

NOTIS

NOTISEs

Editor: Tina Homan

Number 14

January, 1987

OFFICIAL ROLE OF NOTISES

As NOTIS continues to grow and change, we keep reevaluating what we are doing. At this point NOTISEs is an important communication vehicle between NOTIS users and between the NOTIS organization.

We consider NOTISEs the official communication vehicle of our organization. We use it to report our efforts in many areas. Perhaps more importantly, we use the TROUBLESHOOTING section to report bugs and problems. We urge you to circulate NOTISEs to all of your staff in order to keep them informed on the products and services we provide.

In addition, we want you to share your automation experiences with other users through NOTISEs. We are delighted to receive information and articles about your installations. What you send us doesn't have to be long or polished. In fact, if you just send us a few notes, we will turn them into an article for you.

1987 NOTIS USERS GROUP

We have changed our minds about the dates for the NOTIS Users Group Meeting. Many of you have told us that May isn't a good time for you. (It appears that every organization in the continent meets that month!)

Therefore, we are looking at the first week of August for this meeting. More concrete information will follow.

NEWS & VIEWS

This new column is dedicated to serve as a forum for NOTIS users to communicate information, request information, and raise issues.

If you have any drafts of possible workflow procedures that you are willing to share, please send a copy of them to your User Services librarian by March 1. We will combine all the workflows received and will send a set of them to each RLIN NOTIS user later this winter. Thank you!

In the November issue of NOTISes, we requested information on the ways users communicate internally. Stuart Glogoff from the University of Delaware sent us the following response.

The University of Delaware Library communicates information about DELCAT (NOTIS) in several ways:

1. DELCAT Liaison Committee: This is a standing committee with a representative from each department or unit in the library system. There is a member and an alternate appointed by a department head. This person serves as the primary contact in a network of phone contacts. When we know the system will be going down or when it happens without warning, a member of the Systems Department calls each Liaison representative with information. That person then is responsible for getting that information out to the rest of the unit. The Liaison Committee also meets once a month and a report on the status of the system, current and planned projects, and questions are presented. Liaison Committee members report at their department meetings.
2. DELCAT News: A special attachment to the library's biweekly newsletter entitled DELCAT News provides a method of reviewing recent events with the system for all staff. Copies of the library newsletter are distributed to all staff.
3. Librarian's Forum: The Librarian's Forum meets monthly and includes as a regular part of the agenda committee reports, reports from the librarians' representatives to the Faculty Senate and Professional Advisory Committee, business of the director, and a report on DELCAT.
4. DELCAT Open Meetings: Held for all staff to attend, this 1.5 hour meeting is presented by the Systems Department to review all DELCAT projects. There have been 3 over the past 12 months and feedback from staff has been extremely favorable.
5. Miscellaneous: There is a separate systems room where staff training activities are conducted and DELCAT meetings may be held. This room keeps on file training aides, articles of

interest, and issues of NOTISes for staff to browse through or borrow. We also have a DELCAT Query/Response Form to keep track of questions called in over the phone or asked in the halls. Systems Department staff and the Assistant Director for Technical Services and Automation may also go to department meetings to report on a particular project or answers questions.

INFORMATION, PLEASE

Do you use, or have experience using, flat coaxial cable (not ribbon cable)? If so, please call or write Kay Flowers from Rice University at the following address:

Ms. Kay A. Flowers
Associate Librarian for Automated Services
Fondren Library
Rice University Library
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892
(713)527-4022

Rice University is considering using flat coax during renovation of the Fondren Library, and is interested in libraries' experiences with it, including brand names.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL LIBRARY
by Cecile E. Kramer

Northwestern University Medical Library recently completed its annual report for the period September 1, 1985-August 31, 1986. Some items of interest follow. As of August 31, 1986, the Library's collection numbered 239,334 bound volumes, 2513 serials were being received. One of the highlights of the year was the implementation of the circulation module of NOTIS.

Today a user can consult one of the public display terminals in the Library to determine whether or not the Library owns a particular title, and in addition, find out if the item is charged out. This is true for items not only in this Library, but for all the Northwestern University Libraries. All Library users have been issued ID cards with a bar code label. It is essential that the user carry that card at all times in order to charge out material.

Another highlight was the opening of the Library's video production facility. The first product from this facility was the Library's orientation tape. This tape was used for freshmen orientation and was very well received. Copies of the tape are available in the Learning Resources Center. Plans for the production of instructional tapes are underway--the first one will be an introduction to the microscope.

CLOSING THE CARD CATALOG

taken from: Library Notes Vol. 3, 1986, No. 3

The Northwestern University Medical Library began using NOTIS in 1980. Since that time the Medical Library has built up a database of over 38,000 bibliographic records. These records represent: 1. all monographs added to the Library since 1980; 2. all currently received serials; 3. all audiovisual materials in the Library's Learning Resources Center; 4. most English language monographs published since 1986. Users can access these materials through the online public catalog, LUIS.

Because the online database now represents a substantial portion of the collection, the Medical Library has decided to close its card catalog. As of September 1, 1986 cards will no longer be filed in the author/title, subjects and serials catalogs. The only access to records for materials added to the Library (or ordered for the Library) since September 1, 1986 will be through LUIS. To access LUIS users can utilize one of the public display terminals located near the card catalog. Instructions for using LUIS are by the terminals.

Users should keep in mind the fact that NOTIS does not contain the complete holdings of the Medical Library. For materials published prior to 1980 users must search both in LUIS and the card catalog.

NOTIS ACQUISITIONS WORKSHOP

Over 150 NOTIS users gathered at the Palmer House on January 16 for the Acquisitions Workshop. A combination of large group presentations and small group discussions made it possible for people to learn about a variety of issues involved in implementing the NOTIS acquisitions module.

A very special thanks is due to each and every one of the speakers and facilitators who overcame demanding work schedules, fear of speaking in front of groups, and phone calls from Mary Alice to contribute to the success of the workshop. If NOTIS is the community of users we would like it to be, it is because of all of you out there.

As NOTIS grows as an organization, so does our experience in presenting this type of workshop. We appreciate all of you who took the time to fill out evaluations and make suggestions. We will try to respond to your comments as we plan for future workshops.

If you would like notes from any of the sessions, or copies of recordings from any of the large group sessions, write or call your User Services librarian.

ALA MIDWINTER CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO

What a compliment when someone came by the NOTIS booth on the second day of the ALA Midwinter Conference and said that NOTIS should get the prize for stuffing the most people in a booth. It was a pleasure to have such a busy booth!

Visitors included friends from libraries which have already installed NOTIS, librarians from institutions which have chosen NOTIS but have not yet installed the software, and representatives from libraries which are in the process of choosing system software. Some had very specific questions about the implementation of NOTIS or a particular operation. Others were eager to see upcoming enhancements.

Keyword and Boolean searching (kw/B) is one of the major enhancements we demonstrated. The ability to search the NOTIS database using key words and Boolean operators opens up access to the database dramatically. Everyone liked the ease of using this in LUIS.

Another major new feature demonstrated was NOTIS Online Fund Accounting/Invoice Processing (NOFA/IP). This provides the ability to keep track of, and display online, the amounts committed and expended from library-established funds. The ability to clear invoices online is also part of the acquisitions module now.

The two new IBM 3164 terminals which display diacriticals drew many people into the booth. They were used heavily to show the new indexes which are part of the Index Redesign project. They made the indexes especially eye-catching.

Many liked the changes which have been incorporated into the new indexes since the ALA Conference in New York.

Other enhancements demonstrated were the online display of circulation status for multi-part items and the new spine label printing program. Two handouts were very popular: The customer list sported a map which indicating customer location and distribution; and an updated list of enhancements to be included in Release 4.4, which will be distributed in February.

The NOTIS serials interest group held its regular gathering to discuss issues and trends pertaining to serials control on NOTIS.

NOTIS users who are also RLIN users met during the conference with members of the NOTIS staff and Susan Jurist, RLG's recently appointed local system liaison. The meeting was organized by Donna Hirst of the University of Iowa as a forum to discuss various issues which involve both vendors.

The NOTIS staff would like to thank our users for supporting us so well during ALA Midwinter. We really enjoyed catching up with so many of you. We feel that seeing all of you and talking about how you are using NOTIS is our primary reason for demoing at ALA conferences. Please keep coming!

OFFICIAL LUIS INAUGURATION

taken from: Florida Center for Library Automation Technical Bulletin, Volume 1 Number 6/7, September/October 1986

During August and September, SUS (State University System) libraries around the state formalized the LUIS presence on their campuses. Some held low-key ceremonies to bring attention to the online catalog that patrons had already been using for some months, while others held grand celebrations to dramatize the beginning of a library service. Here are reports we received at FLCA.

Florida International University

FIU promoted LUIS around campus with "Meet me at the library--LUIS" signs. If those didn't claim attention, a videotape running in the library lobby should have. The tape was a series of commercials for LUIS--including parodies of the Brook Shields jeans ad and your favorite and mine, the RONCO do-everything ads. (I hope the FIU patrons enjoyed the tape as much as we did at FCLA.) A reception for faculty, students, and other guests was held on September 15. One guest was local legislator Roberta Fox, who also spoke.

Florida State University

FSU mounted a LUIS display and produced a videotape on using the system. A campus newspaper article on LUIS alerted readers to the availability of the SUS catalogs via dial access as well as library terminals.

University of Central Florida

The UCF Library distributed a 4-page newspaper pull-out on LUIS. It explained the relationship between the library's CLSI and LUIS systems and provided some basic LUIS facts.

University of Florida

The new guide to the UF libraries incorporates LUIS in its instructions for using the libraries. Since UF has been using LUIS for several years, the "new and improved!" announcements have been primarily about circulation, which was implemented at UF this summer.

University of North Florida

UNF held a formal ribbon-cutting and reception on September 17. UNF President Curtis McCray and UNF Library Director Andrew Farkas spoke on the significance of LUIS for UNF and the state. Bill Condon, librarian for Blue Cross/Blue Shield and soliloquist

extraordinaire, was a royal LUIS (a la Louis XIV of France) with many titles and subjects--and even authors. Guests included two members of the Board of Regents, local benefactors, and representatives from the Jacksonville library community and FCLA.

University of South Florida

The University of South Florida held a major celebration for LUIS during September. During the first two weeks of the month, announcements in the media and signs around campus prepared the community for the upcoming LUIS inauguration. To lead off inauguration week, campus, local, and state dignitaries attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 15. Entertainment, refreshments, and group orientation sessions rounded out the day. Group orientations continued the rest of the week, as did the distribution of promotional ballons, pencils, and buttons. Friday finished the week with more entertainment and drawings for LUIS sunvisors.

University of West Florida

UWF held its LUIS inauguration September 25. The afternoon ceremony included speeches by UWF President James A. Robinson, UWF Acting Library Director David Doerrer and FCLA librarian Mary Ann Garlough. Refreshments and LUIS demonstrations followed. Representatives from branch and extension libraries, other UWF departments, and other libraries in the region attended. Written publicity included an article in an Office of Information Services publication.

STRAIGHT NOTIS

taken from: Florida Center for Library Automation Technical Bulletin Volume 1 Number 6/7, September/October 1986

Every once in a while, you may hear or read some references to "standard NOTIS"--or to "straight" NOTIS or "vanilla" NOTIS. What someone is referring to is the NOTIS software as it comes from the NOTIS Office, before FCLA programmers adapt it to SUS library needs. You may also be familiar with statements to the effect that we're trying to keep to standard NOTIS and may wonder why that's necessary, since programmers are on the FCLA staff.

One major reason for keeping to standard NOTIS is a human resource one. Our programmers are constantly busy with various data loading projects, installation of software enhancements from NOTIS, and other projects that the Technical Services and Public Services Committees help us to prioritize. If programmers must remake local "fixes" every time a new version of NOTIS is installed, then they have less time available for other projects. How simple a fix looks doesn't correspond very often to how simple it actually is to program. For example, one NOTIS program will point to a table, which will point to another program or two or three, etc.; a simple-looking fix may affect this whole sequence. Just in terms of programmer time, the resources required to program a fix may greatly outweigh its advantages.

Another reason to keep our version of NOTIS as close as possible to the NOTIS Office's version is to ensure compatibility with future developments. To install a local fix, our programmers may use a field or code not used by standard NOTIS at the time. Later versions of standard NOTIS may use that very field or code and define it differently, which could cause serious problems (such as ABENDs).

590 TO 599 FLIP

taken from: Florida Center for Library Automation Technical Bulletin Volume 1 Number 6/7, September/October 1986

When NOTIS 4 came up that fateful day last February, we discovered (or rediscovered) a NOTIS option that highlighted a variation in local cataloging practices. The option is whether the 590 field displays in LUIS.

In OCLC, 590 is defined as a local notes field that is not retained in the master record. A library can define in its card production profile whether or not a 590 should print on cards. So, one library can decide to use 590 for public notes about its copy of an item, while another can use it for strictly internal notes such as who cataloged the item. Some SUS libraries decided to use the 590 for internal notes, some for public notes.

The equivalent situation exists in NOTIS regarding whether the 590 displays either in ALL LUIS catalogs or in NO LUIS catalogs in an installation. Naturally, we ran into a problem with the conflicting 590 treatments and needed to reach consensus about its use.

With the OCLC validation of the 599 field, catalogers had another local notes field valid in both OCLC and NOTIS. The Technical Services Committee agreed to designate the 590 as a displaying field and the 599 as a nondisplaying field. The display of 590's was suppressed until we could programmatically flip them to 599's for libraries that had used the field for internal notes.

The last of the 590's were flipped to 599's in early October. When NOTIS 4.3 is implemented, the 590 field will display in all LUIS databases. From now on, internal information should be entered in 599 only. (Incidentally, an 910 found during a tapeload will be loaded as a 599.) Individual libraries are responsible for tagging their local notes properly.

TROUBLESHOOTING

This column is a regular feature of NOTISes. As we encounter problems which we plan to include in the Troubleshooting Guide (Appendix E to the new I&O) we will list them here in NOTISes so you won't have to wait until a new release in order to be aware of them. If you have suggestions, send them to Jerry Specht.

Prob 115: When you do a charge you get an "INVALID PREFIX" message

Possible Causes: - This message is caused by having the PFX flag set (in the INSGRP table) for your institution group when, in fact, your patron records or item records do not have a unique 1st character.

Prob 148: In doing a LUIS search the indexes display OK but you get the message "THIS RECORD IS FOR STAFF USE" for whatever record you try to display

Possible Causes: - Is the (bib/)holdings file closed?

Prob 163: (VSE only) In linkediting certain PL/I programs you get "DUPLICATE SECTION DEFINITION: xxxxxxxx ***SECTION IGNORED" messages; a large number of WXTRNs; and, in some cases, an EXTRN

Possible Causes: - In general, these may be ignored. The expected EXTRNs/WXTRNs for the PL/I programs are as follows:

program	EXTRN	WXTRNs
LB595	IJGFICZZ	18
LB610	IJGVOCZZ	18
LB630	IJGVICZZ	17
LB650	IJGVOCZZ	18
LB695	none	18

Prob 192: (VSE only) LB790 (the call number index regen) cancels in the SORT step with a "WRONG LENGTH RECORD" message

Possible Causes: - Do you have an "INPFIL BLKSIZE=1875" parameter in your sorts? (Certain sort utilities require this, others don't.) If you don't have it, try running the job with this parameter inserted.

Prob 193: In running LB330 you get "WORK AREA EXCEEDED" for certain records on the error report

Possible Causes: - These records have too many author- or title-added entry fields. You can usually correct this by increasing the work area. Change the "WORK\$ EQU 1200" statement to "WORK\$ EQU 1800".

UPCOMING INSTALLATIONS

Cherry Creek Schools (VSE)	February 2
Michigan Technological University (VSE)	February 9
University of Utah (VSE)	February 16
Cornell University (MVS)	March 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ben Schapiro is the newest User Services librarian. Prior to coming to NOTIS, Ben served as Head of Reference, and Head of Circulation at the National College of Education here in Evanston. Ben also coordinated online search services for the College and its branch locations in Virginia and Missouri. He developed and conducted training programs in online searching for faculty and staff.

NEWS FROM USER SERVICES

Mary Alice Ball went on an implementation visit to National University on December 9.

Ben Burrows went to Kent State University December 16-17 to train library staff.

Kathy Cunningham went to St. Louis Community College to train library staff on NOTIS circulation, December 3-4. She also traveled to the Cherry Creek Schools on December 18, and to the University of Utah on December 19 for pre-installation visits.

Tom McGinn made an implementation visit to the University of Texas at Arlington on December 5. He trained library personnel at the University of Illinois at Chicago in circulation on December 11 and 12.

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