BAKER & TAYLOR'S LIBRIS:
AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO AUTOMATED LIBRARY SERVICES

Frank Van Nostrand
Senior Library Systems Analyst
The Baker & Taylor Company
Somerville, N.J.   08876

ABSTRACT

This paper describes the systems developed by Baker
& Taylor's new LIBRIS family of systems which em-
phasize an integrated approach to library automation.
End products of the systems include machine readable
cataloging in MARC II format, catalog cards and pro-
cessed books, COM catalogs, on-line acquisitions,
batch acquisitions program with fund accounting and
statistical and other reports. Other end products are
in development.

LES "LIBRIS" BAKER & TAYLOR
UNE ETUDE DETAILLEE DES SERVICES D'UNE BIBLIOTHEQUE AUTOMATISEE

RESUME

Cette étude décrit la nouvelle famille de systèmes
"LIBRIS" de Baker et Taylor qui spécialise dans
l'automatisation des systèmes de bibliothèque. Notre
produit final comprend; une machine qui produit des
catalogues collectifs sous format MARC II, reproduc-
tion de livres et d'information sur cartes, acquisition
de programme batch et le développement de rapports de
comptabilité et de statistiques ainsi que des produits
encore au stage de développement.

BAKER & TAYLOR'S LIBRIS

The idea of sharing resources and costs for libraries and information services has become a catch phrase for our time. With this in mind, Baker & Taylor has developed an integrated approach to library information services: the LIBRIS concept. LIBRIS combines a variety of technologies and systems to produce the means whereby libraries can share resources and costs while obtaining high quality products and services. These products, because of interfacing capabilities, are cost effective to produce and to use.

Four major services exist in the LIBRIS Family: (1) The On-line Acquisitions System, (2) Baker & Taylor's Automated Buying System (BATAB), (3) COM Catalog Service, and (4) Machine Readable Cataloging (MRC). Prospective buyers of these services may participate in any single service, a combination of services, or all four services by using either an integrated or modular approach to automated services.

ON-LINE ACQUISITIONS

Our newest system, an on-line ordering/acquisitions system, utilizes a comprehensive database carefully constructed and enriched from internal databases and Library of Congress MARC data. The system can be accessed with a variety of search keys including Library of Congress Card Number, International Standard Book Number, and Author, Author/Title, and Title algorithms. Orders for materials can be initiated for a single library or multiple libraries or departments within a system. All pending orders remain on-line until the data is reviewed by library personnel and released as an order to Baker & Taylor. An end of session screen gives the library basic statistics concerning the orders placed that day. Hard copy forms are also available via a printer attachment to the terminal. The system also permits entering orders to vendors other than Baker & Taylor, which can be printed on the hardcopy forms and sent by the library to the chosen vendor.

Each days accumulated ordering is transmitted to a library's nearest Baker & Taylor distribution center via sophisticated data transmission equipment. After transmission, orders enter the company's Order Entry system and follow normal order fulfillment procedures.

The On-line Acquisitions System is accessed through the Honeywell Datanetwork, a nationwide data communications system. A Honeywell Information Systems VIP 7801 CRT terminal is connected to a Bell Data Phone 2400 BAUD modem to effect data communications. As an alternative output device, the HISI 1005 printer is attached to the CRT. This cooperation between two corporations has given us the opportunity to provide access to sophisticated software, large database facilities, and rapid, efficient, and wide-spread data communication facilities at reasonable costs to libraries.

The on-line system is slated for further development in areas such as keyword access to the database and an interface with BATAB to provide users with the full features of BATAB's software.

BAKER & TAYLOR'S AUTOMATED BUYING SERVICE - BATAB

Introduced in 1969, BATAB is a proven software package currently installed in 50 locations serving over 500 libraries. The capability of operating on a variety of computer systems, such as IBM, Burroughs, Honeywell, NCR, Control Data, and Digital Equipment systems, was designed into BATAB giving it the flexibility to provide this automated service to a wide variety of libraries. BATAB now serves all types of libraries: college and university libraries, public libraries, state libraries, cooperative libraries and special libraries.

Along with the flexibility of installation, BATAB provides libraries with a total acquisitions system where four major acquisitions problems are addressed. First, the system provides an easy order entry procedure which leads to Automatic Purchase Order Production. Secondly, Open Order Control gives the library full tracking of orders, claiming notices, cancellation notices, and status of orders. As a third function, BATAB provides full Fund Accounting Control which balances orders and expenditures with allocations, discount rates, and cancellations. Departmental or agency budgets are maintained in this feature as well. Finally, as a fourth feature, BATAB offers library management statistical and management reports derived from BATAB's Historical Database and includes individual book histories, cumulated statistics, and Vendor Performance Reports.

All of these features along with the flexibility of installation and planned interfacing with the On-line Acquisitions combine to form an integrated approach to acquisitions problems for libraries of all kinds. By utilizing common databases, new technology, sophisticated systems software, a shared resource for handling acquisitions problems and procedures has been created by Baker & Taylor.

COM CATALOG SERVICE

Baker & Taylor has become a producer of COM Catalogs utilizing a MARC formatted database of 1.4 million records as a resource. The COM database is founded on a shared cataloging concept with Library of Congress MARC and member library input, comprising the whole database. Users select records from the database and add local information, all or any desired part of which becomes a displayed catalog record. The COM system relies on extensive quality control checks to ensure both the integrity of the central database and the databases of each member library. A sophisticated authority control system maintains each member library's authority files as well.

Input to the COM system can be effected in a variety of forms, such as OCLC tapes, BALLOTS/RLIN tapes, or Optical Character Recognition sheets. Other machine readable formats and tapes, from in-house circulation systems, for example, can also be used provided appropriate specifications are supplied to Baker & Taylor. Output of the system is a COM formatted tape which can be used to provide a catalog on either 16mm film or 105mm fiche. Other outputs of the system include hardcopy catalogs, tapes formatted for specified circulation control systems and tapes of a member library's own database, if desired.

One of the special features of the COM operation is Baker & Taylor's commitment and attention to quality controls and production schedules. A service representative is assigned to each account and has the responsibility to oversee quality, ensure schedules are met and solve any problems that arise. Service representatives also aid libraries in getting the most out of the system by providing advice and consultation on the best approaches to a given library's desire for automated services.

MACHINE READABLE CATALOGING SYSTEM - MRC

Baker & Taylor's LIBRIS also provides Machine Readable Cataloging records in Library of Congress MARC II format with library holdings information. A MARC database is maintained in each of three Baker & Taylor plants where data is provided for catalog card production and for bibliographic information needed for other systems either internally or for our customers. For example, the MRC database was, and is, used to enrich the On-line Acquisitions database as part of the creation and maintenance process for the On-line system. In addition, the capability exists to receive MRC records each time a book is ordered, thereby giving the library automatic conversion to a machine readable file of its materials.

RESOURCE SHARING - THE LIBRIS VIEW

Our experience in COM systems is giving us a clear idea and appreciation for certain problems facing libraries today. Up coming implementation of the Anglo American Cataloging Rules, Second Edition, and the catalog closing at the Library of Congress has created concern in libraries over, among other issues, access to authority terms and the conversion to those terms as they are issued by the Library of Congress. For libraries with catalogs already in machine readable form, problems that AACR II present can be solved more readily than for those libraries with catalogs still in card form. Blanket change capabilities in our Authority Control system enable libraries to change all headings to whatever current usage dictates. In addition, the COM system will maintain all new AACR II terms as they are available from the Library of Congress. These terms will also be available through the MRC system as it is updated by data from the Library of Congress.

BAKER & TAYLOR'S LIBRIS

We also recognize that there are many advantages of on-line catalogs and support the development of these systems. COM catalogs are, however, an excellent interim and cost effective tool for libraries not yet ready or able to have an on-line catalog. Even for libraries with on-line capabilities, the COM catalog has a role in support of library functions, as a supplementary tool and as a backup to an on-line system should that system be down for any length of time. Furthermore, COM catalogs require conversion of library files to machine readable form. Consequently, a library with COM catalogs will have taken that necessary first step towards an on-line catalog by having their files converted now as this will be an investment for the future.

The type of COM catalog a library desires also affects resources and costs. We find that the Union Catalog concept, combining many libraries on one catalog, is the cheapest form available. Libraries can, of course, get individual catalogs. Specialized catalogs, such as series catalogs, catalogs by KWOC terms, serials catalogs, or film catalogs can also be made available but at a higher cost to the library. A Union Catalog offers a cooperative library group access to the same records with appropriate local information appended to each entry. This process permits each library in a cooperative venture to save both resources and costs and in return receive high quality bibliographic information, control over local information and access to location of materials throughout the whole library system permitting sharing of the system's own resources. This concept is now being used through our COM system since we produce Union catalogs for the State of Kansas and the State of Nebraska. If any library within these systems should want a COM catalog of its own, that catalog can be produced from the Union database. This is also true for libraries in a Union Catalog system needing machine readable records for other automated ventures: each individual library's data can be given to them in the appropriate format.

Another issue which we have had to face and will continue to face is the existence of inadequate data from other systems developed either in-house or supplied by other vendors of automated systems. Records with truncated author and/or title, records without Library of Congress Card Numbers or International Standard Book Numbers and records without pertinent local information are difficult and expensive to convert for COM catalogs or any other type of automated system needed by a library. The MARC II formats were designed with appropriate bibliographic data elements to promote ease of bibliographic interchange. Baker & Taylor strongly adheres to these standards in all of its systems and we find that COM and other automation projects libraries attempt are easier and cheaper if appropriate data is available. As another aid to libraries, Baker & Taylor's MRC system provides this kind of data to create or convert files to MARC II Standards.

BAKER & TAYLOR'S LIBRIS

The LIBRIS family of services clearly demonstrates Baker &
Taylor's stong commitment to provide libraries with the best approaches
to automated library services. LIBRIS supports the concept of shared
resources and recognizes that high costs of changing to automated systems
can be reduced by intelligent application of new technologies. Our own
experience in the library and information business has proven the
benefits of resource sharing and we are eager to pass this experience
along to the library community.