LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT

PROGRESS REPORT

In early 1983 the University Libraries Automation Advisory Committee completed and disseminated the Library's Five Year Automation Plan. This was completed after a four month intensive study of the processing operations and usage patterns of the University Libraries. The Plan listed priorities of development, proposed a development timetable, and outlined a preliminary budget for the entire project.

The Plan was distributed to the entire Library staff and key University administrators and was made available to faculty and students for comment. Summaries of the Plan were outlined in campus publications such as Access. Two symposia were held where the Plan was presented and questions fielded from faculty, staff and students. The Plan was also discussed with the Faculty Committee for University Libraries, the University Computer Users Group and the University Hardware Managers Group.

Between February and May 1983, detailed functional specifications were written for the system hardware and for each subsystem to be implemented. These specifications were developed by the Automation Advisory Committee in consultation with the Library departments most closely involved. During this period, six vendors of automated library systems were invited to Notre Dame to give online demonstrations of their systems. These were open to the entire library staff. The Automation Advisory Committee also attended three off-site demonstrations in South Bend, Indianapolis and Chicago.

Site visits were made to the Pentagon Library, New York University, Yale, Penn State, University of British Columbia, Washington State University, Northwestern University, and the University of Waterloo (Ontario).

A request for proposal was written in June 1983 and sent to fifteen selected vendors in mid-July. Twelve responses have been received and are being evaluated.

Three vendors are being more closely evaluated in the second round and have been invited back to campus to meet with the Automation Committee and representatives of the Purchasing Office.

Actual contract negotiations with two of these vendors will begin on November 3, 1983. It is expected that contract negotiations may take until January 1, 1984 with system installation to take place in late February or early March. This schedule could be favorably affected by a foreshortened contract negotiation period or adversely affected by equipment availability problems.

Site planning and preparation for system hardware began well ahead of the proposed schedule. A machine-room site was selected in March 1983 and during the Summer the site was vacated by several departmental shifts. Several walls were removed and an exceptionally fine facility has been prepared with two offices, a raised floor, dedicated circuits and isolation transformers. Climate control and a halon fire protection system is being installed. Work should be completed by December 1, 1983.
A task force is planning terminal locations and the system communications network. The first terminal sites should be ready by early February 1984.

Preparation of the Library database was begun in March 1983 with the first of three major conversion projects. That project is nearing the halfway point and the second conversion project was begun this Fall. The third project will begin in November or early December. It is expected that by July 1984, approximately 75 percent of our bibliographic records will be converted to machine-readable form and will be loaded into the Library database. We plan to have the first terminals available for public use early in the Fall semester, 1984.

While most of the planning and development to date has been carried on internally, we have retained a consultant to advise us at key decision points in the project. The consultant reviewed our RFP and will review the three top responses. A second consultant will be involved with negotiation of the contract and will also review a couple of the more difficult steps of the data conversion process.

As a whole, the project is proceeding according to schedule and in an orderly fashion. Although our timetable has been very ambitious, slippage has been held, in most cases, to less than one month. The most notable delay has been in the evaluation of the responses to our Request For Proposal. We received about twice as many responses as we anticipated and felt that a more careful analysis at this stage would pay off significantly in the long run. When the contract has been signed, a revised implementation schedule will be developed and made public.

Lawrence A. Woods

SPECTACLE AND CELEBRATION

LIBRARY EXHIBITS COMMITTEE GUIDES MEMORIAL LIBRARY PROGRAM

The 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth; a Notre Dame footnote to the history of the Civil War; the presentation of the works of a largely forgotten but important Catholic poet; these are some of the themes treated by the Library Exhibits Committee in its program in the Memorial library.

Students and faculty see that program literally "in passing", but it represents an important part of library service at Notre Dame. Like an art museum, an academic library is a repository of treasures, stored away on the library shelves and mostly unseen except by specialists (for whom the treasures are working tools). The exhibit program is designed to uncover parts of that hoard and present it to the University community. The purpose is both didactic and informational. We want the University community to be aware of the depth and extent of the resources available in the University's Libraries. At the same time, we are aware that each exhibit should provide an educational opportunity for those who are not specialists (especially students) in the topic field.

Constructing a worthwhile library exhibit is not as simple as it looks. A good exhibit is focused on a specific topic and presents the theme with a logic appropriate to it. Some years ago, an exhibit on St. Catherine of Siena presented the works of the great Italian saint in a biographical and chronological sequence, for that is the way her spiritual doctrines developed. Our present exhibit on Martin Luther is organized around three major themes: reform, controversy and dialogue.

The materials of a library exhibit are chiefly books, but can include other library materials. These are frequently augmented by graphic materials: portraits of writers, maps, etc., and sometimes by artifacts.

Three years ago, in the Spring term of 1980, an ad hoc exhibits committee was formed by the Library administration to set policy for library exhibits. The result of that effort is a flexible but firm policy which provides standards of quality for library exhibits and encourages participation by the academic departments of the University.
A number of academic departments have contributed notably to the exhibit program in the Memorial Library; the Theology Department's presentation of the current Martin Luther exhibit is an example. Other campus organizations have also participated, e.g., the Saint Thomas More Society and the perennial Sophomore Literary Festival. Currently we are planning an exhibit in the main concourse with the help of an alumnus, an Advisory Council member and notable benefactor of the university.

Most faculty and students who work with the Library Exhibits Committee are surprised to find out how much hard work is involved. There are three important steps: defining the theme; performing the research and collecting the materials; and mounting or presenting the exhibit. The latter requires some artistic effort involving the use of color, arrangement, etc.; we are fortunate in having members of the Committee and of the library faculty who can contribute to this important aspect.

The Library would like to encourage members of the academic departments and their students to work with us in this interesting educational activity.

David E. Sparks

CITATION STUDY

A LIBRARY COLLECTION ASSESSMENT TOOL

One of the more important elements in any library collection development program is the ongoing assessment of what is already in a collection.

This can be more complex than one might imagine, since very often general impressions about how good or bad a collection is are not totally accurate. While a faculty member's appraisal of the adequacy of the library's collection in his/her special area is indispensable, sound building of a collection in any field requires that additional, often more rigorous methods of assessment should be used together with faculty evaluation.

In the Memorial Library we concluded, during the last year, just such a collection assessment. As a pilot project for the Association for Research Libraries, the University Libraries at Notre Dame were asked to create, in a selected subject area within the broad range of religion and philosophy, a representative checklist against which Notre Dame and a group of four to six other pilot-project libraries could compare their holdings. Each participating library could then see how many items it held from the representative list and could compare its own results with those of other participating libraries. We chose scripture study as the subject area for the project, first because it relates directly to much teaching and research done here, and second because the adequacy of our scripture collection has been a matter of some discussion here in the last several years.

The method we chose for the generation of the representative checklist was that of citation study. We took a 10 percent random sample of articles published during the years 1977 to 1981 in three important scripture research journals which we chose with the help of scripture professors from our theology faculty. These were: Journal of Biblical Literature, Catholic Biblical Quarterly, and Biblische Zeitschrift. All citations from the sample of approximately thirty articles were separately noted, verified, and put in alphabetical order, by author if possible and by title if not. Repetitions were eliminated in the final list, though multiple citations to the same title were recorded for any possible relevance to later analysis. Each separate journal volume cited, in footnotes, references and bibliographies even of the same journal title, was numbered separately. Counted in this way, our list contained 1235 items. These were then checked against our holdings.

Our library has 72.8 percent of the items on the list, with another 4.5 percent in editions other than the one cited. The 1235-item list, as noted above, eliminated citation repetitions. When we include such repetitions in our analysis, we discover
that the Notre Dame library contains 76.6 percent of the items cited, along with another 4.9 percent in other editions for a total of 81.5 percent.

These statistics, however revealing of our collection in scripture study, are not the only important aspect of our experiment with citation study. Greater awareness of the kinds of information that can be discovered through this methodology also resulted.

As a bibliometric tool, citation study is not without problems. There will always be some argument over the choice of sources for the citations (e.g., journals, monographs, dissertations?), and the validity of various sampling procedures will require more study. Yet citation study is the assessment and analysis tool which, to date, seems best to address the following sort of questions:

* How much of the research represented by these citations could have been done in our library?

* Is it in fact the level of research carried on by our students and faculty?

* What could we acquire to enhance the research value of our collection in this subject area?

* Given what we already have, would such enhancement be important enough to warrant the expenditure of time and money required to accomplish it?

Such representative checklists of citations can be used not only to provide a more objective picture of the adequacy of one's library collection in a designated subject area, but can also yield some indication of citation patterns within the research of a particular discipline. Analysis of the languages of references used, age of publications cited, proportion of monographs to journals employed, etc., reveal much about the dynamics of research within a subject field.

It is in the light of the configurations of the discipline's literature that the percentage of checklist items held by a particular library should be examined. For example, the discovery that only 50 percent of the journals cited on the list are held by a library is more significant if journals comprise 80 percent of the total citations than if they comprise 15 percent. In another example, our library had only about 55 percent of the French materials which appeared on the scripture checklist. But in view of the fact that only 6.2 percent of all materials cited were French, could we justify an extensive revision of our collecting procedures to reflect better French coverage within scripture research literature? The citation analysis does not afford obvious answers to such questions, though it does provide data which can lead to productive examination of collecting practices.

Though citation studies have been done for some time in the sciences and the social sciences, this research methodology has more recently begun to come into its own in the humanities as well. As a tool for use in library collection assessment and development, its history is comparatively recent. As more of these studies are carried out in libraries for collection development projects, procedures for this particular use of them will become more sophisticated and comparisons of results will give us greater confidence in their reliability.

James T. Deffenbaugh

BEST OF THE QUEST

EXHIBITION OF THE 34TH ANNUAL CHICAGO BOOK CLINIC AWARDS, 1983

The Chicago Book Clinic exhibition to be displayed on the second floor of the Notre Dame Memorial Library from December 1983 to January 1984, is a traveling exhibit on loan from the CBC calling attention to significant books published in the Midwestern region.

The display represents the state-of-the-art in book craftsmanship and quality book manufacture.

Of several Midwestern regional organizations committed to the furtherance of quality
publishing, the Chicago Book Clinic is the oldest and largest. It was founded in 1936 and has more than 200 members. Its first annual exhibition of award-winning books was held in 1950 and since then, the CBC has become one of the respected bodies of book evaluation and review in terms of physical book production.

The annual exhibits are selected from a great many published works on the basis of planning, typography, composition, illustration, paper quality, binding, printing and general physical and visual characteristics of execution. The publishers represented are located in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Almost half of the honored books selected this year are textbooks. This is an indication of how much book craftsmanship is concentrated in the textbook publishing field. This year the number of categories was increased to six, namely, trade editions, small press and fine press, catalogues, juvenile books, generally scholarly books in addition to textbooks.

Most of the books represented in this exhibit should become available in the Library through routine and approval plan acquisitions. Requests by faculty concerning potential book acquisitions for course work may, of course, be made directly to the publishers regarding review copies. A complete listing of the books in the exhibition appears in the Chicago Book Clinic catalogue entitled Best of the Quest which is available in limited supply free of charge at the Reference Department desk in the library.

Anton C. Masin

NEU9PAPERS ON MICROFILM

SOURCE DOCUMENTS OF HISTORY

Newspapers are one of the most difficult types of library material to handle. Printed on cheap paper and destined to be discarded, in the library they become immediate problems.

In earlier days, it was not unusual for a newspaper to issue a special printing run on rag paper especially for libraries. These and the ordinary newspapers were often bound by libraries in enormous folio volumes and stored flat on musty basement shelves, the size and weight of the collection being too much for the floors above to bear.

Nowadays we have a better solution to problems of the size, weight and fragility of newspapers: we microfilm them. Or, more precisely, publishers of newspapers issue, or arrange to have issued, microfilm copies of their papers, and we buy these in lieu of the cruder forms of storage.

But the use of microfilm for the preservation of newspapers is not limited to current publications. There are many historical collections of newspapers that have been microfilmed and through this means have been made abundantly available to scholars. Ethnic and religious communities, social movements like labor unions, American counter-cultures have all given expression to their aspirations by means of newspapers, and important collections of these exist.

The Microfilm Reading Room in the Memorial Library is the repository of our newspapers-on-microfilm, a collection not well known but a rich source of information for the historian, the social scientist, and the student of government.

Current newspapers found in this collection include The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Christian Science Monitor, and The Washington Post. Foreign titles include Le Monde, Die Welt, The Times (London), the Osservatore Romano (both Italian and English editions), the Corriere della Sera (Milan), The Rand Daily Mail and The World (Johannesburg, S.A.) and the Neue Züricher Zeitung. Also held currently are several American Catholic papers like Our Sunday Visitor, the Michigan Catholic and the Catholic Herald Citizen (Milwaukee).

A number of the large current newspapers on microfilm are provided with printed indexes and these are available in the Microtext Read-
ing Room for use with the film. The New York Times Index includes the daily and Sunday editions and the magazine and book review sections. The index to The Wall Street Journal begins only in 1958. The Times index does not cover The Sunday Times. The Christian Science Monitor and The Washington Post are also provided with indexes.

Retrospective collections of newspapers-on-microfilm in the Microtext Reading Room include especially the Francis P. Clark collection of Roman Catholic newspapers, a group of over 135 titles collected by Mr. Clark and preserved at Notre Dame. This important contribution of Notre Dame to American Catholic scholarship is described in detail in C. Ames' Directory of Roman Catholic Newspapers on Microfilm published by the Cushwa Center.

To these should be added the Readex Microfilm Corporation's Early American Newspapers, 1704-1820, a collection based on Brigham's History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820, and a substantial collection (51 titles) of Negro newspapers dating back to 1883. This latter collection was made in 1947 by the University Libraries for the American Council of Learned Societies.

This rich store of newspaper material in the Memorial Library is made even more useful by our subscription to the clipping service called NewsBank. Through this service Notre Dame scholars have access to the reporting of current issues and events from newspapers from over 100 U.S. cities.

Finally, one should mention that our subscription to the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago allows us to tap that very much larger source of newspapers-on-microfilm. Faculty and students who are unable to find what they need in Notre Dame's collection may use that source through interlibrary loan.

David E. Sparks

University Libraries
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556

David E. Sparks, Editor