Milestones in Library Automation
by Robert Wittorf

During the past year, the Libraries have reached a number of important milestones on the road to providing students, staff, and faculty with automated access to the indexes of its book collection.

1. An IBM 4381 mainframe computer was purchased and installed at the University Computing Center.
2. The Libraries negotiated a contract with NOTIS, the Northwestern Total Integrated System, for NOTIS to provide software for the implementation of an online catalog.
3. The NOTIS software was installed on the Libraries' computer.
4. The data (the Libraries' holdings in machine-readable form) for the system will undergo several processes prior to loading into the system.
   a. The subject headings which were developed over the long lifetime of the library catalog were edited and made consistent with current standards for cataloging.
   b. The Libraries are currently examining the second round of output from a NOTIS program written to load the Libraries' data into its system. If it passes the examination, the Libraries will so inform NOTIS and the latter will send us the final software necessary to load the data. Currently, this is one of the critical paths to final installation.
5. Through a cooperative effort of the Libraries, the Computing Center and University Maintenance, a telecommunications network is being installed which will make the online catalog available in all library locations on campus, through other terminals directly wired to the Computing Center, and through dial-up access to the Computing Center. There still remain about 3-4 weeks of work to make all the Libraries' lines operational.
6. In addition, the Libraries have had to upgrade their electrical power in certain areas with large terminal clusters and have had to install power in places where there was none previously.
7. Some modification of the NOTIS software was undertaken so that it would reflect conditions on the University of Notre Dame campus. The software we received came with help screens geared to Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois) where it was first developed. Examples of these modifications include a list of book locations on our campus and a list of current library hours.
8. The Libraries' staff has begun training on the system in a room in the basement of the Library. NOTIS has already held classes in the entry of cataloging records. Additional classes are anticipated when the load software arrives. In addition, the Libraries' reference staff are preparing themselves for giving students, faculty, and staff personal help in using the electronic system.
9. Printed handouts will be available for library users when the system is ready for public operation.
10. The Libraries have also received a major upgrade of NOTIS which includes a facility for keyword/Boolean retrieval of the Libraries' holdings. This should be ready sometime during the summer.

David Vaisey and the Bodleian Library
by Betsy Moon

On March 31, 1987, David Vaisey, director of the Bodleian Library, Oxford University, lectured on the history and treasures of this "vast and ancient library full of good things." The lecture was sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, the Friends of the Library at Notre Dame, the University Archives and the Office of Advanced Studies.

Vaisey, a warm, vivacious and unpretentious academic, put on a great show. His career has ranged from serving as an intelligence officer for the King's African Rifles during the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya to more sedate positions as archivist, historian, writer, Keeper of Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian, and now, the 22nd "Bodley's Librarian" (Vaisey's official title) and Professorial Fellow of Exeter College at Oxford. Vaisey is a specialist in local English history. He has published widely on archival resources in local history and on the history of commerce in 17th- and 18th-century England, namely shops and shopkeepers in small-town England during this time. By studying trade patterns and shop inventories, Vaisey said, it is possible to trace the spread of social trends throughout England. A major contribution to this field is The Diary of Thomas Turner, 1754-1765 (Oxford University Press, 1984), which Vaisey edited. Turner was a shopkeeper in a small town in Sussex and his diary is not only an

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invaluable source in economic history but also an illuminating glimpse into the daily life and concerns of an 18th-century "Everyman."

Overview of the Bodleian Library

The Bodleian is the main reference library at Oxford University. The materials there do not circulate. It comprises four of 96 libraries at Oxford and is one of six copyright libraries in the United Kingdom, which means that the Bodleian receives one copy of every book published in the United Kingdom. This largesse is due to the foresight of Sir Thomas Bodley, who engineered the service in 1608. Vaisey said that over 1.6 miles of shelving are needed each year for the copyright materials alone. There are over five million printed volumes in the Bodleian, as well as a vast collection of manuscripts.

History of the Bodleian Library

The library began with a bequest by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, the brother of Henry V. Humphrey donated 400 incunabula to Oxford University in 1488. These were housed in the upper floor of the Divinity School, a gem of 15th-century perpendicular architecture, which was modified in the 17th century by Christopher Wren. Humphrey's books were ideally housed—the Divinity School had no artificial light, no heat, and the books were chained to the desks, preventing the wear and tear caused by circulation. However, the late 1400s also saw the rise of the printed book, which meant that Humphrey's materials were obsolete as soon as he bequeathed them to Oxford. Protestant reformers destroyed all but 18 of the original 400 manuscripts and by the time of Elizabeth I, there was no longer a library at Oxford.

Then Sir Thomas Bodley devoted his energies to rebuilding the library. Vaisey showed a slide of a portrait of Bodley, executed by Nicholas Hilliard, the brilliant English miniaturist. Bodley refounded the library, which was named after him, in 1602. The first of "Bodley's Librarians" ("Proto Bibliothecarius") was Thomas James. When Bodley secured the copyright privilege for his library in 1608, the Bodleian became the first national library in England. Bodley never meant for his library to be restricted to students and masters at Oxford; his idea was for the library to benefit "the republic of the lettered," and this tradition lives on today—Vaisey said that of 10,000 reader's cards issued at the Bodleian last year, about 6,000 of them were for people not associated with Oxford.

In the 18th century, Oxford became a "gentlemen's finishing school." The symbol of this change was the "Radcliffe Camera," the Bodleian's rival library at Oxford. The Radcliffe Camera is a huge rotunda, built, as Vaisey said, "by the generation of men who lost the American colonies." The Bodleian eventually absorbed the Radcliffe Camera in the 19th century, after it had taken over all the buildings which surround the Divinity School, site of the original library. In the 1930s a huge, monolithic new

Bodleian Library was built. Designed to solve space problems until the year 2000, it was full by the 1960s. The Bodleian has split some of its collection into separate libraries in other buildings—Science, Law, Colonial, Commonwealth and American History—as well as in remote storage facilities throughout Oxfordshire. Today's Bodleian Library consists of four buildings in the heart of Oxford University, connected by underground tunnels.

David Vaisey

Treasures of the Bodleian Library

Vaisey showed numerous slides of some of the many jewels in the Bodleian collection. The oldest item was an Irish manuscript from the Gospel of St. Mark (822 A.D.); the most recent a map of Narnia drawn by C.S. Lewis. Some other highlights were: an Anglo-Saxon manuscript containing a self-portrait by St. Dunstan; a gospel, bound in silver, belonging to St. Margaret of Scotland; the earliest example extant of the Rule of St. Benedict; the Codex Mendoza, which the Viceroy of New Spain sent to the Holy Roman Emperor in the late 1530s, telling him of conditions in the colonies; King Alfred's translation of the "Pastoral Care of St. Gregory"; the Magna Carta of 1217; an advertisement from William Caxton's print shop; an exercise book belonging to Edward VI (Henry VIII's son); a cloak belonging to Powhatan, the father of Pocahontas; a note Charles II scribbled to his Chancellor during a dull meeting, discussing a short trip he was planning; the first draft of Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind," along with locks of Shelley's hair; a handwritten copy of a novel by Jane Austen ("Henry and Eliza"), written to amuse her family; and a letter by Kenneth Grahame to his son Robinson. This letter and others later became the classic "The Wind in the Willows." Vaisey's incisive and sometimes hilarious commentary was a real treat; his lecture was a delightful way to learn more about one of the world's great storehouses of knowledge.
Scott: Service Is the Product
by Jan Maxwell

Shirley Scott declined to be interviewed at her home base, the Chemistry/Physics Library, choosing instead to come to Memorial Library so that she could talk without interruption. "We (she and her staff) share an office which is also our processing room. If we were over there, people would be walking through and patrons would be popping in, asking for help," she laughs. Like most of the branch libraries, "Chem/Phys" does a brisk business in a very limited space, and the opportunities for private conversation are rare.

As Physical Sciences/Mathematics Librarian, Scott is responsible for the smooth operation of the Chemistry/Physics, Math and Radiation Laboratory libraries and the Earth Sciences Reading Room, highly varied managerial work that she finds quite satisfying. "I enjoy the administrative part the most—making sure that everything functions," Scott says. In a typical week, she spends a few hours answering reference questions in the Chem/Physics Library and a few hours doing database searching and helping patrons perform their own searches. Wednesday afternoon is spent at the Math Library, "getting to know the collection and the people who use it." Any remaining time goes into collection development activities, committee work and into dealing with the physical maintenance of the library.

"The most important part of my job is service," Scott says. "Being able to supply what patrons need, organizing it in such a way that they can find things... that's our product. It would fall apart without planning, buying books, claiming serials, interlibrary loan and all of the other things we do, but service is why we are there."

This sort of work is not new to Scott, who came to Notre Dame in August 1986 after seven years at Michigan State University, three of them as Assistant Head of the Science Libraries. Although she was primarily responsible for technical services and stack maintenance in the Science Libraries, she was also involved in reference and collection development. A number of special projects provided her with valuable experience, among them assisting in planning and supervising the move of a 500,000-volume collection, a study on library instruction for the Association of Research Libraries' Office of Management Studies and involvement in a serials automation project.

Her work in the libraries at Michigan State and Notre Dame have allowed her to indulge her two greatest professional interests, science libraries and library automation. Although she earned her bachelor's degree in German from Auburn University, she had originally majored in microbiology at Washington State University before moving to Alabama. She taught high school German, French and biology in Alabama for one year and earned a master's degree in education from the University of Georgia before moving with her husband to Michigan, where she earned her M.L.S. from the University of Michigan. Prior to her appointment in the Science Libraries, Scott spent three years as a cataloger at MSU, her first professional position, and one year as assistant head of copy cataloging. She feels this was good preparation for a career in librarianship. "It gave me a background in library automation and my first experience with computers. I tend to feel that every librarian should have some cataloging or tech services background because it gives you a grounding in what really goes on behind the scenes and in how to solve problems."

Solving space problems has been a major concern for Scott since she first came to Notre Dame. The Chemistry/Physics Library is filled to 98% of capacity, a situation that is uncomfortable for library patrons and staff, and harmful to the collection. "I would like to be able to house the materials and the staff we have in adequate facilities, to have enough shelf space so that we could shelve all of our materials without being 100% full," Scott says. She also would like to see expanded serials budgets and more staffing in the Chemistry/Physics Library, "because it is such a busy branch it can be difficult to get all of the work done." She thinks the staffing problems may ease somewhat once the online catalog is available, however. "I'm looking to automation as the great leap forward in helping us in the branches," she says.

Fiction and Publishing
by Patrick Max

When his publisher returned 706 of a 1,000 copy-printing of A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, Thoreau sardonically remarked that he had a library of 900 volumes, 700 of which he had written himself. He further observed, "Is it not well that an author should behold the fruits of his labor?" It is such less-than-enthusiastic irony (or, at best, ambivalence) that characterizes the relationship among writers, publishers and the reading public in America. Professors Thomas Werle and Elizabeth Christman of Notre Dame spoke on different aspects of this topic at the sixth annual Friends of the Library colloquium. The continued on page 4
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colloquium, held on April 9 in Memorial Library, addressed the topic of serious fiction and the publishing industry in America.

Professor Werge lectured on the complicated relationship between serious and popular fiction and between a writer and a potential readership in a democracy. He indicated that the distinction between serious and popular fiction is not always as clear cut as the difference between the work of Dante and that of Harold Robbins. Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Hemingway, Mailer and Oates, among others, have at times unquestionably written for a popular marketplace and other times serendipitously finding a large appreciative audience for their serious works.

From Werge's lecture, it became clear that popular and serious writing are not necessarily mutually exclusive acts. However, serious fiction can hardly be assured an equally serious reading in any given case. The interest of a reading public that idolizes Judith Krantz, Robert Schuler and the "novelization" of sub-literary teleplays may not be engaged by the novels of John Gardner or Walker Percy.

If a single author may write popular and serious fiction, and if the audiences for serious and popular fiction are not necessarily distinct, what is the difference between the two? Werge suggested that perhaps the major distinguishing feature of serious fiction is "risk," the willingness to jeopardize one's chance at popularity and conventional success by not repeating the cliche. This risk deepens and intensifies conventions only echoed by popular literature and may even alienate a popular audience. Such a venture is characterized by its moral earnestness, its interest in the spiritual and metaphysical and its deep concern for values other than those narrowly associated with the act of writing. Werge concluded that, in such a scheme, writing and reading become acts of "tenderness and faith," and fiction a "glimpse of the truth."

It was easily enough surmised from Professor Werge's discussion of fiction and Professor Christian's of the publishing and bookselling business that Waldenbooks, had it existed in the 19th century, would not have published the book Walden. For the huge conglomerates that now own most of the publishing industry (and their retailing counterparts the chain and cloned bookstores), "risk" implies balancing the profit margin from a theme park with the profit margin from Jane Fonda's latest workout book. Christian indicated that although publishing has always been to some degree a business, it is now a big business, run primarily by conglomerates that have many interests from oil wells to novels. A resulting problem is that these interests may begin to merge into a single concept—a vision of "product," in which a ferris wheel is indistinguishable from Helpin's latest novel. In this conservative marketplace the common wisdom is to repeat the literary cliche at its lowest common denominator until it no longer bears repeating, until even the American public tires of working out, of its celebrity bedside books of self-esteem and its frenzied concern for ersatz self-analysis and spiritual cosmetology. Additionally, the problem now for first and serious writers is that very frequently in a world of big business, they are not... big business. Conglomerates are geared to the "blockbuster," to the very modest profits that were once considered acceptable on a run of 5,000 or 10,000 books. Even if a novel might show a marginal profit on a modest printing, the profit could be of no real significance when compared to the high volume take on a day's gate receipts at a theme park.

With the leveling of popular taste and the advance of big business, there ought to be a real question as to whether, in today's publishing climate, Moby Dick would ever have been printed, or whether Thoreau's "Walden" would have been his last published book—apples wild and crabbed, rejected by a bland public palate or a shortsighted conglomerate.

Planning Day 1987
by Jo Bessler

On March 18, 1987, the University Libraries held its second official Planning Day. Over 70 members of the Libraries' staff discussed library needs and goals and suggested priorities for 1988-89.

In the morning of Planning Day, the previous development plan was reviewed and a variety of key issues were surveyed. Beth Picknett, Co-chair of the Libraries' Working Group on Organizational Issues, described progress made on issues raised at the first Planning Day. Bob Wittorf, the Libraries' Systems Manager, provided an update on the implementation of the Libraries' automated system and Jo Bessler, Chair of the Development Plan Task Force, identified goals in the Five Year Development Plan which have been achieved and indicated the extent of progress made on the remaining goals.

The morning's highlight was a series of brief talks exploring six general areas of need: acquisitions, preservation, space, services, staff development and funding. In succinct presentations, members of the library staff outlined major (and, often, competing) priorities in each of these areas. They then explained the urgency of their priorities with regards to fiscal year 1988-89.

In the afternoon, participants worked in small issue-related groups. Each group analyzed needs in one of the six general areas and drafted suggestions for addressing the most pressing of these needs.

Overall, the issues of space, preservation, and funding were identified as the areas of most critical need.

The Libraries' Planning Committee, which organized Planning Day, is now studying the Day's findings. The Committee will issue a report documenting the Day's discussions and the Committee's recommendations. After evaluating the issues, problems, needs and responses suggested on Planning Day (and in other planning meetings and discussions), the Committee will draft a list of goals for 1988-89 for the Libraries' Administrative Committee to consider this June.
The Acquisitions Budget for 1987-88: The Realities of Inflation
by Robert C. Miller

Throughout the UC [University of California] system, libraries will reduce acquisitions by 50,000 to 80,000 volumes this year. More than 3,000 subscriptions to scholarly journals will be cancelled, some in fields such as medicine and technology. Foreign acquisitions will be cut by up to 50 percent on some campuses. At most campuses, science and technology libraries are cutting back book purchases by as much as 60 percent in order to pay for journal subscriptions. In spite of these strategies, some campuses will stop buying books in March, three months before the end of the fiscal year.

—UC newsletter

This description of the situation in the University of California Libraries could be applied with only slight modification to almost any research library in the United States. The principal cause of this dilemma has been rapidly escalating prices for materials published abroad, due to the continuing decline in the value of the dollar (down almost 40% in two years) and to discriminatory pricing by a number of foreign journal publishers.

At Notre Dame, despite a general serials inflation rate in excess of 18%, the full impact of these factors has not yet been felt, thanks largely to the availability of carry-over balances in various endowment funds. It has become clear, however, that long-range prospects are troublesome and that a careful review of both funding needs and strategies must begin immediately. In this effort we will be guided by the following assumptions:

* The current serials subscription list, while meritig some review, is basically sound.
* The University Libraries should maintain the capacity to add new journals in a regular fashion.
* The approval programs have contributed significantly to a more balanced development of the collections and to the Libraries' ability to promptly acquire and put new books on the shelves for users.
* The University Libraries should provide its users some access to electronic media.
* The binding of journals and a modest repair rebinding operation need to be maintained.

At a special meeting held March 23, the University Committee on Libraries reviewed at length the fiscal situation. There was unanimity on the fact that the then-proposed level of funding was inadequate for the existing programs, on the Libraries' general guidelines outlined above and on raising the level of funding as called for in the University's current capital campaign. The latter was judged to be critical.

Further discussions with the Provost subsequent to that committee meeting have resulted in an acquisitions budget which will enable the Libraries to defer any serious disruption in the current programs for at least a year. This budget is made possible by a substantial increase in the University allocation (one that is more than double the standard University increase in supply and equipment funds), reductions by the Libraries in supply and equipment accounts, continued modest growth in endowment income and a one-time grant of $110,000 from the Provost.

Despite this temporary relief and because of the large amount of "soft" money involved, longer term prospects remain uncertain. The Libraries must take advantage of this year's respite from more serious financial stringency to improve our ability to deal with whatever our fiscal future brings. Accordingly, we will evaluate the effectiveness of all our acquisitions programs, including our subscriptions list.

Although we do not anticipate a mandated quota for cancellations, library bibliographers and liaison personnel will be working with individual academic units in order to identify serials which no longer contribute significantly to academic programs and research at Notre Dame. To ensure that the needs of the entire academic community are considered, a list of suggested cancellations will be widely circulated, and reviewed by a joint Libraries/University Committee on Libraries group before any cancellations take place. The distribution and use of acquisitions funds for other types of materials will be similarly examined for effectiveness.

The reviews described above will take place during the next year. A more immediate change in the method of financing new subscriptions will take effect with the 1987-88 budget. In recent years, an amount of money for new subscriptions has been provided in the Libraries' serials budget, and new subscriptions requests up to approximately that amount have been approved annually by the Collection Development Committee. Beginning in 1987-88, any new subscriptions will have to be financed by money transferred from departmental allocations, or by endowment funds available to departments. In effect, units will be asked to determine the relative emphasis to be placed on new books or journals in their discipline. Details of these new procedures will be distributed shortly.

The past few years have been good ones for the Libraries and the work they support. Funding for acquisitions has more than doubled since 1978-79, more than 1,450 new subscriptions have been placed, current acquisitions regularized through approval programs and gaps in many areas filled. Much more, of course, remains to be done, which makes the current reviews so critical. There is no question that the coming fiscal year will be a difficult one for the Libraries' acquisitions program. We are convinced, however, that through careful work and cooperation by library, teaching and research faculty, we can ensure continued progress in the ongoing development of the collections appropriate to the research and teaching at Notre Dame.


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Close at hand, we can now see the completion of the phase which included planning, preparation, and installation of many of the components of the system. The end marks the beginning of the time when the Libraries' users can obtain rapid, accurate, and complete information about library resources in a manner never possible with the card catalog.

Irish Program

by Patrick Max

I read in my book of songs
I bought at the Sligo fair.

In search of a distinctively Irish voice for his poetry, in contrast to the dry 18th-century rhetorical measures of his day, William Butler Yeats drew upon the street ballad, the broadside and the traditional music of Ireland. Professor David Clark, in a lecture entitled "Out of a People, In a People," spoke of the way in which these sources influenced Yeats' poetry. Speaking at the Friends of the Library Irish Day celebration, Clark further indicated that Yeats was able to create, through the vivid images and music of his poetry, the heroic roles so critical to his culture—the soldier; poet; chieftain; patriot; teacher; priest. . . .

At least one series of artifacts that resulted from Yeats' interest in music were his broadsides, produced at the Cuala Press. The broadsides were basically a Yeats family production. William wrote the ballads, his brother Jack did many of the illustrations and they were beautifully typeset and hand painted under the direction of their sister at the Cuala Press. Professor Clark drew upon a collection of these handsomely crafted works (held in the Libraries' Department of Special Collections) for slides with which to illustrate his talk. Additionally, his lecture was enhanced by the actual recreation of several of the ballads by musician David James. In the tradition of classical art (and the Irish pub) Clark's presentation was both informative and entertaining.

When I play my fiddle in Dooney
Folk dance like a wave of the sea

If the first part of the Friends' Irish Day program was informative and entertaining, the second part might best be characterized as entertaining and informative. David James, who had earlier performed several ballads during Clark's lecture, was joined by several other talented musicians for a night of traditional music. Irish musicians Kevin and Maggie Henry performed on a variety of traditional instruments that included the fiddle, whistle, bodhran, the wooden flute and the uilleann pipes. Later, David James, who has won national awards here and in Ireland for his work on the hammered dulcimer, was joined by fiddler Dan Gellert and singer Rosie McCormick for a series of reels, jigs, and ballads that included the music of O'Carolan and other folk composers. The Henrys and James and his friends provided a rather intensive seminar in Irish music over the course of the evening.

But if the music informed, it entertained more. The reels and jigs had people clapping and stamping. And there were a few O'Carolan pieces that were so lovely and haunting they touched a sensibility that seemed created out of a distant shared past. At times, the unspoken memory of that tradition warmed like a drop of "Irish," bogside, before a peat fire, long, long ago.

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Editor: Patrick Max
Typist: Susan Feirick

Access Editorial Committee:
Katharina Blackstead
Vicki Maachouk (ex officio)
Patrick Max, Chairperson
Jan Maxwell
Betsy Moon

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University Libraries
University of Notre Dame
Room 221
Theodore M. Hesburgh Library
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5629