UPDATE ON INFORMATION SCIENCE ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN CANADA

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ABSTRACT

This is an update to the paper presented last year by
Margot McBurney on computerized library systems in the
four western provinces. In many cases only eight months
have elapsed as a result substantial changes have not
taken place. Catalogue support systems, circulation
systems and improved access to Government Publications
seem to be the main systems receiving attention in the
west presently.

RESUME

Cet article est une mise à jour de celui présenté l'an
dernier par Margot McBurney sur les systèmes automatisés
de bibliothèque dans les provinces de l'Ouest. Dans
plusieurs cas, seulement 8 mois se sont écoulés et peu
de changements sont survenus durant cette courte période.
Les systèmes de support catalographique, les systèmes de prêt
et un accès amélioré aux publications officielles semblent
être les systèmes qui retiennent l'attention à l'heure
actuelle.

INTRODUCTION

While the ability to transmit and receive data via various networks becomes easier, gathering information for a report such as this is still difficult. To those that provided information, it was very much appreciated. To those that I missed, my apologies. Those that I am indebted for assistance include Bob Campbell, Don Dennis, Jack Thompson, Charles Davis, Joyce Tomie, Oldrich Standera, Ian MacLean, Sandra Dey, Barbara ElDeiry and Eric Marshall. In many cases I have used the exact copy provided to me from those mentioned.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Union Catalogue Project (BCUC)

This project is to provide a Union Catalogue of holdings for the province in the secondary educational institutions and is funded by the Ministry of Education. A project office has been funded and staff hired to handle the training and network requirements for the institutions. The University of Toronto Library Automated System is the facility and data base that is being accessed to provide each of the libraries with the output products they require for their own catalogues. The funding is on a shared basis with each institution paying some of the costs and the Ministry of Education sharing those costs as well as paying for the production of the Union Catalogue of materials.

Since the beginning of September, 1977, on-line terminals in the cataloguing division at Simon Fraser University library have been used to communicate bibliographic data between Burnaby and the University of Toronto's Library Automation Systems (UT/LAS).

By the following week three terminals were in use. Two of the three are used to search arriving materials in the UT/LAS data bases. Where matching bibliographic records are found, S.F.U.'s call number and location information are added and sets of printed cards ordered. The third terminal is used for S.F.U.'s RECON (for REtrospective CONversion) Project. Using the UT/LAS system, S.F.U. is converting its entire present card catalogue to machine-readable form, with the ultimate goal of substituting a machine-produced catalogue for the present card catalogue. S.F.U. hopes in this way to move away from the traditional concept of the user needs and will permit "radically improved information retrieval and delivery systems."

British Columbia Institute of Technology library is scheducled to connect with UT/LAS in October, 1977, and within the next six months it is expected that the system will include the libraries of Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, University of British Columbia, and the University of Victoria. UBC will start cataloguing 1978 imprints in February, 1978.

Budget submissions are currently being prepared to permit educational institutions outside the lower mainland to participate in the Project.

Co-operative Projects

The B.C. Colleges and the Greater Vancouver Public Library Network are using the UBC library serials system to record subscription and holdings information. Initially the system will be used to produce union lists of serials. The Vancouver city college and the Vancouver Public Library are considering using the check-in facilities of the system.

Vancouver Public Library

A number of circulation systems have been evaluated. A report has been submitted to City Council and VPL is anxiously awaiting their decision.

The University of British Columbia School of Librarianship On-Line Cataloguing Instruction

Librarians who remember what cataloguing instruction was like when they went to library school might like to know that times have changed. Starting this past fall term at the U.B.C. School of Librarianship, all students are required to operate interactive computer terminals in the school's Bibliographic Computing Laboratory as part of their cataloguing instruction. Students use on-line printers and CRT display terminals to access Canadian MARC records, using an information retrieval program similar to the one operated from the University of Toronto's support system. Results of searches may be checked by the students, edited or changed to make the bibliographic data conform to authority files, then output in 3x5 or other printed formats with ISBD punctuation and in various alphabetical sequences. The school expects that students starting the program this year and graduating in 1979 will enter libraries with a clear grasp of both the convenience and the complexities of computerbased cataloguing systems, as well as with hands-on experience at using the computer for bibliographic work.

Provincial Government

Hermes Satelite. The B.C. Government had the opportunity to use the HERMES telecommunications satelite from Oct. 25 to Dec. 15, 1977. Transmission facilities were established at B.C.I.T. and five receiving stations were set up throughout the province. A number of experiments were conducted using the television, voice and data transmission capabilities of the satelite and the local cable tv systems in the receiving communities. The B.C. department of education sponsored a number of programs related to education at a distance. The University, College and Public Libraries participated in producing a variety of

programs including information on topics of interest, answering reference questions, training for on-line searches of bibliographic data bases.

The experiments provided a brief look at what might be available in the near future.

COM Holdings. The government funded project to produce on COM the holdings information of the three universities for distribution to the colleges throughout the province was completed last fall. Three lists were produced for each university; call number, author and title, and serials by main entry, totalling 800 fiche.

The interlibrary loan activity with the colleges has increased significantly, and is also being funded by the provincial government.

ALBERTA

General

There were several projects undertaken during the year that are of a provincial nature. A brief description of each of these follows:

DOBIS

The major libraries in Alberta; public, governmental and higher education have pursued the possibility of implementing a pilot computer-based library network in Alberta. The proposal, developed by the University of Alberta, recommended implemention of the DOBIS system for two year pilot project. It was not planned to implement all of the functions offered by DOBIS within the two years, however the bases of a provincial library network would be laid and telecommunications access to the DOBIS facilities at the National Library would be implemented. The funding for the project was to be shared by the Federal and Provincial governments. The Provincial funding has not been obtained and at time of writing other alternatives for this funding were being pursued.

GAP

The acronym stands for Government of Alberta Publications. A provincial task force was formed in November 1977 to establish a cooperative of those wishing to use and import records into the GAP file.

The GAP file is a data base of references to publications produced by Alberta Government Departments, Boards and Agencies. It was initially created through a cooperative venture between the Research Council of Alberta, Public Affairs Division of the Department of Government Services and the University of Alberta. It is being housed on the spires system at the University of Alberta and can be searched on-line. The National

Research Council has expressed interest to offer GAP as part of their CAN/OLE service.

Partly as a result of the GAP task force discussion has also been initiated about cooperation with the implementation of CODOC. The Legislative Library in Edmonton will be leasing the system shortly and the University of Calgary Library and Calgary Public Library are considering the system, also.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

The University of Alberta Faculty of Library Science is now midway through the second year of its new two-year M.L.S. program, and it is continuing to move ahead with the implementation of a research-oriented program with definite information science overtones. A certain amount of applied information science is being incorporated into the traditional courses such as reference, cataloguing and classification, and administration and management. There are new courses as well. The required course in Research Methods and Systems Evaluation is designed to acquaint students with the fundamentals of systems analysis as well as "classical" concepts such as hypothesis construction and testing, and it includes an introduction to both descriptive and basic inferential statistics. In the second year, students have the option of taking a new second-level course in data processing for libraries that provides hands-on experience with the University's research computer. Among other things students learn relevant computer programming for such library and information center tasks as keyword indexing, document retrieval, and SDI (the Selective Dissemination of Information). This part of the curriculum goes well beyond on-line searching, which is viewed as part of the more basic courses, and covers the implementation as well as design of automated systems through batch-mode and on-line programming. During this part of the program students are also required to do either a thesis or a major project. The thesis option is clearly intended for those interested in research, while the major project may be preferred by students whose studies are of a more practical and professional nature.

Workshops, Seminars, Student Chapter of ASIS

During this year, the Faculty has sponsored a number of seminars and workshops, including a presentation dealing with OCLC and a highly successful series of workshops on PRECIS, conducted by Andre Nitecki. A Student Chapter of ASIS was chartered at the Mid-Year Meeting at Syracuse, and it is expected that the Chapter will work actively with Wes-Can ASIS, particularly since ASIS has Banff as the site for the 1979 Mid-Year Meeting of the Society.

Data Base of Librarians and Library Technicians

The faculty of Library Science has a data base of more than 800 librarians and library technicians in Alberta. It also has a smaller list of the Faculty's alumni. The data bases are used to provide labels for newsletter mailings such as Letter of the LAA published by the Library Association of Alberta, for mailings for workshops, etc.

OCLC

Students in the Faculty of Library Science now have access to OCLC through Tymnet. A special allowance from the University's Office for Planning and Development has permitted the school to add a high-speed portable terminal to its existing stationary terminal. Both will be used for demonstrating OCLC and other computer-based systems. They are already using DIALOG, Infomart, and CAN/OLE.

Doctoral Dissertations in Progress

A computerized data base of doctoral dissertations in progress in Canada and the United States has been moved from the University of Michigan to the Faculty of Library Science. This is available for on-line searching by author, title, or subject through the new DATAPAC network.

LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The 1976 Petroleum Abstract tapes were made available free to the University of Calgary and the viability of the current awareness service was put to test. After one year of service it has been possible to purchase the 1977 tapes from the 1976 revenue and the service has been continued for nearly 50 profiles.

Like many other Libraries, projects currently active include: Improved Access to Government Documents, probably CODOC; Upgrading of Circulation System Hardware, Implementation of the Knogo Book Detection System and Minor Improvements to our Acquisitions/Cataloguing System, TESA, Calgary version. A project will also be initiated soon to look at How to close down the card catalogue in its present form and to provide a suitable alternative.

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Circulation System

The Calgary Public Library has purchased the Plessey Module 4 Control System to be installed early in 1978, in two locations at the Central Library, twelve branches, and the bookmobile center. The system uses light pen terminals to read bar code labels on circulating materials. The Module 4, which uses an Interdata Model 7/32 minicomputer, provides full enquiry by author, title, call number, bar code number or ISBN,

plus other features such as calculation of fines, overdue notices production and statistical data generation.

On-line Data Bases

The Business & Science Department has added an on-line information retrieval service on an experimental basis. Data bases included are LOCKHEED, CAN/OLE, QL Systems, INFOMART, I.P. SHARPE and GAP.

Patrons will be charged 50% of computer costs during the first three months and 75% of costs during the next three months. After that time, the patron will pay full line charges.

MANITOBA

Freshwater Institute (Fisheries and Environment Canada)

The FAMULUS based retrieval system continues in use for references related to the collection, culture and bioassay methods for freshwater invertebrates.

On-line Searching

In the latter part of 1977 the number of on-line data base users increased following demonstrations by QL, CAN/OLE and Infomart in Winnipeg. Both the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg are now able to offer a full range of services in this area to their clients. The other users mentioned in last year's paper have consolidated their services with the addition of more vendors to those previously accessed.

Circulation Systems

The University of Winnipeg bar code system continues to function well and the University of Manitoba continues a slow expansion of its system to branch libraries.

Manifile

This data base of the world's non-ferrous metallic deposits has been expanded by the addition of data collected in South America.

SASKATCHEWAN

University of Saskatchewan

Circulation System. A new on-line minicomputer-based circulation system is being installed. The Bar-code labelling of the books has begun.

Serials. A project to create 16,000 short machine-readable records covering all current and non-current titles held by the University Library was completed last year. The coding of holdings of bound volumes has now been completed for 5000 of these titles and is proceeding rapidly.

Shelf-List Conversion. A project was begun last year to convert the Shelf-List to University of Saskatchewan min-Marc-compatible TESA-1 format. Well over 8000 records have now been converted to this format.

University of Regina

CODOC. This system is now fully operational and the Government Documents staff operate it quite independently now. The use of Government Documents has increased substantially since the introduction of this system.

Cataloguing Support. The automated cataloguing system study has now been completed and it was decided to use the UTLAS/CATSS. The professional cataloguing staff have been trained in MARC coding and in CATSS record derivation and modification and the catalogue copy editing staff are being trained to use CATSS for "on-line" editing. They hope to begin producing cards regularly by mid-February.

It is hoped that there will be continued support for the "one-year" retrospective conversion project be continued and that retrospective conversion might begin soon.

Computerized Bibliographic Search Services. A six month project has been approved for using computerized bibliographic search services. It is planned to charge communications costs to the users and that equipment and staff costs be supported by the Library and University budgets.

CANADIAN PLAINS RESEARCH CENTRE

The Canadian Plains Research Centre is continuing to expand a machine-readable data base of records describing research relevant to the Canadian Plains. They are currently involved in a project which will provide extra coverage specifically in the field of human justice and criminology.

The project of gathering Alberta Environmental information by Schick Information Systems Ltd. has now been completed and the Center hopes to have this material entered into the data base by the Spring of 1978.

They are still carrying out search services free of charge. They hope to set up a fee structure shortly.

CONCLUSION

The emphasis with Information Science Activities in Western Canada seems to be increased cooperation. The specific systems that seem to be receiving most attention are Cataloguing, Circulation and improved access to Government Documents.