DATA BASE SEARCHING
SERVICE TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

As the 1980-81 academic year begins to take shape this fall, the University Libraries will inaugurate into its public service program a capability which has now become part of the "state of art" for reference facilities in all large American academic and research libraries. On October 1, 1980, we will formally initiate the University Libraries Date Base Services.

The Libraries have contracted with Lockheed Information Services, a branch of the parent aerospace corporation, for use, via telephone line, of a computer in Palo Alto, California, which permits researchers here, and all over the world, to perform online computerized literature searches.

At the Memorial Library Reference Department, the Engineering Library and the Chem/Physics Library, librarians will be at your disposal to conduct online literature searches, on a fee basis, of commercially available data bases. The Lockheed service contains over 100 data bases, among which are such bibliographic staples as Chem Abstracts, Engineering Index, Psychological Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, Philosopher's Index, and the MLA Bibliography, as well as such statistical and predictive business tools as Predcasts.

A computerized literature search makes use of Boolean logic to perform a vastly accelerated version of what happens thousands of times daily in reference collections worldwide: the scanning of indexes and abstracts to find journal articles, books, technical reports, reviews, dissertations, etc., relevant to a particular search topic. As such, an online search can save hours of tedious work and be somewhat less subject to human error than a manual search of the indexes and abstracts. Furthermore, in addition to single retrospective searches, current awareness profiles can be established on several data bases to provide automatic monthly update searches.

As in many other academic libraries, the services here will operate on a cost-recovery basis. For that reason, it will be necessary to pass usage costs along to the patron. An average search, including a list print-out, costs around $15, though the business and management data bases are generally more expensive than that.

During the month of October, as an incentive for Notre Dame faculty and students to familiarize themselves with the program, the Libraries' Data Base Services will offer a discount for searches. There will be no charge to the patron for the first $20 in fees incurred for a search, including print-out. Any cost beyond that amount will be passed on to the patron. Only two such discounted searches will be allowed per patron during the month.

On October 1, Dr. Joseph DiSalvo, of the Lockheed Chicago office, will give a lecture and demonstration on online computerized data base searching at 10:30 a.m. in Room 242, O'Shaughnessy, the Satellite Room. From

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1:00 to 3:00 p.m. that afternoon, Dr. DiSalvo will do sample searches, chosen by the patrons for interested students and faculty in the Data Base Office, Room 116, Memorial Library. You are welcome to one or both of these sessions. If you are interested yet unable to attend the morning lecture-demonstration, do not hesitate to stop by Memorial Library in the afternoon, since the sample searching done in the afternoon will not presuppose attendance at the morning session. The afternoon session will be informal.

We at the Libraries are pleased to inaugurate this online data base search capacity. It is an important and, perhaps, overdue addition to our public service agenda. We hope that it will enable us to enhance our services to the Notre Dame community.

For further information, contact the Main Library Reference Office (6258), the Engineering Library (6665), or the Chem/Physics Library (7203).

James T. Deffenbaugh

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The academic year ending June 30, 1980 witnessed solid accomplishments of both long range and immediate value for the University Libraries. The Five-Year Development Plan for the Libraries was completed and reviewed by the Faculty Committee for University Libraries and the Libraries' Advisory Council and submitted to the Provost.

In part as a result of the Development Plan, a part-time library preservation officer was appointed to coordinate the Libraries' activities in this area, and work began to both develop policies and review particular areas of the collections. Also in response to the Five-Year Plan the Provost provided a special one-time grant for the enhancement of the Libraries' collections of musical scores.

As another step in more careful planning for the future, the Libraries completed plans to undertake in 1980-81 a Collection Analysis Project with the assistance of the Office of Management Studies of the Association of Research Libraries. This program is designed to provide an overall evaluation of the Libraries' collections and related policies and procedures. In the meantime, specific collection development policies were developed in several areas and a carefully worked-out approval program was begun July 1, 1979 to obtain broad and timely coverage of current American scholarly publications.

The past year was an especially busy one for the National Endowment for the Humanities Program, with spending totalling $158,000. Among the specific areas in which there was major buying were Spanish and German literature, the American presidency, Russian revolutionary literature, art history, film studies, French philosophy, liturgy, theological series, medieval manuscripts, and material culture. More generally, the funds have been used to acquire scholarly monographs in the humanities published in the last 35 years which were not purchased at time of publication.

The Libraries intensified their in-depth study and preparation for the implementation of new national cataloging rules on January 1, 1981. At the same time, ongoing cataloging activities continued and by the end of the year, the recently purchased Douglas Woodruff Library had been largely processed. Significant progress had also been made on the Stevens Collection of Protestant Theology, the John Bennett Shaw Collection of English and American Literature, and several smaller bulk acquisitions. The receipt of a copy of the catalog of the 40,000-volume Anastos Library of Byzantine Studies (acquired by the University in 1977) aided in the coordination of activities between Notre Dame and Los Angeles where the collection is housed. After several years of discussion, responsibility for the processing and servicing of the documents of the European Community was assigned to the Documents Unit of the Reference Department. Throughout Technical
Services, workflows continue to be critically examined to ensure efficiency and effective control of operations and material.

The establishment of a formal map collection in Memorial Library was completed and, late in the year, the remaining materials in the Earth Sciences Library were transferred to Memorial Library. Final plans were made for the inauguration in the Fall of 1980 of data base services to be available initially in the Memorial, Chemistry/Physics and Engineering Libraries.

A special library committee, which included student and teaching faculty membership, undertook a detailed review of the College Library collection and the role of the Libraries in instructional services to undergraduates. As a result of its study, which included surveys of student and faculty attitudes and use, the group recommended the abolition of the College Library collection and the integration of the materials into the general collections of the University Libraries. This proposal and related recommendations are currently under review by the Faculty Committee for University Libraries. Another library committee studied the circulation policies and procedures and recommended a number of changes for consideration by the Faculty Committee.

A highly visible product of the year was the appearance of ACCESS, a newsletter designed to provide to the teaching faculty pertinent information on the services, collections and policies of the University Libraries and to keep them generally aware of library developments that might affect their teaching and/or research.

Throughout the Libraries efforts at refining organization and staffing continued. As a result there were several reassignments designed to reduce administrative overhead and increase the Libraries' overall productivity.

Statistical data are an inevitable part of most library reports, which is appropriate as they tend to highlight the easily overlooked fact that libraries are high volume organizations. For example, in the year ending June 30, 1980, the University Libraries received and processed some 20,000 order requests; actually placed 17,477 orders; handled over 100,000 individual items; spent over $1 million for materials on the basis of almost 5,500 invoices; cataloged more than 24,000 different titles for 23 different locations; filed 266,000 cards into the catalogs; circulated almost 200,000 items; reshelved 370,000 volumes. This listing of minutiae could continue almost endlessly. The point is that despite the sometimes semblance of somnolence in a library, we are a very busy place, and that the mistakes we make usually result from the volume and complexity of the work. Individually and collectively, we are dedicated to doing the best job possible for the students and faculty of the University. In this effort we ask your patience with our errors and your assistance in letting us know how we can serve you better. You can be assured we will try.

In that spirit of service, it is fitting that the accomplishments and efforts of the past year be dedicated to the memory of L. Franklin Long, Assistant Director for Science and Engineering Libraries, who passed on in mid-June of 1980, a few short weeks before his scheduled retirement after 27 years of service to the University. In his hard work, gentle spirit, and dedication to service, Frank represented all that is best in academic librarianship and has set a model for us all.

Robert C. Miller

FACULTY SURVEY
STUDY YIELDS HELPFUL INSIGHTS, SPARKS CHANGES

During the Spring Semester of 1979 a faculty survey was sent to all members of the teaching and research, research, library and professional faculties at the University of Notre Dame. The survey was designed to solicit faculty members' experiences and attitudes on both the University Libraries' collections and its opera-
tions. The factual part of the survey covered 56 questions relating to use of the Memorial Library, the branch libraries and reasons for not using the Libraries. The other 62 questions were on the faculty opinion of various library aspects including budget, collections and services. There were also open-end questions at the end of the survey.

The results from the 312 returned answer sheets were analyzed with the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) program. Frequency distribution was run on all questions and cross tabulations were done on selected questions. Eighty-two percent of the respondents were teaching and research faculty, 42% from Arts and Letters, 23% from Science, 13% from Engineering, and 9% from Business Administration.

There were 18 questions on use of various services within the Memorial Library. In five of those questions less than 10% of the respondents indicated the service wasn't needed, and in another five over 50% indicated the service was never used. The former group included: consulting the card catalog, using the periodicals room, consulting material in the tower, checking out materials, and using reference materials. The latter group included use of the Rare Book Room, the Audio Center, and the Microtext Reading Room, seeking library instruction for students, and use of the Government Document Center.

The reasons with the highest percentage of agreement for not using the library were: having all materials needed (9%) and having other non-library sources available (8%). Surprisingly, 38% said they use the South Bend or Mishawaka Public Libraries, but whether this library use was for research is not known.

Strongly agree and agree responses to attitude questions were totaled and disagree and strongly disagree responses were totaled. The comparison of these two figures for each question showed 11 questions had over 75% of the responses either in the agree/strongly agree areas or vice versa. These questions included: it takes too long to get new books into the library (81% agreed), students need to know how to use library (95% agreed), the mixture of current versus old imprints bought on library funds should be a department's choice (84% agreed), the proportion of books versus periodicals acquired from budgeted monies should be a department's choice (76% agreed), the card catalog is difficult to use (77% disagreed), library should reduce the number of periodical subscriptions (79% disagreed), it is easy and convenient to check out items (79% agreed) and the library staff is helpful in locating materials (82% agreed).

A series of questions dealing with possible increases or reductions in the library budget revealed the following ranked priorities for the use of additional funds: the highest was to buy more books, then in rank order, buy more journals, reduce the time it takes to prepare new materials, add special library services and extend reference hours. The reverse order was given for possible budget cuts.

The results of the faculty survey along with other events have caused the University Libraries to restudy some of its procedures. The survey had shown 54% disagreed or strongly disagreed on having a separate undergraduate collection, and 56% felt there should be a more formal library instruction for undergraduates. In the Spring of 1980 a committee was formed to look at our library service to undergraduates, including the use of the second floor of Memorial Library. (A special issue of ACCESS this Fall will report on the findings of this committee.) Again, the survey had shown that 85% of the respondents indicated that they check material out of the library but 18% felt it was not easy or convenient to do so. As a consequence of this finding, a second committee was set up in the Spring of 1980 to attempt an indepth analysis of circulation policies and procedures for the Memorial Library.

In response to a strongly expressed need for getting new books into the library (82% of the respondents) and in the light of the library's responsibility to see that important new books are added (68% of respondents), the University Libraries have instituted a book purchasing "approval plan" where new United States imprints of specific publishers come directly to the library for examination without an individual request for each title.
The survey had seven questions relating to collection use, the responses to which indicate that between 39% and 53% of the faculty feel the library does not have all the library items needed. One of the five questions on faculty involvement in the development of the Libraries' collection indicates that 66% of the respondents feel the faculty is ultimately responsible for collection development. The survey also had 11 questions on budgeting for books. Because of the importance of the collections in the eyes of the faculty as revealed in the survey, it was decided that the University Libraries will participate in a project to analyze the collections, with the assistance of the Association of Research Libraries. This Collection Analysis Project and related studies will be undertaken during the current academic year.

Seventy-seven percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the need for having the ability to search major subject data bases through a computer communications terminal. The University community now has access in the Libraries to the Lockheed/DIALOG data base service. (See the lead article in this issue of ACCESS.)

In the Spring of 1980 a student survey was carried out using a number of the same questions from the faculty survey. For those interested, the results of both surveys are available through Robert Miller, Director of Libraries.

The faculty survey and its results have been useful to the University Libraries in understanding the experiences and attitudes of the faculty. The data from this study will continue to be used in the future when various other studies and committees are organized.

Susan D. Baldwin

THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE: NTIS
GIANT OF ALTERNATIVE PUBLISHING

The Engineering Library is Notre Dame's information resource and chief access point for the publications of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), a federal agency whose output, as measured in number of titles distributed, makes it the largest publisher in the world.

NTIS currently publishes about 8,000 new titles each year, twice as many as all commercial American publishers combined. Random House doesn't have to worry about competition from NTIS for the mass market, however. The NTIS all-time best seller, An Inexpensive Economical Solar Heating System for Homes, at last report sold only a modest 45,000 copies. Most NTIS items sell fewer than 50 copies, and as much as a third of its output may never find even a single purchaser. That is because the NTIS publications are technical reports and associated printed material from government agencies and contractors.

NTIS offers a sometimes astonishing variety of goods and services, from licenses for government-owned patents on methods of making snack foods to transcripts of Iranian radio broadcasts. Its primary product, however, is the technical report which presents research results, usually from research funded by the federal government. The subject matter of these reports is by no means limited to engineering and the hard sciences. The December 7, 1979 issue of NTIS's primary abstracting journal, Government Reports Announcements and Index (hereafter referred to as GRA) lists not only technical titles such as Coal-Fired Open Cycle Magneto-hydrodynamic Power Plant Emissions and Energy Efficiencies, but also such items as Helping Women Learn to Mind Their Own Business, a report from the American Woman's Economic Development Corporation.

NTIS is similar in many respects to ERIC, The Educational Resources and Information Center, an organization which is better known to scholars in the humanities and the social sciences. NTIS may be thought of as a larger version of ERIC with a broader mandate. Both ERIC and NTIS rely heavily on
microfiche for dissemination of their reports. NTIS was, in fact, the first large user of microfiche and is today the world's largest micropublisher. NTIS's abstracting journal, GRA, is similar in format to ERIC's Resources in Education and uses the same system of descriptors and identifiers.

Neither NTIS nor ERIC attempts to maintain any quality control over the reports input to their respective systems and consequently in both cases the quality of the resulting product is highly variable. It is in the last analysis un-refereed literature, but the information it contains is often very valuable since the documents usually represent the first reporting of research results. Also the reports may be the only source of important data, such as extensive tables of experimental results, which will be condensed in a refereed journal for lack of space. The quality and legibility of the physical documents in both ERIC and NTIS varies from fair to atrocious.

The Department of Defense has its own clearing house for documents, the Defense Technical Information Center (formerly the Defense Documentation Center) where distribution is limited for security reasons. DTIC reports, like NTIS reports, are not limited to the hard sciences but include, for example, strategic and political analyses. DTIC's abstracting journal, the Technical Abstract Bulletin, is itself a restricted document. The Engineering Library receives a copy of this journal, but it has been advised that only authorized users should be granted access to it. Nevertheless, free computerized searches of the DTIC database, which now contains over one million documents, are available to authorized users through the Engineering Library and most of the reports can be made available to qualified researchers with few restrictions. As DTIC reports are declassified by the military, they are made available through the NTIS system.

The Engineering Library orders NTIS and DTIC documents for faculty and students of the College of Engineering using an account established by the College for that purpose. The Library also provides bibliographical information and ordering assistance to other requesters from the Notre Dame community.


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