

A SURVEY OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION
IN THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

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ABSTRACT

This paper gives a short account of some automation systems and resulting services at libraries in the three maritime provinces and Newfoundland.

INTRODUCTION

The compilation of a survey of this type requires input from knowledgeable people in several locations. In this case, these include Riaz Hussain, Marion Ivimey, Nelle Leidemer, James MacEacheron, H. B. Mitra, Anna Oxley, Pearce Penney, Don Scott, Carin Somers, Elizabeth Sutherland and Emile Theriault. Thanks are due to them and others for their contributions.

Association of Atlantic Universities

The AAU has been active in the development of an Atlantic Universities Computer network from which developed the formation of a Library Network based on the Blackwell North America (BNA) Cataloguing System. With the support of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and the cooperation of BNA, the system was transferred to University of New Brunswick computer facilities to form the AAU/BNA project. Present members of the group include 17 University, College, and Special libraries. Since January/77, the system has been providing members with catalogue cards and labels prepared according to their particular profile specification. Sources available include LC MARC, Canadian MARC, BNB MARC supplemented by BNA MARC records from contributing members. These form a comprehensive data base available to all users. A COM produced fiche listings and a shorter printed list of items in the AAU/BAA system have been produced as examples of the potential full union catalogue made possible by the system.

Initially, a school Library was linked with the AAU/BNA Project. This experiment has now concluded. A paper by Mary Louise Mills concerning this will appear in a forthcoming issue of the APLA Bulletin.

The University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

As the centre for the AAU/BNA project is located at the U.N.B. computer centre, the university library has been the pilot project for a library cataloguing all accessions as well as a conversion of library holdings from the Dewey Decimal Classification to the Library of Congress.

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system. Their experience can form the basis for a decision on the creation of a union catalogue for all or selected libraries in the system.

A pilot project on the preparation of an accessions bulletin from the system is underway at the UNB library.

New Brunswick Provincial Library

The book catalogue system initiated in 1975 has continued to operate successfully. Two articles describing it have appeared. (CAIS Fifth Conference, May 1977) and (APLA Bulletin, 41, No. 2 (1977)). The system uses OCR (optical character recognition) in its input phase to record a cataloguing record. The output includes a printed union catalogue for the province and individual catalogues for each of the five regional systems. Separate listings for items in English and French are provided by the system.

Newfoundland Provincial Library

A newspaper index for the province is planned by the provincial library. Alternate forms and costs estimates are being considered as part of this study. A selected system is in the testing phase.

Prince Edward Island

The Provincial Library has developed a system for book acquisition, which includes order processing, accounts control, cards and labels for end processing. This was based on a system used by the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. The extension of the system to include inventory files, book catalogues and circulation control is before the priority committee of the government computer facility.

Dartmouth Regional Library

The first complete update of the book catalogue increased the items listed from 46,000 to 60,000 and included some 5000 phonograph records. The inclusion of the vertical reference files in the subject listing has increased the use made of this material. Select catalogues for Large Print and Easy Read materials were prepared from the catalogue data base. The acceptance of the catalogue by users and staff has been excellent. Input to the catalogue using a terminal to the newly installed computer at the city offices is being studied.

Study of the use of MARC records supplied by the National Library has shown encouraging results for automatic input to the system.

The Annual Report of the Dartmouth Regional Library 1976 records their experience with the system. An article by Heather Harbord in the APLA Bulletin, 41, No. 2 (1977) describes the system.

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Halifax Memorial Library

An automated circulation system is being actively studied. The use of the recently installed NCR computer by the City of Halifax is being considered as the basis for an on-line system.

Memorial University St. John's, Newfoundland

Circulation control, based on the CLSI system, installed a year ago now carries 120,000 items and 11,000 patrons. Further items in storage are being added to complete the coverage of items circulated. The system, operating on a DEC PDP-11 computer, has presented few difficulties in its first year of operation.

Using KWOC technique, indexes have been developed for government reports and for reports and reprints related to the work of the Centre for Cold Ocean Resource Engineering. A series of programs to list serials holdings have been written for the university computer system. As with many of the universities in the Atlantic Provinces, extensive use is being made of the on-line search systems which now make available to library users the information stored in over one hundred data banks.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

The serials listing system has been extended to include the holdings of the University Library, Kellogg Health Science Library, Law and the Atlantic School of Theology. It is thus on its way to becoming a Union List of Dalhousie and affiliated library holdings.

Selected documents holdings in the University Library are being entered on a new KWOC providing words-in-title and added key-word access to that part of the collection of particular local interest.

An improved system for the production of catalogue cards to replace the MTST system is being installed using Multiwriter (Diablo) terminals for input and output and the CDC computer facilities of the University. In addition to the production of cards the system will be capable of storing a machine readable catalogue record.

A circulation system for the university libraries is under study. The development of a system involving the CDC computer facilities of the University is one of the possibilities being considered.

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St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

As part of the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) cooperative scheme, the University library is now obtaining a large proportion of their catalogue input from the Blackwell North America system operating at the University of New Brunswick. Satisfactory performance of the Profile, specific to the needs of St. Mary's, has presented some difficulty but this aspect is now satisfactory.

A serials check list has now been set up on the St. Mary's University computer facilities proving a local service and a possible link to a future AAU Union list of serials.

Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick

Based on University computer facilities, Mount Allison has developed Book Acquisition, Serials Acquisition and Listing Systems as well as a Documents Systems similar to the CODOC. The successful development of these systems has given impetus to the planning for an in-house cataloguing system based on acquired MARC records. This development will await improved computer facilities expected next year.

On-Line Consortium; Halifax

A number of users of on-line search systems in the Halifax Area have formed a group for co-operation and discussion. The University Members offer service to students and faculty and are prepared to run, for a charge, searches for others without the facilities and expertise to operate the service. The Consortium has organized a workshop on the machine readable data bases of Chemical Abstracts Service and plans others in the subject areas of most importance to the members. Most systems use the Lockheed, Systems Development Corp. (Informat), CAN/OLE and Quick Law systems which collectively now offer well over a hundred data bases giving wide subject coverage. The organization has been most successful in providing a forum for discussion and mutual support of services in a number of subject areas; e.g. medicine, science, business, social science and humanities.