

sults from exhausting efforts; one begins to wonder whether it makes any difference in the future. Many obstacles are thrown in every path, some very discouraging. It is much more prevalent to quit than to plan ways to accomplish a goal. One of Shakespeare's characters said, "Let me embrace these sour adversities; for wise men say it is the wisest course." Adversity sometimes stimulates achievement, and people accomplish things that appear way beyond their reach actually with the help of adversity. Determination only becomes stronger.

Achievement is reached by stretching one's resources to its limits, many times without any hope of reward or recognition. Often the question is asked, "is it worth the effort?" But like beauty, achievement is its own excuse for being. There is a tremendous satisfaction in having accomplished something extraordinary. Often that feeling is the only reward, but it is a great feeling! Just seeing that article or book published, that large backlog moved along, that project finished and IT WAS GOOD! Compliments? Applause? Publicity? Salary raise? Probably not. They why do you feel so great? A sense of achievement — a job well done!

It is not enough to say, "I'm doing my job," but like Margot Asquith, "I ought to be testing myself daily, and asking what I was really achieving." At the end of 1984 as we look back over the joys and sorrows, failures and accomplishments, it is achievement that gives us special joy.

Here's wishing that 1985 will be a year of achievement for Alabama libraries and librarians!

## Alabama Libraries s new Places

Association's annual conference in New York in 1986. The program will be an intensive one-day "conference-within-a-conference" similar to the program sponsored several years ago on the topic of research and technical services. The tentative program theme, "Technical Services: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?" will examine the challenges facing librarians in resources and technical services in a computer age.

William Myrick, current president of RTSD, has also appointed Faigel to the search committee to select a new editor for the Division's quarterly journal, *Library Resources and Technical Services*. Faigel has been an assistant editor and a member of the journal's editorial board since 1983. He is currently a member of the Association's Collection Management and Development Committee, editor of the in-progress revision of the Association's Guidelines for Collection Development and past chair of the Western European Specialists Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

# Experience in Automation

By CHARLES B. LOWRY  
Acquiring A System

In the Fall of 1980 University Libraries began the process of acquiring an automation system. Local criteria, largely dictated by circumstances, defined the decision making process. Six major considerations played a preeminent role:

1. The system had to be compatible with IBM hardware since it would have to operate on a shared mainframe in the University Computing Center.

2. The system had to be fully MARC compatible, that is, it had to accept a complete machine readable record received from SOLINET/OCLC. Compatibility meant also that the system had to be capable of inputting and outputting a complete MARC record.

3. The system had to be compatible with the University of South Alabama Libraries participation in SOLINET/OCLC. No system could interfere with the major reasons for network participation, the benefits of shared cataloging and ILL.

4. The system had to be a fully integrated library automation system with a proven track record capable of serving a multi-library system which used multiple subject authority lists. Further requirements were the inclusion of an on-line catalog with subject, author, and title access; a circulation module with OCR or similar hardware capability; catalog maintenance, acquisitions and serials control subsystems.

5. The system had to have continued maintenance support from the software vendor.

6. The system had to be imminently affordable, particularly in relation to continuing costs.

These criteria meant that a number of systems which might otherwise have been competitors were ruled out. For instance, UTLAS was not compatible with SOLINET; CLSI, Data Phase, and Maggie's Place were not considered since they were mini-computer based; and Ohio State's systems was ruled out due to the lack of software support.

The process of decision making was greatly aided by work already done by the University of Florida which spent nearly two years producing a detailed analysis of available systems. The University of Florida's study provided an assessment of most of the systems available, including NOTIS. In addition, DOBIS, a system being marketed by IBM was also identified as a potential contender. In November, 1980 representatives from University Libraries and Computer Center visited the Chicago offices of IBM to view DOBIS and subsequently made a site visit to Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois. Based on the criteria defined for the system and site visits a decision to purchase NOTIS was made. Funding for NOTIS was a joint project of Academic Affairs and the Health Sciences at the University of South Alabama. NOTIS was to be used

throughout the library system and would provide a union catalog of all library holdings. In addition, it was envisioned that NOTIS access would ultimately be campus-wide, not just in the Library and its branches. Funding was arranged in the Winter of 1981 and in April of that year a request for a contract was sent to Northwestern. At the same time, Library staff were studying NOTIS manuals and using dial access to NOTIS test files. In June of 1981 demonstrations of NOTIS were conducted for all librarians. By September the licensing agreement had been prepared and signed and in December 1980 the software was shipped from Northwestern to the University. Initial loading of the system software was not completed until the Spring of 1985, due to problems in bringing up a new version of the IBM operating system VSE.

### Planning and Installation

Like other state institutions, the University of South Alabama in 1981 was going through the first of several consecutive years of proration. Budget stringency meant that system installation would have to be accomplished under serious economic restrictions, most notably the absence of new personnel in the Library. Accordingly, an infrastructure for installation of automation was organized to achieve the best utilization of library faculty and staff. The Library Planning and Advisory Committee was at that time charged with the responsibility for long-term planning and project implementation. LPAC devised a structure for implementing NOTIS composed of: (1) an automation team with two systems representatives from the Computer Center (Patti Blackmon and Margaret Boerth), a representative from the Biomedical Library (Pat Ramage) and a representative from the University Library (Roberta Kirby). In addition, a Technical Services Implementation Group and a Public Services Implementation Group worked closely with the automation team in the installation process. Each of these were composed of a sizeable and representative contingent of public services and technical services librarians. The Director of Libraries served *ex officio* on the automation team, TSIG and PSIG. This was the basic organizational structure used to install, implement, and train for the NOTIS environment. Perhaps its key advantage was that it maximized participation in the automation process and thus exploited to the fullest degree possible the talents available in the Libraries faculty and staff. The effectiveness of the organization is evidenced by its continuation. The automation team, PSIG and TSIG have become permanent Committees of University Libraries. Better funding from the state in 1984-85 has resulted in the establishment of a full time Automation Librarian (Pat Ramage). It is small testimony to the



## Notis

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NOTIS experience at USA that Northwestern hired Roberta Kirby, an original member of the automation team to work in their NOTIS group.

The automation team served as the primary focus during the initial installation and testing of the NOTIS software. The Computer Center personnel were involved in the technical aspects of the project while the library representatives prepared extensive documentation and staff manuals. These would serve as the basis for training librarians who in turn train paraprofessional staff. A simultaneous activity was the preparation of the data base. University Libraries, as a charter member of SOLINET had participated in machine-readable cataloging since 1975. Approximately 85 OCLC archive tapes were available for loading on the system. However, duplicate records had to be eliminated from the tapes. More importantly, the tapes had to be compatible with name authority under the new rules for AACR2 and subject headings for LCSH and MeSH had to be corrected and up-dated. This work was accomplished by contract with Blackwell North America

and the data base was loaded in December of 1982. By that time the system had been fully tested and staff training began in early 1983.

### System Components

At the Present time Northwestern In-line Total Integrated System is composed of a virtually complete array of library technical services and public services functions. The description of NOTIS functions given here is necessarily sketchy. NOTIS is most easily understood in the context of the basic record for the system, the full MARC record. The MARC record used at the time of original acquisitions is retained in the system for all later technical and public services activities.

Preorder searching for all Library materials is conducted on OCLC. Until mid 1984 provisional order records were keyed into NOTIS after the OCLC search and were bumped from the system when OCLC tapes were loaded. In mid-1984 an interface was installed which allows the acquisitions staff to transfer OCLC records directly into the system at the time of the preorder search, thus eliminating the hand keying of record and assuring a full MARC bibliographic record from the moment an

order request is placed. Purchase orders are produced by the system for acquisitions. It is worth noting that NOTIS indicates that materials are on order in the public services mode.

All cataloging is now conducted on the NOTIS system. The superior response time and minimal computer down time makes it a more efficient cataloging tool than OCLC. Batch products produced for cataloging include authority lists, shelf list cards, and worksheets for cataloging. The cataloging process results in full access to all searching points within the MARC record and indicates in patron access that the materials are now ready for circulation.

Serials control is the most significant component of NOTIS, since the system was conceptually developed on the principle that serials technical services would be the most difficult to automate. Each serial title has a linked volume copy/holdings record in technical services. As individual issues of a title are received and checked in the public services screens indicate the receipt of the issue. At the time an issue is checked in a new action date is generated in the system which allows the claims process to proceed. When the action date is reached and no issue has been received the system generates a batch listing which is reviewed by staff to determine if a claim for the title should be issued. The holdings records also serves as a partial bindery record. When issues are sent for binding it is indicated in the holding statement and the record is immediately updated on the receipt of bindery shipments.

There are two public services modes to NOTIS. Library User Information System (LUIS) is the on-line catalog. Patrons may

the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries. Initial recon for serials was conducted prior to loading the data base. A portion of the records were acquired from Northwestern University by matching EBSCO ISSN tapes against the CONSER tapes in the Northwestern data base. The balance of serials were converted on OCLC. At the present time the NOTIS Union Catalog has approximately 85,000 records representing less than half of the titles owned by the University Libraries. Retrospective conversion at USA has two components. About a third of the records are being acquired from the Library of Congress Card Service by matching machine readable tapes of LCCN's. Balance of records are being converted through a non-prime-time OCLC recon.

Installation of circulation will be measurably simplified when recon is completed since this will allow the creation by batch processes of a linked circulation record for every bibliographic record in the system without intervention by circulation personnel. In addition, on-line shelf lifting will be considerably enhanced with the completion of recon which is expected to take the first forty weeks of 1985.

### Automation Support

It is worth noting that installation of NOTIS has been a fairly smooth process at the University of South Alabama due to close cooperation within the Automation Team and the development of organizational structures for staff involvement. Equally important, the assistance provided by Northwestern University has been significant. Though Northwestern typically makes a site visit at the time of initial installation, USA postponed the site visit and original installation was conducted

## Univ. of Ala. Libraries — New Faces

Tim Cary has recently joined the University of Alabama Libraries as the Assistant Curator of Special Collections. He holds a master's of library science from the University of Iowa.

Larry Harbin, formerly a reference librarian at Tulane University, is returning to the University of Alabama Libraries

of Alabama Library. The search is continuing for a new dean.

Lynn Tobola Minor has recently joined the University of Alabama Libraries staff as a reference librarian. Her library master's is from the University of Alabama.

Ann Power, formerly a catalog librarian in the University of Alabama



as a reference librarian. His master's in library service is from the University of Alabama.

Douglas E. Jones is serving as the interim Dean of the Libraries at the Univer-

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### Auburn University Libraries

In this and the next few issues of *Alabama Librarian*, Auburn University librarians will be explaining the current capabilities of NOTIS and the applications of NOTIS at Ralph Brown Draughon Library. The purpose of this first article is to briefly discuss NOTIS as a whole and to examine in some detail its implications for public service.

NOTIS is an integrated library automation system marketed by Northwestern University. It consists of three main components: circulation control, technical processing, and patron access. Software is purchased or leased from Northwestern. Records are either loaded in on tapes from Solinet or entered when an item is ordered; additional information is added when an item is cataloged.

The library user information system (LUIS), i.e., the online catalog, is the sole method of patron access in the NOTIS system. LUIS is accessed by way of computer terminals. A menu-driven, self-explanatory system of screens displays both bibliographic and helpful "how to use" information. At Auburn, LUIS contains materials processed at the university libraries from July 1975 to the present. Eventually, the entire collection will be in the computer database.

A patron can search for library materials by author, title, or subject. To search for a title, the user types T and equal symbol and then the title of the book. Similarly, one types A and equal

symbol for author and S and equal symbol for subject. Doing bibliographic searching on a terminal enables the user to view a list of related titles, authors' names, or Library of Congress subject headings and then select from the displayed list as desired.

There are considerable advantages to having an online catalog such as LUIS. When the bibliographic information for an item is displayed, an accompanying message explains that the material is in the pre-order process, currently being processed, or is fully cataloged. When the circulation module is implemented in 1985, LUIS will tell patrons if the item is available.

At the reference desk, LUIS serves a number of purposes. For material processed after July 1975, it can be used to verify bibliographic information, to determine location, and to check the status of an item. The truncation feature of LUIS is also helpful. For example, if one were helping a student locate books in music history and theory, it is possible to type in S and equal symbol MUSIC and retrieve items having the subject headings MUSIC, MUSIC-HISTORY, MUSIC-THEORY, MUSICOLOGY, and so on. Users are encouraged to consult the Library of Congress subject headings when searching by subject, and to apply the "Less is best" rule, i.e., typing in one or two words (MU-

search through the traditional access points of title, author, and subject. The University of South Alabama Libraries maintain both LCSH and MeSH subject access and are developing a special nomenclature for audiovisual materials held by the Instructional Media Center. At the present time LUIS has no boolean search capacity, but Northwestern has committed to developing this component. Nevertheless, searching in the system is extraordinarily fast and branching techniques from subject, title, and author allow even an unsophisticated user to create some of the effects of a boolean search. It is important to note that LUIS provides an effective array of help screens. Patrons viewing a guide screen, an index screen, a bibliographic screen, or a holdings screen need only type "h" and press the enter key to get a full explanation of the screen they are viewing. They may then return to this screen. In addition, there are help screens which tutor the user in the use of the on-line catalog. Moreover, the patron may initiate a subject, title, or author search no matter what screen is currently being viewed. This provides an extraordinary flexibility in developing search strategies since patrons do not have to move back to any initiating screen before conducting a search.

The University of South Alabama chose not to install the circulation system in NOTIS 3, since the new version of NOTIS being developed will contain a state-of-the-art circulation system based on bar codes and laser scan readers. The software for the circulation system will be delivered in the Spring of 1985 and will include a new component of on-line shelf listing and on-line authority control. All other components of NOTIS were operational the summer of 1983.

To fully exploit the new version of NOTIS the University of South Alabama is conducting a retrospective conversion activity using both local resources and funds from

totally by telephone consultation. Response to debugging by Northwestern is extraordinarily quick and effective. Since USA was one of the first four or five libraries to purchase and install NOTIS, written documentation was incomplete. However, Northwestern now provides complete and dependable written documentation and has developed a NOTIS User Group which meets annually in Evanston and provides a support system for all NOTIS Libraries, approximately thirty. USA is also beginning to reap the benefits of a fully integrated library automation system in a number of ways. A new staff classification plan has been developed because of a more sophisticated demands of the system, and over 50% of the staff have been reclassified upwards. The shift from manual to automated systems has allowed USA to eliminate many burdensome clerical activities such as filing and revising in the card catalog and has resulted in a better use of human resources. Installation of NOTIS has not been accompanied by the often mentioned anxieties introduced by new technologies. The USA Libraries faculty and staff have taken to NOTIS with a vengeance and each new version has been adopted with anticipation of success.

Finally, the University itself has benefited broadly from the system since access to library holdings is available on 300 terminals throughout the campus. Moreover, as the University has begun a branch campus operation in Baldwin County at Faulkner Community College, planning has gone forward for providing NOTIS access at that remote site. Not only will University of South Alabama students be able to use LUIS, but Faulkner Community College Library will automate its activities using NOTIS as a utility. Confidence in the system is high; it is a better mouse trap; and USA Libraries have crossed the bridge to integrated systems with no regret.