Journal of Library Automation.)

The other major issue discussed at the Denver meetings concerns access to government information stored in electronic formats. Jeanne Isacco of GODORT presented proposals on government publication and information prepared by the NCLIS Public/Private Sector Task Force.

The task force's definition of government information includes data in electronic formats such as census tapes, ERIC and NTIS databases. Less and less of the information stored on computers is being made available in print form, due to funding cutbacks and other factors. In some cases, with the blessing of the Reagan administration, the private sector is seeking to take over publication of some of the more popular publications from the Government Printing Office. Like most publishers, the GPO uses the profits from a relatively small number of "best-sellers" to finance its other less profitable titles. If its money-making publications are turned over to outside concerns, too little income may be available to finance those less popular but still useful items, thus seriously impeding access to government information. A joint discussion group between LITA and GODORT has been proposed to examine this problem. Those interested in getting involved should contact Bruce Morton, Info Services, Carleton College Library, Northfield, MN 55057—Mary Boulanger.

ASIS Mid-Year Meeting in Knoxville

"Information—The Critical Difference" is the theme for the eleventh ASIS Mid-Year Meeting, to be held on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, on June 13–16, 1982. The meeting will coincide with the 1982 World's Fair, also in Knoxville.

The *LITA Newsletter* is published three times a year by the Library and Information Technology Association, a division of the American Library Association; Executive Director, LITA: Donald P. Hammer, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Editor: Pat Barkalow, Pasadena Public Library, 285 E. Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91101. Audiovisual Section Editor, Sue Besemer; Information Science and Automation Section Editor, Carol Parkhurst; Video and Cable Communications Section Editor, Bob Katz.

Distribution is free to division members. Copies may be obtained from the LITA executive director. Send material for future publications to the editor. Deadline for Fall 1982 issue is July 30. Viewpoints expressed in the *LITA Newsletter* are solely the authors' and do not constitute the official position of LITA or ALA.

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Some of the issues that speakers and attendees will ponder during the three-day ASIS program include: linking information to the user; information as a commodity; quality assurance in information; attributing value to information; and political and social implications. Concurrent contributed-paper sessions have been scheduled so that attendees can follow a given issue through several related papers.

Alvin Weinberg, director of the Institute for Energy Analysis, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and past director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, will keynote the ASIS meeting on Monday, June 14. Other plenary session speakers include Ruth Davis, president of Pymatuning Group, Inc., and previously assistant secretary for resource applications in the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE), who will investigate ways information is used by government agencies, on Tuesday, June 15; and Philip Abelson, editor of *Science* magazine, who will discuss the proliferation of databases and the implications of scientific information as a commodity, on Wednesday, June 16.

On Wednesday (June 16) morning, King Research, Inc., Rockville, Maryland, will present the first extensive report on a study conducted for DOE on attributing value to information. Bonnie Carroll, DOE project manager, will moderate two sessions exploring methodologies for assessing the value of information. Also on Wednesday, program plans include six papers to be given on the political and social implications of information.

Four ASIS Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will sponsor technical sessions. The SIG on Education for Information Science (ED) will discuss evaluation of components of information science programs. The SIG on Energy and Environment Information (EEI) will feature papers on who uses nuclear safety information, the value and significance of energy information, and meeting the information requirements for environmental management, as well as a session entitled "Information Acquisition and Processing by the Technical Person: Seance, Science, Synthesis." The SIG on Foundations of Information Science (FIS) will have an open forum. The SIG on Information Analysis and Evaluation (IAE) has engaged Homer Hall (Rutgers University) to speak on "evaluation as a 'colorable' distinction."

Quality control is an important factor in the critical difference that information can make. Papers on standardization of data, instrument performance assessment of the MK.VI MK.VII eidometers, validation of scientific and technical information, and the role of the information analysis center will consider quality assurance of technical information.

Evenings have been reserved for fun. On Sunday (June 13), arriving participants will be treated to a wine-and-cheese party sponsored by MAXIMA Corporation. A barbecue will be held Monday (June 14) night, complete with Appalachian dancing and music, an auction, and redemption of tickets for a free bottle of Jack Daniel's. On Tuesday (June 15) evening, it'll be "ASIS at the World's Fair"—a chance for all to take in the exhibits, entertainment, and international dining of the 1982 World's Fair located only a few blocks from the conference site.

For more information on the 1982 ASIS Mid-Year Meeting, including registration and housing materials, contact ASIS, 1010 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, DC 20036; phone (202) 659-3644.

Proposed Changes to LITA Bylaws

At the 1982 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the LITA Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the LITA Bylaws and Organization Committee, accepted the following changes to the LITA Bylaws. Those changes are hereby published in the *LITA Newsletter* in compliance with the LITA Bylaws, Article XI, Section 2. The division members will be asked to vote on these changes as part of the spring 1982 ALA mail balloting. Changes and additions are indicated by italics. Material to be removed is in brackets.

ARTICLE IV: Officers, Terms of Office, and Duties

Section 2. TERMS OF OFFICE. All officers and elected members of the Board of Directors shall serve until the adjournment of the [general meeting] *Annual Conference* at which their successors are announced. Procedures for filling vacancies in the offices of president and vice-president are specified in Article V, Section 3.

ARTICLE V: Board of Directors

Section 1. COMPOSITION. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the Division, the immediate past president of the Division, the presiding officer of each section of the Division, *the ALA councilor*, and three directors at large.

Ex-officio members of the Board including the executive director, [the editor of the Division's journal,] the chairperson of the Bylaws and Organization Committee, and other ex-officio members as shall be from time to time so designated by action of the Board, shall not have the right to vote.

Section 3. VACANCIES. (b) VICE-PRESIDENT. . . . If the vacancy occurs between the close of nominations and the adjournment of the [general meeting] *Annual Conference*, the vacancy shall be considered as having occurred in the office of the president of the following year in which case two candidates shall be elected at the election in the following year, one to take the office of president and to serve for one year, the other to serve as vice-president (president-elect).

(d) GENERAL PROVISIONS. If the successful candidate for an elective office dies or withdraws between the close of nominations and the adjournment of the [general meeting] *Annual Conference*, the resulting situation shall be considered as a vacancy having occurred during the term for which this candidate was elected.

ARTICLE VII: Committees

Section 6. APPOINTMENTS. Unless otherwise provided for by these bylaws or by action of the Board of Directors, each committee member and representative shall be appointed, [with the approval of the Board of Directors,] by the vice-president (president-elect), or the president, under whose term of office as president the member shall commence service, and shall serve until the adjournment of the meeting at which a successor is appointed.

Vacancies on committees shall be filled by the president. [with the approval of the Board of Directors.]

Section 8. REPORTS. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws, or in the act authorizing a committee, each committee shall report on its work [at the general meeting of the Division] in the following manner:

[Committees shall transmit their reports to the executive director not later than thirty days before the general meeting of the Division.]

Reports containing recommendations for action by the [Division] *Board of Directors* shall be presented [at the general meet-

ing.] *orally to the Board with a written copy forwarded to the executive director and to each member of the Board.* If a copy of a report was distributed [to the membership] either before or at the beginning of the *Board* meeting, and unless a majority of the members present and voting demand a reading of the report, its presentation may be limited to a summary of the findings and a reading of the recommendations.

In all cases, each committee shall prepare a written report to be filed with the executive director.

[Other] *All committee* reports shall be published in full or in summary or be transmitted otherwise to the membership not later than four months after the general meeting of the *Division*. [Such reports shall be cited, and their disposition announced, at the general meeting.] *Any Board action shall be published in the board minutes.*

ARTICLE X: Nominations and Elections

Section 1. NOMINATIONS. The Nominating Committee shall present candidates *to the Board of Directors at the Midwinter meeting preceding an election* for the positions of vice-president (president-elect), an ALA Councilor, and directors-at-large when required. Other nominations for these offices may be submitted in writing by any ten members and shall be filed with the executive director. Any such nominations shall be included on the official ballot.

Section 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. (b) TERMS OF OFFICE. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed for a one-year term, ending with its final report to the [membership] *Board of Directors*, by the vice-president (president-elect) under whose term of office as president its final report will be made, and with the approval of the Board of Directors. Members of the Nominating Committee, upon expiration of their terms, shall not be eligible for immediate reappointment.

LAMA/LITA Preconference on Automated Circulation Systems

"Automated Circulation: An Examination of Choices," will again be offered as a preconference prior to the ALA 1982 Annual Conference. Designed to provide basic orientation and information for persons planning, purchasing, or implementing an automated circulation system, the preconference is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, July 8 and 9, at the Philadelphia Civic Center and the Hilton Hotel. Cosponsors include ALA's Circulation Services Section of the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) and the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA).

The program will consist of a systematic analysis of all phases of automated circulation systems grouped under topic headings such as: transition to an automated system, figuring costs, staff preparation and training, file conversion, site preparation, site requirements and system maintenance and public relations, specifications and contract negotiations, microcomputer-based alternatives, shared systems, and inhouse developed systems. There will be question-and-answer sessions throughout the preconference. Participants will have the opportunity to visit informally with the speakers, and various issues will be explored in small group discussions. An important feature of

the workshop will be a wine-and-cheese reception at which manufacturers will display their working systems online.

Donald J. Sager, distinguished visiting scholar at OCLC, will give the keynote address, "The Economics of Automating Library Circulation: The Agony and the Ecstasy." Other speakers include Anton R. Pierce, planning and research librarian at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Patricia Barkalow, principal librarian for Support Services at Pasadena Public Library; and George Happ, director, Salem Public Library. Kevin Hegarty, director, Tacoma Public Library, is the conference chairperson.

The preconference is limited to 250. Registrations must be received by June 24, 1982. Space permitting, late registrations will be taken at the preconference. Refunds for cancellations, less a \$10 service charge, will be made through July 1. Registration fees are: \$75—LAMA and LITA members; \$90—ALA members; \$100—non-ALA members; and \$75—full-time library school students. Fees include two publications: *Choosing an Automated Library System*, Joseph Matthews (ALA, 1980), and *The Joy of Contracts*, 2d ed., Kevin Hegarty (the author, 1981), plus continental breakfasts, coffee breaks, and the reception.

To register, use the registration form appearing in the insert in this issue, or send name, address, phone number, and ALA membership number with a check or money order, payable to the American Library Association, to: Library Administration and Management Association, Automated Circulation Preconference, ALA 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Video and Cable Communications Section

Bob Katz
Section Editor

Call for Video Entries

LITA's Video and Cable Communications Section is seeking library-produced videotapes for a screening to be held at the annual video showcase during the ALA Conference in Philadelphia. This year, libraries are asked to submit tapes that feature new or unusual uses of video and cable technology in libraries. The showcase provides an opportunity for those ALA members interested in video and cable communications to see how librarians across the country are using this technology. The video showcase will be held in the LITA suite, which provides an informal atmosphere for sharing ideas.

The second night of the showcase will feature Kate Stutzman, executive director of Berks Community Television, Reading, Pennsylvania. BCT has pioneered in utilizing two-way interactive cable television. Librarians will have a chance to view some of the interactive programming, and will also have an opportunity to discuss the success of the Berks operation. Both showcases will be held in the LITA suite.

Videotape entries should be in ¾" U-matic format and limited to ten minutes. Tapes should be submitted to Bob Katz, Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210. Highlights from the videotapes may be edited together and made available as a VCCS video sampler.

ALA Teleconference a Success

A network of over sixty libraries acted as receive sites for the satellite teleconference from the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Over 2,000 librarians in thirty states took part in the event, which was the president's Midwinter program entitled "Marketing: A Key to Surviving and Thriving."

The network, which included libraries with access to cable-television services, was researched and developed by Mary Diebler of the Public Service Satellite Consortium (PSSC), a nonprofit organization that encourages and facilitates public-service use of satellites. ALA is a charter member of PSSC.

This is the first time that libraries have been used as receive sites for an ALA teleconference. In 1978, ALA held a teleconference on copyright, but participants were required to travel to the nearest PBS television station. The current network of libraries was used last spring for the anniversary celebration of the Red Cross.

The teleconference originated from Denver, where the PSSC maintains a studio and uplink to the satellite. Midwinter attendees were able to view the teleconference at the Denver Hilton Hotel on a large-screen television. Reaction at remote sites was generally positive to the teleconference, although there was some confusion about preregistration. In Albany, New York, where no one preregistered, two participants thought the Special Libraries Association had sponsored the event.

VCCS Needs You!!

The Video and Cable Communications Section of LITA is in need of volunteers to work on committees. The requirements are attendance at ALA Annual and Midwinter meetings and a little time to work on committee business between meetings. Please fill out the form below. If you are unable to work on a committee but have an interest in video or cable, the LITA editorial board is looking for video-related articles.

VCCS VOLUNTEER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____

Committees you are interested in working on:

Mail to Arlene-Farber Sirkin, 108 Ninth St., SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Guidelines Still Available

A few copies of *Video and Cable Guidelines for Libraries* edited by Leslie Burke and Roberto Esteves are available. Send \$9.75 to Don Hammer, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Personnel Notes

Mary Helen Karpinski has retired from the Memphis Public Library and resigned as chair-elect of VCCS.

Marilyn Rehnberg's new address is 4131 38th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Send items for this column to Bob Katz, Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210.

Information Science and Automation Section

Carol Parkhurst
Section Editor

ISAS Committees

The ISAS Executive Committee has forwarded the final report of Michael Gorman's International Mechanization Consultation Committee to the LITA Board of Directors. The Executive Committee's final recommendation is to establish an interdivisional committee that will both monitor and participate in the decisions related to bibliographic standards at the international level. The LITA Board approved this recommendation and establishment of the committee will proceed.

The Technical Standards for Library Automation Committee (TESLA) is planning an annual conference program on "Standard Network Interconnection: Progress and Prospects." Chair Paul Lagueux, Council on Library Resources, reports that the focus of the program will be computer-to-computer protocols for library applications.

Anne G. Adler, Rice University, is chairing the Bibliography Committee this year. A complete automation bibliography will be ready by summer 1982.

The nomination committee has developed a slate of candidates for election this spring. For vice-chair/chair-elect of ISAS the committee has selected Sharon A. Sullivan, Ohio State University, and Jerome Yavarkovsky, Columbia University. Candidates for member-at-large are Sandra R. Weaver, University of California, Berkeley, and Norene Allen, Brittany Fisher and Associates, Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

Discussion Groups

The ISAS Executive Committee expressed concern at the Midwinter Meeting about the long period of time required to obtain published information in the area of library automation. One solution to the need for rapid dissemination of information is the discussion group format. The Executive Committee is particularly interested in developing discussion groups on electronic mail, word processors, and telecommunications. If you are interested in participating in a

discussion group on word processors, please write to James C. Thompson, Associate University Librarian, Fondren Library, 6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77005. If you are interested in electronic mail, telecommunications, or any other discussion group topic relevant to ISAS, contact Jay B. Clark, Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston, TX 77002.

Several ongoing discussion groups held successful meetings at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver. The Programmers Discussion Group drew eighteen participants who examined "Holdings Information for Bibliographic Records." The topic will be continued at the Annual Conference in Philadelphia.

Harry Broussard, University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, reported that the two Microprocessor Discussion Group sessions were almost too well attended! The session on electronic mail attracted thirty-five people, and nearly fifty people appeared for a discussion of database management systems and multiterminal shared-file networks. It was agreed that more meaningful discussions can be held in smaller groups, so as many as six hours will be set aside at the Annual Conference for specific topics. Particular concern was expressed about disseminating the results of individual research in the microcomputer area. As a partial remedy for this concern, Michael Bruer, associate director of the California Library Authority for Systems and Services, has agreed to act as a "clearinghouse" for both reports on microcomputer-related activity and questions about microcomputers. Relevant items will be published in the *LITA Newsletter*. If you have something to report, or a question to ask, send the information to Bruer at CLASS, 1415 Koll Circle, Suite 101, San Jose, CA 95112.

At the Retrospective Conversion Discussion Group meeting, Gary M. Pitkin of Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, discussed his conversion of the Illinois Sangamon State University main shelflist using Optical Character Recognition (OCR). He also covered his role as consultant in a similar conversion at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. The presentation covered a cost analysis of Blackwell/North America and OCLC, with the reasons for choosing Blackwell/North America as the vendor. The RTSD Retrospective Conversion Discussion Group meeting immediately followed, with a discussion of funding and an update on authority control. Approximately 100 people attended the back-to-back meetings.

Library and Information Technology Discussion Group

The Library and Information Technology Discussion Group (LITDG) held its semiannual meeting at ALA Midwinter. In response to several comments concerning the length of the session (three and one-half hours) and the need for some type of further organization, a survey was distributed to those present to determine attendee preferences. The results of the survey indicated clearly strong preferences for a two-hour discussion group dealing with library automation topics, in the current format of five- to ten-minute short reports with an accompanying speakers list for identification and follow-up.

In discussion with the LITA Board on Wednesday, January 27, and with the consensus of the ISAS Executive Committee, it was agreed to continue the three-and-one-half-hour Sunday time slot. The first two hours will be devoted

to general library automation topics. The remaining one and one-half hours will be divided between the Video and Cable Communications Section and the Audiovisual Section, using the same "short report" format. The Philadelphia meeting program will list the group as LITA Library and Information Technology Discussion Group, but after Philadelphia, the first two hours will become an official ISAS discussion group on library automation.

The LITA Board also agreed to allow the LITDG chair to nominate a successor, entertain nominations from the floor, and then allow the discussion group to elect its chair. Guidelines for the selection of discussion group chairpersons are being developed in the ISAS section and will be submitted to the LITA Bylaws Committee for approval in Philadelphia. — *Patricia H. Earnest, Anaheim Public Library.*

LAMA/LITA Conference Program on Automated Circulation System Interfaces

Watch for "Beyond Automated Circulation: Interfacing with Other Library Functions," a major ALA Annual Conference program designed to provide an overview on the state of the art of interfacing automated circulation systems with other library functions. The program is scheduled for Monday, July 12, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will be co-sponsored by the Circulation Services Section of LAMA and LITA.

ISAS News

Send items for this column to Carol Parkhurst, systems librarian, University of Nevada Library, Reno, NV 89557 or call (702) 784-6566.

Audiovisual Section

Susan P. Besemer
Section Editor

Midwinter Reports

As of the deadline for this issue, no reports were available about the Midwinter Meeting.

Video in the Public Libraries of New York

Pat Mackey, audiovisual consultant with the Monroe County Library System and candidate for vice-president/president-elect of LITA, submits this report on the state of the art of video usage in public libraries in New York State. Another version of the report was published earlier in *The Bookmark*. The most recent version is available on request from Ms. Mackey at: Rochester Public Library, 115 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14604.

Although libraries across New York State share common problems involving funding and staff cutbacks, video still plays a vital and active role in many individual libraries and systems in New York State. This 1981 report is an updated view of video projects in public libraries, highlighting current directions and new projects in the past year. Responses from twenty-two libraries indicate a wide range of video

commitments, from major production/collection development programs to drastic cutbacks or standstill operations based on funding limitations. An expanding trend in both active projects and future plans reflects increased distribution of prerecorded materials in half-inch tape and video-disc; this is obviously a positive response to technological moves and a major change from the 1978 survey, which listed three-fourths-inch tape as the primary library collection format. The following libraries either currently use or produce video materials: Albany Public Library, Binghamton Public Library, East Meadow Public Library, Kingston Area Library, Mid-Hudson Library System (Poughkeepsie), Mid-York Library System (Utica), Monroe County Library System (Rochester), Nassau County Library System (Uniondale), New York Public's Donnell Film Library, Niagara Falls Public Library, Ogdensburg Public Library, Onondaga County Public Library (Syracuse), Patchogue-Medford Library, Port Washington Public Library, Scotia Branch of Schenectaday County Public Library, Southern Adirondack Library System (Saratoga Springs), Steele Memorial Library (Elmira), Suffolk County Library System (Bellport), and Tompkins County Public Library (Ithaca).

NASA Films

Libraries of many types, from public school media centers to those in universities, will welcome an opportunity to borrow free 16mm films from one of the eight NASA regional film libraries. A recent phone conversation with Darlene Ahalt of the Goddard Space Flight Center NASA Film Library described the services offered. Librarians are invited to write for an annotated catalog, to be available in March, listing the more than 200 films currently in circulation. The films explain various projects and experiments that are funded by NASA. All available on a free-loan basis through the mails, the films are aimed at a variety of age levels. When asked to describe her favorites from the catalog, Ms. Ahalt mentioned a popular film on the space shuttle, and three new films, which will be available in January 1983, on the applications of space technology to everyday life. Titles will include *Space Research and Your Transportation* (HQ320), *Space Research and Your Health* (HQ319), and *Space Research and Your Home and Environment* (HQ321). For a catalog write to: Darlene Ahalt, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Public Affairs Office, Greenbelt, MD 20771.

Tapes from National Public Radio (NPR)

For a wide variety of audiocassettes on the college level, take a look at the catalog of the National Public Radio Educational Division, Publishing Department. Hundreds of programs aired over NPR by member stations and others made by independent producers are screened to select the most pertinent ones to include in the catalog, now in its second year of publication. Presently more than 500 tapes are listed on many subjects, with especially good coverage given to such topical concerns as in vitro fertilization, politics in Poland, textbook censors, and the care of the aged. Of exceptional quality both technically and content-wise, these tapes can enhance AV collections in colleges, universities, and high schools. NPR also publishes a few posters and a monthly newsletter, which is available at a dollar an issue. It lists new tapes that have become available since the publication of the catalog. For a catalog or more information write

to: Carol Barrett, Office Manager, National Public Radio, Publishing Department, 2025 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Fashion Institute Collection

Librarians attending the fall conference of the New York Library Association had an opportunity to view a really unique "nonprint" collection. Fashion Institute of Technology is the home for a fascinating collection of artifacts of the fashion industry, ranging from samples of fabrics to historical examples of fashions of the day. Ranges of hats, shoes, and accessories provide students with samples for study. But—how to catalog them using AACR2?? That is the question!

New AV Section Editor Sought

After two years as AV Section Editor, Sue Besemer is resigning. Anyone who wishes to be considered for the spot should contact Pat Barkalow, Pasadena Public Library, 285 E. Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91101.

News from the Field

Mary Madden
Column Editor

Minicomputer-based Integrated Library System

Sigma Data, 5515 Security Lane, Rockville, MD 20852, recently announced the sale of DATALIB, its minicomputer-based integrated library system, to Schlumberger Technology Corporation. Schlumberger becomes the fifth organization to be using the DATALIB software; others are the U.S. Executive Office of the President, Department of Justice, Raytheon, and Texaco, Inc.

The DATALIB software supports acquisitions, cataloging, online retrieval, book catalog production, and circulation. Designed to meet the requirements of the special library, DATALIB supports up to twenty-five record formats defined by the library. Records are stored in one master file in a variable-length tagged-record structure.

Sigma Data offers the DATALIB capability either by direct license purchase or through a service center that provides a full range of DATALIB services. The service center is currently being used by several federal agencies (through the Federal Library Committee).

RLIN and CLSI Interface

San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) is now operating its TPS-400 online interface between RLIN and CLSI. The TP-400, manufactured by TPS Electronics, automatically transfers records from SFPL's RLIN terminal to their CLSI circulation computer. All of the necessary bibliographic and holding data is automatically reformatted with search keys and statistical codes generated as required.

The TPS-400 features automatic backup buffer storage provided by removable magnetic floppy disks that allow the system to receive records from the cataloging terminal (RLIN) and store them until the circulation computer can accept them.

The system includes an enhanced Apple computer, disk drive, CRT monitor, message printer, and all the software necessary to interface with short and expanded format circulation systems. Complete title and item entry is accomplished without operator intervention.

Further information is available from TPS Electronics, 4047 Transport Street, Palo Alto, CA 94303 or call (415) 856-6833.

Standard Fare

Pierre Badin LaTos
Column Editor

As anticipated, Walt Crawford's superb guest editorial entitled "Idiot Numbers" that appeared in the last issue of the *LITA Newsletter* (No. 7, Winter 1982) produced the dialogue that was sought and elicited some very useful suggestions and comments from six or so individuals to date. Because of limited space, it is not possible to include the full text of each set of comments and recommendations. However, it is noteworthy that all held one theme in common—a plea for some intelligence in the design of library identifiers, i.e., the encoding scheme should permit a useful associative relationship. ANSC Z39 S/C V, are you listening? But wait, there is more to come. At least one individual does not share the view of the "intelligent" (numbers) majority and a set of comments is said to be forthcoming.

The Denver ALA Midwinter Meeting proved to be very fruitful for TESLA. Three working sessions were held and excellent progress made on the various TESLA projects. Also, without fanfare (and to the surprise of all TESLA members), the LITA Board of Directors made known its decision that henceforth TESLA is a LITA-wide committee, as opposed to a discussion group within the Information Science and Automation Section (ISAS). Though never excluded (indeed *everyone* has been encouraged), participation in and, hopefully, membership on the TESLA Committee will bring about a broadening of the current spectrum of interests reflected to date. After all, the term *automation* in and of itself is not restricted to computers only. *Webster's* suggests that such thinking is both too restricted and misconstrued, i.e., "automatically controlled operation of an apparatus, process, or system by mechanical or electronic devices that take the place of human organs of observation, effort, and decision." Accordingly, and as always, we extend a warm welcome to those of you that have audiovisual, video and cable, and other (automation) related interests and concerns to attend and participate in our deliberations.

This issue's guest columnist is Ruth Carter, an active contributor to TESLA as well as many other fora. Head of cataloging at the University of Pittsburgh libraries, a recognized serials librarian, and a DP background aggregate well in establishing her credentials as a connoisseur of what she speaks, specifically, there is a crying need for a standard format that will allow for the exchange of machine-readable serial holdings. Again, if this generates your interest, let's hear from you!

Standards: One That's Missing

It sometimes seems that standards in terms of library-related applications are all pervasive, but there are more that are needed nevertheless.

In the area of serials, there is no escaping the concept of standards. The types of "standards" dealt with daily include: (1) those of cataloging and bibliographic description: the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2d edition* and the International Standard for Bibliographic Description—Serials (ISBD-S); (2) the unique identifier of each serial: the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN); and (3) standards for serial holdings. The latter of these is represented by a recently developed standard, which is the *ANSI for Serial Holdings Statements at the Summary Level*, ANSI Z39.42 1980; another standard for serial holdings statements at the detailed level is presently in preparation. Both of these standards for holdings refer to holdings in the context of the bibliographic description to which particular holdings statements are linked. But neither standard prescribes the machine-readable format required to transmit holdings information.

The LC MARC formats have become de facto standards for machine representation of bibliographic data. Although local systems do not store data in MARC formats, it is highly desirable, if not essential, that they accept input or are capable of providing output in these MARC formats. At present there is no comparable standard for the machine-readable representation of holdings. Given the rapidly increasing computer-generated communication and exchange of serial holdings data, the lack of a standard for the format (as opposed to the content) of holdings data in machine-readable form is a frightening gap in our collective standards.

There have been, are, and will continue to be many local machine-based systems that include serial holdings data. These machine-readable holdings data are used for union lists and serials control as well as for circulation and inventory-related activities. However, what is grievously lacking is a standard format for the exchange of machine-readable holdings. The need for such a standard has been recognized for a long time; and it is imperative that work on the development and implementation begin immediately.

Various online bibliographic systems have or are planning to develop off-line products for union listings, namely, magnetic tapes, COM products, and printed paper prod-

ucts. Magnetic tapes can serve many applications; COM products could result either from production directly by the online bibliographic systems or through the provision of machine-readable data in magnetic tape to vendors. In any event, all of the off-line products will combine data from online files of bibliographic records and the serial holdings data. Often there will be multiple serial holdings associated with any single bibliographic record.

Development of off-line products by online bibliographic systems will pose precedent-setting efforts that may result in the "establishment" of an in-house or local standard for each system by just doing rather than a recognized de jure standard through the formal deliberative consensus process. By developing off-line products for union listings the online bibliographic systems are meeting a major demand of the steadily growing number of union-list participants. Because off-line list products probably will be widely distributed, both to libraries and vendors of COM and other products, each system will be fostering the establishment of its machine-readable format for serial holdings data with the hope that it may become the "standard." This resulting chaos eventually could fail to produce a standard, albeit de facto, for the format of machine-readable serial holdings. At best, it might be some time before one "standard" would emerge from among several formats that might or might not be compatible. There is likely to be interest in cross-loading data between various systems, but the lack of one agreed-upon standard will make it less easy and more costly than it should be.

Given the various applications already existing for machine-readable serial holdings and the increasing number that will result from union listing activities, clearly it is time to develop a standard for the machine-readable format of serial holdings data. It would seem that an ANSC Z39 subcommittee to that effect is in order now!—*Ruth C. Carter.*

Did You Know?

An inventory of software packages for mainframe, mini- and micro-computers is being developed under the aegis of the UNESCO General Information Program. The emphasis is said to be on applications suitable for use in libraries, information centers, archives, and other related organizations. Users and developers are urged to contact Dr. Carl Keren, COSTI, P.O. Box 20125, Tel Aviv, Israel 61201.

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