

# LITA NEWSLETTER

Library and Information Technology Association

Carol A. Parkhurst, Editor

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## Information and Technology: At the Crossroads

You are invited to join LITA members, and many others, in exploring the world of communication and information transfer at LITA's first national conference in Baltimore, Maryland, September 18-21, 1983. "Information and Technology: At the Crossroads" is the theme intended to harmonize the vast diversity of our needs and uses for technology. Baltimore's new convention center, the site of all programs and exhibits, is convenient to the city's hotels, a multitude of fine restaurants, and tourist attractions.

Outstanding keynote speakers will highlight four general sessions: the honorable **Charles Mathias, Jr.**, United States senator from Maryland; **Howard Resnikoff**, vice-president for Information Services, Harvard University; **Ithiel de Sola Pool**, professor of political science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and **John Wicklein**, executive producer at the Washington Bureau of the Public Broadcasting System and dean of the School of Public Communications at Boston University.

Carefully chosen panels will focus on: "Integrated Systems (In-House)"—a discussion among panelists representing libraries, networks, and vendors; "User Reaction to Online Catalogs"—an examination of the use and misuse of online catalogs, and contributing sociological factors; "Automated Authority Control Systems"—the creation of machine-readable authority files, their use in support of online cataloging, and their integration with bibliographic files; "Economics of Serials Management"—from the points of view of the publisher, the librarian, and the information user; "Impact of Automation on Library Organization"—contrasting traditional organizational structures with innovative approaches; and "Impact of Technology on Managing AV Services"—cable TV, videodisks, microcomputers.

**State-of-the-art programs, contributed papers, and invited papers** will deal with such topics as subject retrieval, consumer electronics, government information in electronic form, cable TV, retrospective conversion, online catalogs, and automated acquisitions.

Try your hand at the latest in technological wizardry at the **Hands-On Technology Shops**. No amount of explanation can show you technology's fingertip power as can hands-on experience.

• **Microcomputer Software Swapshop**—your opportunity to

exchange public domain software for the mere price of a disk to record it on. A wide range of micros will be available for testing and copying software.

• **Electronic Message Center**—conference participants can exchange messages through the ONTYME II electronic mail system.

• **Video Showcase/Swapshop**—not just a "show and tell," this is a "see and swap" shop for 3/4-inch videotapes.

• **Teleconference Showcase**—twin exhibits will give you the chance to participate in a live teleconference.

• **Demo/Expo**—demonstrate your organization's current applications of technology.

• **Video Nightcap**—for those who like their video strictly for entertainment!

In-depth understanding of significant technologies is the intent of two **full-day workshops** to be held on Wednesday, September 21. You may choose to explore "Cable Communications: The Information Technology for the '80's" or "Telecommunications: Technology, Systems and Applications for Libraries."

For the conference attendee with little background knowledge, a "Preconference Tutorial: Introduction to Information Technologies" will provide basic terminology and concepts needed to understand the conference programs.

Automated library systems suppliers, computer hardware and software manufacturers, consultants, information brokers, audiovisual suppliers, etc., will **exhibit** their products and services from Sunday through Tuesday.

Existing library automation, telecommunication, and audiovisual projects will be featured in **tours** to area institutions, including the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and American University.

Purely for fun, the M.V. *Port Welcome* will embark from Baltimore harbor on LITA's "**Deluxe Midnight Cruise.**"

Transportation arrangements can be made through T.V. Travel, Inc. Substantial discounts are available; for details call toll free 800-543-9089.

**Registration** and housing information will be mailed in April and will also appear in the summer *LITA Newsletter*. For more information, contact **Donald Hammer**, LITA Executive Director, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 or call 312-944-6780.

## LITA at Midwinter

### LITA Legislation Committee

The Legislation Committee met twice in San Antonio to discuss the fate of last year's telecommunications legislation and pending bills. By the end of the 97th Congress both Senator Goldwater's bill (S.2172) and Representative Tim Wirth's bill (H.R.5158) on telecommunications had been tabled.

Representative Simon (D-Ill.) has submitted a proposed set of revisions to the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), which has received generally favorable reaction from ALA, although a few problems were noted. There is concern that funding levels are too low, especially for Title III, for resource sharing and cooperation. However, there are fewer restrictions on the use of Title III funds. A mandatory "reimbursement" clause requiring public libraries to pay for borrowing from other libraries was also questioned, as was a requirement for a library "advisory council" in each state. Mandating fees is seen as contrary to the philosophy of resource sharing. The requirement for state-level councils seems vague and awkward, legislating more structure before proving a need for it.

Finally, ALA is looking for cost figures from libraries for any library-related telecommunications, including, for example, OCLC or RLIN, database searching through TYMNET or TELENET, intercampus data communication by computer or voice, and WATS lines. Current figures or those from the past few years will be appreciated. Send to the ALA Washington Office, 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Box 54, Washington, DC 20002.—*Mary Boulanger.*

### MARBI

The RTSD/LITA/RASD Committee on the Representation in Machine-Readable Form of Bibliographic Information (MARBI) met with representatives of the national library and bibliographic networks in San Antonio. The main agenda item was the proposed MARC format for holdings and locations. Issues included: (1) *Scope*—the format is now restricted to information about locations and holdings and about items actually held. It may be expanded to include lost or missing items and other types of local data. (2) *Separate format*—the tag numbers are now assigned in such a way that a holdings record may be attached to a bibliographic record. (3) *Scope of a single holdings record*—a new technique has been proposed that will allow simple holdings statements with differing locations and call

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The *Newsletter* is sent free of charge to all division members. Copies are available only through annual LITA memberships; there is no single-copy price. Back issues and division membership blanks are available from LITA Executive Director Donald P. Hammer, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Editorial contributions, articles, news releases, and letters should be sent to Carol A. Parkhurst, University Library, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557; (702) 784-6566.

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numbers to be coded in a single record. (4) *Linking*—the technique for linking a holdings record to a bibliographic record through control numbers has been improved. (5) *Holdings elements*—will need more testing before it is certain that they will operate effectively.

In other action, the group approved the MARC format for archival control; added a subfield to field 040 for identifying descriptive conventions other than *AACR*, and made minor changes in the MARC music format.—*John Attig.*

### Vendor/User Discussion Group Luncheon

Carolyn Gray, president of LITA, cosponsored with Baker & Taylor Company a luncheon for library automation vendors.



Shown with Carolyn Gray are (left to right): A. J. Askovich, Midwest Library Service, Fred A. Philipp, Ernest A. Muro, and G. G. Garbacz of Baker & Taylor Company, and Richard Rowe of Faxon.

### Online Catalogs, Online Reference Preconference

LITA and the Resources and Technical Services Division are cosponsoring "Online Catalogs, Online Reference: Converging Trends," a preconference to be held June 23-24, 1983, prior to the ALA Annual Conference in Los Angeles. Ten expert speakers will provide analytical reviews and analysis of the impact of public access on online catalogs and reference systems, both within and beyond the library's walls.

A variety of catalog and public reference systems will be demonstrated, with time scheduled for hands-on use by attendees. Locally developed catalogs, the major bibliographic utilities, database publishers, commercial turn-key and service-bureau vendors, and reference files will be included.

"The '60s brought libraries cataloging networks, and the '70s saw local circulation-based computer systems," states conference chair Brett Butler, "but in the '80s the real changes in libraries will come in public reference. This conference will be the first to address both catalog and reference online systems, with the emphasis on public use."

Conference registration is \$110 for LITA or RTSD members if received before May 1, 1983; \$125 for other ALA members; and \$150 for non-ALA members. Rates rise to \$130, \$145, and \$170 after that date. For information and a registration form, contact LITA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; call (312) 944-6780; or send a message to LITA on ONTYME.

## Decisions of the LITA Board of Directors: ALA 1983 Midwinter Meeting, San Antonio

### Proposed LITA/CLSI Scholarship

Charles Farley represented CLSI to discuss a possible agreement between LITA and CLSI regarding the establishment of a LITA/CLSI scholarship in the area of information technology. CLSI would provide \$1,500 a year. A motion was made and voted:

that LITA accept with gratitude the CLSI offer of a scholarship, with Hammer and Gray to work out the written agreement with CLSI. Note that discussion included (1) CLSI commitment should be in blocks of time, e.g., five years (2) change title of scholarship from automation to "Library and Information Technology."

### Proposed Enlargement of LITA Board

A suggested amendment to the LITA bylaws was read that would enlarge the board by three members-at-large. Approved.

### LITA/Gaylord Award

The board reviewed the agreement approved by Gaylord Bros., Inc., relative to the LITA/Gaylord Award. Accepted.

### LITA L.A. Preconference

Brett Butler reported on plans for the preconference at L.A., "Online Catalogs, Online Reference."

A motion was made and voted that:

LITA ask RTSD and RASD to cosponsor the preconference entitled "Online Catalogs, Online Reference: Converging Trends."

### Goals and Long-Range Planning Committee

A discussion took place on the proposed structure for LITA, on the failure of the section structure to meet LITA's needs, and on the proposed "interest group" structure, among other things.

A motion was made and voted that the LITA Board:

- (1) Accept the Report.
- (2) Thank and recognize the committee for its work and creativity.
- (3) Request the President to appoint an implementation committee to a detailed reorganization including program.
- (4) Committee's report be presented at next Midwinter.

### Legislation and Regulation Committee Report

After discussion on the financial needs of the Legislative Day to be held in Washington, D.C., on April 19, 1983, a motion was made and voted that:

LITA contribute \$100 toward expenses incurred for the Legislative Day in Washington.

### National Conference Steering Committee Report

Heyman described the plans for the LITA national conference in Baltimore on September 17-21, 1983—the exhibits,

tours, harbor cruise, speakers, tutorials, etc.

The board recommended that the institutes planned as pre-conferences be held during the conference and the special registration fees be dropped.

### Publications Committee

The committee reviewed the applications for editor of *ITAL* and chose William G. Potter of the University of Illinois.

The board voted approval.

After discussion, the motion was made and voted that:

LITA discontinue publication of the "Highlights of the LITA Board Meetings" in *ITAL*. LITA begin publication of "Decisions of the LITA Board" in the *LITA Newsletter*, which will contain (1) decisions made, (2) minimal background information, and (3) voting records.

### Telecommunications Committee

McKean reported on the LITA President's Program that will be held at Los Angeles. The LITA/Gaylord Award presentation will be included. The program will be an overview of the entire spectrum of telecommunications, primarily aimed at people with little knowledge of the subject. The board voted in favor of the program and the \$2,000 budget.

### Audiovisual Section Disbandment

A letter has been received by the president from the chairperson of the Audiovisual Section asking that the section be disbanded and incorporated into the Video and Cable Communications Section.

A motion was made and voted that the:

AVS Chairperson's request to disband be approved.

### LITA Orientation Forum

Juergens volunteered to assist in preparing the program for a forum at Los Angeles.

### Proposed Distinguished Speaker Program

Gray reported that she announced the LITA Distinguished Speakers Series at the Vendor/User Discussion Group meeting, and the F. W. Faxon Co. offered to support the program the first year.

Gray asked permission to set up a steering committee to work out details. Agreed.

### International Mechanization Consultation Committee

Kenney brought up the report of the International Mechanization Consultation Committee that had been accepted by the board at the Midwinter Meeting in 1982, but on which no further action had been taken. She urged that the report be implemented.

Paul Lagueux, chair of the Technical Standards for Library Automation Committee (TESLA), stated that he felt there was a conflict between the function statements of the two committees.

The board asked TESLA to study the matter and report at Los Angeles.

### Proposed Leadership Enhancement Program

Gray referred to a memo from ACRL proposing that the divisions develop a cooperative project to strengthen the leadership skills of divisional officers in their roles in ALA and in their respective units.

The board voted in favor of LITA participation.

**Program Planning Committee Report**

LAMA has requested that LITA cosponsor a series of seminars on management of online catalogs to be held in different cities.

A policy question was brought up, "Do we pay consultant fees to LITA members to give LITA-sponsored programs that bear our name, therefore, our endorsement, or do we expect LITA members, no matter which part of the profession they are active in, to contribute to LITA?"

A motion was made and voted that the board:

Reject request from LAMA to cosponsor the "extra-conference program" pending the establishment of a LITA policy on hiring consultants who are LITA members.

**Bylaws and Organization Committee Report**

New or revised function statements were presented for the TESLA Committee, the International Mechanization Consultation Committee, and the Budget Committee.

The Budget Committee function statement was approved unanimously.

**Oral History Committee**

A motion was made and voted that the Oral History Committee be discharged.

**ALA Council Representative Report**

Some members of ALA Council are asking ALA to form a task force to assess the impact of the reduced REMARC bibliographic editing on libraries that will later depend on that data, and to investigate whether or not there have been unfair labor practices involved.

After discussion, a motion was made and voted that:

LITA Board instruct the LITA Councilor to vote "NO" on REMARC editing closing resolution.

**Proposed Reauthorization of LSCA**

The matter of a new bill in Congress concerning LSCA was brought up.

A motion was made and voted that:

the LITA Council Representative be directed to support the resolution proposed by the ALA Legislation Committee in Council.

**LITA Budget 1983-84**

The final budget report for 1982-83 and the proposed budget

for 1983-84 was presented. A total of \$3,352 new money was requested for 1983-84 by various units.

After discussion, a motion was made and voted that:

the Board approve the budget including the program fund request and the MARBI fund request.

**LITA Cosponsorship of Programs with Other ALA Units**

The need for a LITA policy concerning cosponsorship of conference programs with other ALA units was brought up. B. Kenney agreed to form a subcommittee to investigate any such policies the other ALA units may have, and to draw up a proposed statement for LITA. Agreed.

**Electronic Mail System Proposal**

Eaton presented the results of her study concerning the authorization by the Board of an EMS service for LITA members. LITA members may request the LITA executive director to set up a personal advance payment account from which all message costs incurred by that member will be charged as billed to LITA. LITA will pay the \$100 per year subscription and the \$10 per month service charge. Approved.

**Income from Cosponsored Preconference Institute**

It was suggested that the funds LITA will receive as co-

*VOTE TALLY FROM THE ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEM  
Ballot 1 (Sept. 10, 1982)  
through Ballot 3 (Sept. 20, 1982)*

- Ballot 1: Concerning the VCCS proposed "Tele-tour" to be transmitted from the ALA 1983 Los Angeles Conference site.
- Ballot 2: Requests from four people to be included on electronic mail.
- Ballot 3: Concerning the LITA preconference to be held at Los Angeles ALA Annual Conference.

Board Member	Ballot Number		
	1	2	3
Hugh Atkinson	Y	Y	N
Mary M. Diebler	Y	Y	Y
Kenneth E. Dowlin	Y	Y	Y
Nancy L. Eaton	Y	N	Y
Barbara O. Feldman	Y	Y	Y
Carolyn M. Gray	Y	Y	A
Bonnie K. Juergens	O	O	A
Brigitte L. Kenney	Y	Y	N
Lois M. Kerschner	Y	Y	Y
James C. Thompson	N	Y	Y

Key: Y = Yes N = No A = Abstain O = Not voting

*LITA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS: RECORD OF VOTES—1983 MIDWINTER MEETING*

Board Member	Motions (In order of appearance in the "Decisions")																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Atkinson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bradley*	Y	A	Y	A	O	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Diebler	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Dowlin	O	O	O	O	O	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Eaton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Feldman	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Gray	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Juergens	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y
Kenney	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kerschner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Thompson	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Voth*	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

\*Board authorized Bradley to replace Diebler representing VCCS and Voth to replace Feldman representing AVS.

KEY: Y = Yes N = No A = Abstain O = Absent

sponsor of the Philadelphia preconference be reserved for use as needed in cosponsoring interdivisional programs and institutes. Approved.

### Microcomputer Institute Repeat

After brief discussion, a motion was made and voted that the LITA Board approve the Albany Library School request to present the LITA Microprocessor Institute under the existing LITA policy governing this type of activity.

Meeting adjourned.—*Donald P. Hammer, Executive Director, LITA.*

## Notice: Recent Actions by the LITA Board

The LITA Board of Directors took two actions during their meetings in San Antonio that require special attention from the members. The Board passed a motion to abolish the Audiovisual Section, and it passed a motion to enlarge itself by three additional members-at-large. The members of the division will be asked to vote on these two actions in the coming spring 1983 ALA balloting.

The Audiovisual Section was abolished by the Board at the request of the present officers of that section after much consultation with some past officers and after much discussion. The reasons are twofold. The section has not been an active one and the last three nominating committees have found it exceedingly difficult to find candidates willing to run for office. Also, the section has not sponsored any significant number of programs at conferences, and it has not carried out any activities or projects at all.

The officers of the section are now considering other options to provide an organization structure within LITA for audiovisual people. Such things as committees, discussion groups, and merger with the Video and Cable Communications Section (VCCS) are being considered.

The need for a larger Board of Directors has become acute because of the difficulty in acquiring a quorum when some of the members of the Board are involved in other activities and must absent themselves from Board meetings. Additionally, there has recently developed an interest on the Board to create subcommittees to study various matters, and the present Board of ten members is too small to provide enough flexibility. Finally, the addition of an ALA Councilor to the Board evened the number of members so that at present there is no way to break tie votes.

For these reasons, both of these matters will appear on the 1983 spring ALA/LITA ballot for membership consideration. Comments from members are more than welcome.

The bylaws change that will appear on the ballot is as follows: New material is underlined, material to be removed is in brackets.

#### 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, and [three] six directors at large. Ex-officio members of the board . . .

—*Donald P. Hammer, Executive Director, LITA.*

## Video and Cable Communications Section

**Bob Katz**  
Section Editor

### Midwinter Notes

Vacations, illnesses, and work kept many VCCS members away from San Antonio, but those who met turned VCCS into a model of organizational efficiency. Concerns were voiced about:

*Membership.* There is a need for active new people. VCCS members are asked to identify those librarians who are new to video and cable and encourage them to become involved in our activities.

*Nominations.* After one of the toughest talent searches in years, we are pleased to announce the 1983 slate of candidates: Chairperson—Joyce Capell; Vice-Chairperson/Chairperson-elect—Charles A. Kritzler; Secretary—Mary Boulanger; Member-at-large—Jack Lattimore.

*Discussion Group.* The inaugural meeting of the Cable Franchising Discussion Group attracted eight participants. As expected, the information exchanged indicated a real need for continuing this group.

*LITA Reorganization.* Of primary concern is the need to maintain a solid organization, rather than splintering the sections into smaller interest groups.

### Los Angeles Program

The VCCS summer program will be June 26, 1983. Joyce Capell has recruited the following speakers: Kenneth Dowlin, library applications of cable technology; George Beers, an overview of cable television; Richard Boss, data transmission via cable; and Richard Adler, interactive video. More details to come in the summer issue of the *Newsletter*. Also, start thinking about submitting a tape for the video showcase.

### Caution: Cable Television Threatened

If you remember Senator Barry Goldwater's bill S.2172 that died with the 97th Congress, be prepared for a new headache. Senator Goldwater has introduced a new bill, S.66, which apparently is more damaging to local cable access and franchise control than last year's Senate bill. If this bill is passed, there will be more deregulation of the cable industry, fewer cable access channels, and automatic franchise renewals. There is a possibility that elimination of some access operations would wipe out the CATBLIB Network. Mary Diebler, VCCS chair, strongly suggests that you acquire a copy of the bill and write to your local senator to oppose it.

### Cable Guide Available

A five-part, sixty-page cable/telecommunications resource guide is available from the Michigan Library Association. The guide contains information on franchising, a directory of helpful organizations, a glossary, and bibliography. Copies are available from the Michigan Library Association, 226 W. Washtenaw, Lansing, MI 48933, for \$3 plus \$1 for postage and handling.

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

## Information Science and Automation Section

**Jean Swanson**  
Section Editor

### Midwinter Meetings

Anne G. Adler, cochair of the **ISAS/RTSD Retrospective Conversion Discussion Group**, reports that the ISAS section of the Midwinter Meeting concentrated on the topic of music conversion. Dean Corwin and Donald Green of the Fondren Library, Rice University, discussed the problems of searching the OCLC database for scores and sound recordings, and suggested ways of circumventing some of the difficulties involved.

The **COM Catalog Discussion Group** focused on the subject of introducing a COM catalog to the public and to public services staff, according to Carlen Ruschoff, DG chair. Joyce Jelks of Atlanta Public Library noted that planning for the promotion of the COM catalog in her library began a full year prior to publication of the first issue of the catalog.

Judy Covell of the San Antonio Public Library described the pamphlets, guides, and the film provided to aid patrons in the use of the COM catalog. Ms. Covell emphasized the importance of involving the entire library staff in the promotional effort. Since the public services staff has the power to shape the public's view of the catalog, it is important that they be well informed and kept up-to-date on new developments.

Judith Siegle of Ramey County Public Library (Minn.) stated that the public services staff there were involved in the production of their COM catalog from the beginning, a fact that subsequently aided in its promotion. Ms. Siegle pointed out that the most successful means of introducing COM to patrons has been person-to-person instruction.

According to Walter Crawford, chair of the **Programmers Discussion Group**, the Midwinter Meeting of the group drew sixteen participants who traded thoughts on authorities and linkages to bibliographic records. The discussion ranged from linking techniques to economic impacts, dealing with indirect changes in a properly controlled authority file, and related issues. Two of those present agreed to develop brief reports for the summer's more formal session on the same topic. After the Los Angeles meeting, which is already scheduled for 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, the group will try to avoid an evening meeting slot.

### Online Catalogs Generate Interest

William G. Potter reports that more than 100 attendees turned out for the Midwinter session of the Online Catalog Discussion Group. Karin Trainer described the online catalog that **New York University** and **GEAC Canada Ltd.** have designed. Installation of the prototype was scheduled to begin at the end of January; by late spring or early summer, NYU and GEAC expect a finely tuned version to be running on 100 terminals at various NYU-related libraries in Manhattan. The minicomputer-based system is designed to be user friendly, to include an authority control component, and to display records at three different levels of detail. Boolean searches are possible.

All libraries planning online catalogs will face certain problems, including the inadequacy of current modes of subject access (due to the weaknesses of LCSH and the expense of adopting new schemes), the lack of authority data in affordable machine-readable form, and insufficient information about what online catalogs truly cost to acquire and maintain. Ms.

Trainer cautioned the audience to remember that online catalogs cannot be all things to all people and will not help to improve a poor collection.

Marilyn Norstedt reported that the **Virginia Tech Library System (VTLS)** has been designed to become a fully integrated system, including circulation, public access, cataloging, acquisitions, authority control, and binding. As an online catalog, VTLS features a browsing function, a traverse screen structure to allow easy access to circulation data, holdings, and special status, and multiple access points. A preliminary user study has shown that the public finds the online catalog to be an improvement over the card catalog, even though not all items are in the online version. Word searching and full authority control, both scheduled for completion in 1983, should satisfy a high percentage of the concerns voiced by users.

Susan Logan spoke on the continuing experiences of **Ohio State University** with its online catalog, LCS. While LCS has been in use at OSU for a number of years with access to a short bibliographic and holdings record, full bibliographic records have been added in the last few years, with authority control yet a more recent addition. Ohio State closed its card catalog in July 1982. LCS transactions increased between 21 percent and 42 percent each month from September to December. Known-item searching is dropping, but is still approximately 75 percent of all searches.

### ISAS Executive Committee

Joseph Matthews has submitted a draft of the guidelines on selecting an automated system. The draft will be edited and revised by the ISAS Bibliography Committee, chaired by Anne G. Adler, and it is hoped that the final guidelines will be published and available for purchase by fall.

James C. Thompson, ISAS chair, has promoted the idea of an ISAS liaison with the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT). With the approval of Barbara Kile, GODORT chair, William De John has been appointed to serve as liaison for a three-year term.

*Send items for this column to Jean Swanson, head of Acquisitions, Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library, Jesse Jones Library Bldg., Houston, TX 77030; (713) 797-1230.*

### OCLC Record Mark

The University of Denver input the nine millionth record into OCLC's online database on November 29, 1982.

Bonnie K. Juergens, LITA's ALA Councilor, can represent LITA members effectively only if she hears from you! Send your concerns to her at 7810 Mowinkle, Austin, TX 78736 or call 512-472-5433.



## Standard Fare

**Pierre Badin LaTes**  
Column Editor

San Antonio proved to be not only a hospitable city but a most welcome respite as well. ALA staff and members involved in site selection are strongly urged to revisit San Antonio, and, perhaps, seek out other cities that offer similar courtesies.

The Technical Standards for Library Automation (TESLA) committee met on three occasions. Attendance by observers was above the norm, not surprising given the areas of interest that were covered. Jim Long of OCLC, Inc., gave a presentation on the *Preliminary Draft of the American National Standard for Computerized Ordering of Books*. There are two formats under consideration: the fixed format is intended for computer tape communications of book orders, whereas the variable format is intended for direct transmission of orders from terminals to a mainframe, or from a host to another host computer. Subcommittee U of the American National Standards Committee Z-39 has carefully reviewed the BISAC (Book Industry Advisory Committee) formats and performed an exhaustive data element comparison between the fixed and variable formats to ensure consistency of data content. Voluntary use of the fixed format standard has in some cases decreased ordering costs by as much as 40 percent. Subcommittee U's

product is aimed at facilitating electronic transmission with the minimum record length needed to accomplish the task.

The *Preliminary Draft* can be obtained from Ernest A. Muro, chair of Subcommittee U. Muro welcomes opinions, reactions, and recommendations for revision. Written comments should be directed to: Ernest A. Muro, Baker & Taylor Company, 6 Kirby Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876.

R. Bruce Miller, University of Texas (Austin), reported on the work he is coordinating for TESLA concerning CRT health-related hazards/problems. An article is taking shape that will address a number of concerns and will offer guidelines as well as other suggested reading materials on the subject.

Jaye Bausser, Duke University, is coordinating another TESLA effort, aimed at determining interest in an inexpensive ASCII CRT terminal with the full ALA character set for general use in libraries. To express an interest in this work, write to Ms. Mausser, Box 5034, Duke Station, Durham, NC 27706.

Sandra K. Paul reported that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) headquarters office is developing a database that will contain information on standards in process. The ANSI Information Systems Standards Management Board is working on a similar database that will focus on online access and information retrieval for related standards activities (e.g., ANSI, International Organization for Standardization, etc.).

TESLA work continues in two other project areas, namely, MARC compatibility of vendor-developed turnkey systems and a checklist for personal computer hardware and software.

## Institute on Micros in Libraries

The LITA Institute and Programming Workshop "Small Bytes and Little Bits—The Microcomputer in Libraries," held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 7-9, 1982, attracted more than 100 participants. During the two days of the institute and the half-day workshop that preceded it, there were presentations and time to ask questions, raise objections, and give alternatives to the advice offered by the speakers. Good information as well as advice was offered, but not always a consensus of opinion.

Theodore Hines, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, listed more than twenty library applications in his workshop on "Getting Started with Micros." In order to set up a successful microcomputer program, three elements are necessary: equipment, software or programming, and staff. Remember to request funding for all three. Hines feels that it is easier to train a librarian in elementary programming than for a programmer to understand library needs. There are commercial programs for library use available, but more are needed.

Hines was one of several who discussed the equipment, or hardware, aspect of micros. Allan D. Pratt, University of Arizona, devoted his talk to "Evaluation of Hardware." In her introductory presentation "Why Microcomputers?" J. Darlene Myers, of the University of Washington, also touched on this area. It was stated repeatedly that a clear idea of library needs is essential before deciding on a particular microcomputer. Other considerations include cost, availability of suitable programs, and reliability. It might be cheaper to go with a small unknown brand, but service and support may be hard to get "from a post office box in southern California."

Opinions differed widely on the merits of particular micros.

Among the participants and the speakers were those who loved their Apple IIs, TRS-80s, Osbornes, IBM Personal Computers, and others.

Lawrence Woods of Notre Dame University in "Parameters—the Can and Can't Do's" suggested that anyone can learn to program and should know the basics of programming. Not everyone agreed. They did agree, however, that a software package, whether developed in-house or bought ready-made, should have good documentation. Otherwise, no one except its creator will know enough about the program to keep it running or adapt it to changing library conditions.

The cost of equipment was a concern of many participants and the subject of a second presentation by Allan Pratt. Both hardware and software costs vary widely depending on such factors as amount of memory, quality of printers and keyboards, capabilities and documentation of software. Library needs should play as large a part as cost in making a selection. Richard T. Sweeney from the Public Library of Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, suggested that prices have fallen recently and libraries might profit by waiting to see if they fall further. Others disagreed.

Many different experiences with microcomputers, including unpleasant ones, were discussed during the institute. The participants had a chance to peruse the exhibits of one hardware and several software distributors. No such endeavor of this kind is without flaw, but it was a highly informative and almost always pleasant experience.—*Mary Boulanger.*

*Editor's Note: Cassette tapes of the institute are available from INFORMATION YIELD, 311 Stonecrest Dr., Syracuse, NY 13214. The institute will be repeated May 13-14, 1983. Contact Vincent Aceto, School of Library and Information Science, State University of New York at Albany, Albany, NY 12222 or call 518-455-6288.*

# Audiovisual Insights

**Janice Woo**  
Column Editor

## Audiovisual Section Dissolved

AVS chair Barbara Ortiz-Feldman reports that the LITA Board of Directors has voted to dissolve AVS. The action was proposed by Feldman and discussed at the Midwinter Meeting. Redirection of AVS resources from an organizational/administrative process to "getting on with the program" was a basis for Feldman's recommendation. She was also concerned with giving front-line AV people who cannot always attend meetings a better opportunity to participate.

Linda Stith of the AV Utilization Committee reports that the recommendation was supported by AVS members and VCCS representatives who discussed the proposal at the Midwinter Meeting. Since the changing technology has connected the once distinct areas of video-cable and audiovisual, it was agreed that the merger of the two sections would create a larger and stronger base for mutual AVS and VCCS concerns. Serving people's information needs regardless of the material format was considered to be the primary goal. AV software, hardware, and utilization were discussed as avenues for further exploration.

A committee may be established within VCCS to address AV interests. Formation will begin with an audio conference among VCCS officers and AVS representatives. Everyone involved in AV is strongly encouraged to let VCCS-AVS representatives know how your interests can best be served.

## Audio Technology Advances

The compact disk (CD) is being introduced as the single most important advance in audio technology. CDs are digitally encoded laser disks that are twelve centimeters in diameter. They have an aluminum core encased in clear plastic. Microscopic pits in the core are read by a low-power diode laser to produce sound. The disks reportedly do not deteriorate with use, storage, or age. Sony has produced the first CD player, but many other companies are expected to begin producing CD

hardware using the same specifications. Software is being produced by many record labels, including Polydor, Deutsche Grammophon, London, Philips, and Decca. Two hundred titles are planned for 1983. CD spokesmen cite three significant advantages: superior sound reproduction, convenience of operation, and world standardization. *High Fidelity* rates the sound quality very highly in its December 1982 issue. A brief article also appears in *Electronic Media*, January 20, 1983. The small size, low maintenance, and long life of the compact disk make advantageous library applications seem probable.

## LACPL Studies Videodisk Circ

Michael P. Garofalo, audiovisual services coordinator for the Los Angeles County Public Library, reports that their rate of damaged or lost half-inch VHS videocassettes per circulation appears to be low. During a seventeen-month period from July 1981 to November 1982, the LACPL circulated 21,299 videocassettes of which only 9 tapes were damaged and withdrawn, 7 were reported missing, and 5 were not returned.

The average number of videocassettes available for circulation during the period was 1,200 tapes. No data exists for the number of playbacks per title for each home-use circulation; however, 4,183 playbacks of nonfiction programmable videocassettes were recorded in various LACPL branch usages.

The LACPL is looking carefully at loss or damage rates in this new format as data become available. What have other libraries experienced? How will videocassettes compare with 16mm films for long-term public library circulation?

## Instant Slide Printer™ Introduced

Many libraries have drawers of 35mm original slides that their readers would like to have copies of, but the duplication and print processes are expensive and time-consuming. Vivitar has recently introduced the Instant Slide Printer, which makes quality color or black-and-white prints from 35mm slides in one minute or less. Simple to use, the Instant Slide Printer lets you view and crop the slide on a color-balanced viewer. The suggested retail price is \$220.

*Send items for this column to Janice Woo, Pacifica Radio Archive, 5316 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019.*

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