Preview of new LMS release!

Redesigned OPAC, online tables featured

Release 5.0 of the NOTIS Library Management System (LMS) is scheduled to appear in the fourth quarter of 1990. The following description of new features and enhancements is taken from an announcement distributed at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter conference earlier this month.

New features and enhancements
- Redesigned OPAC record screens
- MARC Format for Holdings and Locations
- Online NOTIS tables
- Online OPAC help, introductory, and new screens
- Merged Heading Index for the OPAC
- Call number searching for the OPAC
- Call number index enhancements
- Bill and fine record purge program
- FY closing for fund records
- Expanded NOTE fields in acquisitions records
- New global heading change program
- Problem fixes

Redesigned OPAC screens
Improved OPAC record screens provide labeled displays for both brief and full views of records, completely replacing the catalog card format. Detailed status screens are available for serials. All views provide location, call number, and brief status information. The new LSYS function allows library staff to determine the actual labels for each view and, for the full view, what fields from the bibliographic record will display under what label with variations allowed by MARC format. This feature also provides for backward

IN THIS ISSUE

GTO HARDWARE BULLETIN

The manufacturer of the PCOX/COAX™ board reports possible problems when using the board with the IBM PS/2 model 30-286. See page 11 for more information.

and forward movement through multi-screen records.

Benefits: A more user-friendly OPAC. Local control of labels and content of full view to tailor data to local needs. Greater clarity for patrons.

MARC Format for Holdings and Locations (MFHL)

Release 5.0 replaces the NOTIS volume holdings record with a record supporting the MARC format for holdings and location data. It offers additions to the NOTIS tag table and new commands for record display, creation, etc., and provides an explicit label in the copy holdings record to show the existence of a linked MFHL record. There is no effect at this time on current issue displays from the serials check-in record. This release also contains two conversion programs (each with further options) to convert existing holdings data in volume holdings records (one processing unit at a time) to MFHL records.

For more details, see "All about MFHL" on pages 10–17 of the August 1989 *NOTISes*.

Benefits: An excellent import-export capability for holdings data. Maintenance of national standards. A platform for future enhancements for serials module.

Online NOTIS tables

Release 5.0 provides the new transaction LSYS to initiate online menu-driven configuration of the NOTIS tables for security (SECOPR, LC104T), circulation policy (CIRPOL, LC102Tzz), and calendars (CALNDR, LC107TBL). It allows for online entry of parameter values by library staff with immediate updating (or updating at a future date).

Benefits: Requires no programmer/computing center intervention. Provides immediate updating following entry of new parameter values. Reduces local maintenance costs.
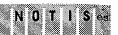
Online OPAC help, introductory, and news screens

This release includes the new transaction LSYS to initiate menu-driven configuration of all OPAC help, introductory, and news screens. It allows for online entry of all such screens by library staff with immediate updating and additional help screens at each help point.

Benefits: Requires no programmer/computing center intervention. Offers immediate updating following addition of new screens or revisions to existing screens. Supplies a complete set of default screens.

Merged heading index for OPAC

The new Merged Heading Index for OPAC provides

Problem after hours? No problem!

You can now use our new voice mail system to report a problem outside of office hours (before 8:30 am or after 5:00 pm CST). Simply call Customer Services at (708) 866-0160. A recorded message will prompt you to enter the extension for the person you are calling. Press 128 on a touch-tone phone's keypad to leave a detailed message for User Services or Technical Support staff.

"A more user-friendly OPAC"

"Online menu-driven configuration of the NOTIS tables..."

"No more blind searches on 'see' references..."

"search under" and "search also under" references in OPAC index displays. It also offers search redirection for "search under" hits. The D/S fixed field element in the bibliographic record allows suppression of records from OPAC. The underscore mark (_) turns off right-hand truncation of the search statement, thereby retrieving exact matches only for OPAC searches; pressing the space bar will do the same for staff mode searches.

Benefits: Cross references for patron searching—no more blind searches on "see" references. Complete and easy suppression of records from an OPAC. Exact-match searching for more precise results.

Enhanced call number index

Release 5.0 offers improvements to call number index programs in staff mode and incorporates this enhanced capability into OPAC searching.

Benefits: Increased access for patrons. More informative index displays.

Bill-and-fine record purge program

This program allows you to set certain parameters for the purging of bill and fine records (e.g., purging all closed bill and fine records; all open bill and fine records of a certain age; etc.), and allows you to perform a "test" run to check parameters before purging the records.

Benefits: More space resulting from removal of closed and/or uncollectible bills.

FY closing

New pre-set, fiscal year-end closing rules for funds and orders offer the following capabilities:
- cancelling open orders
- carrying forward open orders with no allocation change for new fund
- carrying forward open orders with outstanding commitments reallocated
- carrying forward open orders, commitment monies, uncommitted balance
- no year-end processing

This release also offers a wide range of reports for pre- and post-closing forecasts and outcomes.

Benefits: Several options for controlling funds at year-end with the ability to see the results before the actual closing occurs. Pre-set closing rules allow for more streamlined processing. Introduces carry-overs from one FY to the next as may be permitted.

Expanded NOTE fields in acquisition records

Note fields in the fund, invoice, and order records will be lengthened.

Benefits: Allows more space for information per transaction.

New global heading change program

This new program replaces the previous programs. It permits changing of virtually any character string in the database as well as eliminating headings or subheadings as needed by entering changes on a menu-driven work screen.

Benefits: A single method for any type of global heading change. Simplified methodology and complete flexibility to handle all types of needed changes.

Problem fixes

Problems identified by customers are addressed on a monthly basis in "Troubleshooting," a regular feature of *NOTISes.* Fixes for these problems may be included in Release 5.0. Other problems not addressed in "Trouble-shooting" may also be fixed in this release. If you have reported a problem and want to check on its status *vis-a-vis* Release 5.0, call the Customer Services Representative at 708-866-0128; be sure to have your Problem Tracking System number available. ■

Decorative title-page, 1559

Thanks for the forty-percent response rate!

We will be providing you new, reorganized, and more concise versions of the documentation...

How you rated NOTIS customer service

The results are in on the 1989 Customer Satisfaction Survey. NOTIS wishes to thank all of you who took the time to respond. Your response rate of forty percent was considerably higher than the ten percent or less which is typical for mail surveys. In reading your responses, we found your written comments extremely helpful, and we appreciated your candor in expressing your concerns.

Responsiveness

On responsiveness to your questions and problems, you indicated that every NOTIS department had improved. Since you identified responsiveness as a problem area last year, we are pleased that our efforts have had an effect. Your written comments indicate that responsiveness continues to be an area that we need to work on, and we will continue to do so.

Conversion

On the topic of conversion, those of you who have had projects completed in the last year had very positive feedback for us. This is an area where we have worked very hard to improve policies and procedures.

Documentation

You rated user documentation quality the same as you did last year, while your rating of technical documentation quality improved significantly. The confusing array of documentation was a theme in your written comments. Because documentation is a major area of concern for you, we will be providing you new, reorganized, and more concise versions of the documentation as part of your update subscriptions. We are gratified that our strong efforts to improve documentation have met with your approval.

The written comments also indicated that you still want indexes for the documentation. A timetable for this project will be developed in 1990 after the reorganized manuals are shipped. Indexing is a project we have been investigating for the last year. We are researching several software packages which generate indexes. If you have suggestions on any, please write Jane Larkin, Projects Coordinator of Documentation Services. We will keep you advised of our progress on this issue.

Installability

On the installability of NOTIS products, you indicated that we were improving. To streamline future releases, we will be using many of the features of KeyNOTIS, our new library system that requires no on-site programmer. However, the next release of the Library Management Software will require data processing expertise due to its size and complexity.

Other Topics

Other areas of continuing concern are the supportability and the quality of released software. The features of online tables and OPAC help screens in the next release will be a big step forward in addressing the issue of supportability. Quality is an ongoing goal for us. We devote more resources to testing with every release, and will step up our resources in 1990 devoted to quality assurance and quality control.

Last but certainly not least, *thank you.* Thank you for following the Basic Support Policy, thank you for telling us where we need to improve, and thank you for working with us so that we can provide you with the service you deserve.■

Conversion Services support: How to get the most for your money

Have questions about support of a NOTIS Conversion Services product? Need to know where basic support ends and customized support begins?

To help you better understand the support provided by Conversion Services, we are publishing their Basic Support Policy, beginning on page 17 of this issue. We hope it will answer your questions and enable you to get the most from your support time. ■

NOTIS User Services will offer training sessions in all NOTIS Release 4.6 library modules throughout 1990. Sessions will be held at NOTIS headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Sessions will run from 9:00 A.M.–12:00 noon, and from 1:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M.

To register, please use the form on page 8 or contact Sherri Miller at (708) 866-0127.

1990 User Services Training Schedule

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the "fundamentals" portion of the Implementation Training module is required for all sessions except the "Fundamentals of NOTIS" session. Other prerequisites are listed where appropriate

Acquisitions
Wednesday–Thursday, June 27–28, 1990
Thursday–Friday, December 6–7, 1990

Authorities
Prerequisite: Basic knowledge of MARC
Friday, April 6, 1990
Friday, October 5, 1990

Cataloging
Prerequisite: Basic knowledge of MARC
Thursday, April 5, 1990
Thursday, October 4, 1990

Circulation
Thursday–Friday, May 10–11, 1990
Thursday–Friday, November 8–9, 1990

Fundamentals of NOTIS
Friday, February 16, 1990
Friday, July 27, 1990

OPAC
Friday, March 2, 1990
Friday, August 10, 1990

Serials
Thursday–Friday, March 22–23, 1990
Thursday–Friday, September 20–21, 1990

Multiple Database Access System
Prerequisite: OPAC
Friday, February 23, 1990
Friday, April 27, 1990
Friday, June 22, 1990
Friday, August 31, 1990
Friday, October 26, 1990
Friday, December 14, 1990 ■

Ring in the '90s with MDAS Training

Have you recently purchased the NOTIS Multiple Database Access System (MDAS), or are you planning to do so in 1990?

To help you get the most from MDAS, your purchase price includes one day of training in its use. User Services has scheduled a series of one-day MDAS training sessions in 1990 to be held at NOTIS headquarters in Evanston, Illinois.

Who should attend? Those who will be responsible for administering MDAS

Prerequisite: A working knowledge of OPAC

What it covers:
- hands-on training in MDAS System Control File
- establishing, updating, and deleting databases
- screen format and display
- adding, updating, and deleting terminal control
- global databases
- discussion of practical situations

Dates:
- February 23,1990
- June 22, 1990
- October 26, 1990
- April 27, 1990
- August 31, 1990
- December 14, 1990

To register, please use the form below. If you have any questions about MDAS training, please contact Sherri Miller at (708) 866-0127. We look forward to seeing you and discussing your plans to implement MDAS. ■

REGISTRATION FORM (clip and mail)

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
_____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _(____)_____
Course: _____ Date: _____
Amount Incl.: $_____

Registrations will not be accepted without payment. Please complete one form for each attendee. Mail payment to:

> **ATTN: Accounting Department**
> NOTIS User Services/Tech Support
> Training Sessions
> NOTIS Systems, Inc.
> 1007 Church Street, 2nd Floor
> Evanston, IL 60201-3622

(You may photocopy this form if necessary.)

Wow! Here's a chance to become a charter member of the VSE/NOTIS Special Interest Group!

Attention VSE programmers

VSE programmers at all NOTIS sites are welcome (and encouraged) to join the new VSE/NOTIS Special Interest Group. The need for such a group was one topic of the VSE Programmers' Discussion Group at NUGM 1989. Its purpose will be to establish a communications network and provide a unified voice for VSE/NOTIS technical problems, needs, and desires.

Anyone interested in joining us should complete the form on the following page and mail it to:

Merry Lee Motto
Library Programmer
M.I.S. Department, Southeastern Louisiana University
P.O. Box 409
Hammond, LA 70402

We plan to build a database from the information received and we hope to distribute an address list to all members by this summer. Our first annual meeting is scheduled for NUGM 1990. For further information, please call either Merry Lee Motto at (504) 549-3645 or Leigh Williams of Stephen F. Austin University at (409) 568-1421. ■

Show us your OPAC (survey)

The NOTIS Marketing Department is interested in hearing about patrons' reactions to the NOTIS Online Public Access Catalog. If you have conducted an OPAC user survey and would be willing to share the information, please send copies of both your survey and the results to Chuck Williams, Sales Coordinator, NOTIS Systems, Inc., 1007 Church Street, 2nd Floor, Evanston, IL 60201-3622. ■

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    ┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
    │              VSE/NOTIS Special Interest Group             │
    │                    Member Information                     │
    │                  (please print or type)                   │
    │                                                           │
    │  Name:          _____  │
    │  Title:         _____  │
    │  Address:       _____  │
    │                 _____  │
    │                 _____  │
    │                 _____  │
    │  Phone:         (   )___-_____    Extension: _____  │
    │                                                           │
    │  BITNET:        _____  │
    │                                                           │
    │  Special Fields                                           │
    │  of Expertise:  _____  │
    │                 _____  │
    │                                                           │
    │  VSE Version: _____      Under VM:   Yes or No    │
    │                                                           │
    │  CICS Version: _____    Number CICS Regions: _____ │
    │                                                           │
    │  Networking: 1) VTAM or 2) BTAM                           │
    │                                                           │
    │  Utility                                                  │
    │  Packages:      _____  │
    │                                                           │
    │  DASD Model:  _____      DASD:   1) CKD or 2) FBA  │
    │                                                           │
    │  Protocol                        Number of DASD           │
    │  Converter: _____    Physical Drives:_____ │
    │                                                           │
    │  Mainframe                                                │
    │  Model:       _____              MIPS:_____   │
    │                                                           │
    │  Other                                                    │
    │  Hardware:      _____            │
    │                                                           │
    │  NOTIS Version: _____    SAS Version: _____  │
    │                                                           │
    │  Modules                                                  │
    │  Implemented: _____  │
    │                                                           │
    │  Is your system: 1) Dedicated to NOTIS or 2) Shared       │
    │                                                           │
    │  Number of Bib Records in Production Database: _____  │
    │                                                           │
    │  Special Needs                                            │
    │  or Comments:   _____  │
    └─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
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There have been reports of problems with the PCOX/COAX™ 3270 interface board when installed in an IBM PS/2 model 30-286 microcomputer.

GTO hardware bulletin

We recently obtained important information from Novell, Incorporated, the manufacturer of the PCOX/COAX™ 3270 emulation board used for connecting the GTO PC to a an IBM 3x74 controller.

Novell has had several reports of problems when using the board with the IBM PS/2 model 30-286 microcomputer, a model that we identified as suitable for use as a GTO microcomputer. Novell now states that the PS/2 model 30-286 equipped with the PCOX/COAX™ 3270 emulation board "failed to perform consistently."

At least until a solution to the problem is implemented, we do not recommend using the PS/2 model 30-286 as a GTO microcomputer in a 3x74 hardware environment. Novell is currently in touch with IBM about this issue; the NOTIS Technical Support Group is monitoring the situation closely and will keep you informed.

In the meantime, if you have already ordered an IBM PS/2 model 30-286 for use as a GTO microcomputer, you may wish to call your vendor to cancel or postpone your order until further information is available. If you already have the PS/2 model 30-286, please wait for further information before installing GTO or attempting to run GTO in a 3x74 hardware environment.

Please note that the PCOX/COAX™ 3270 emulation board is not used when connecting the GTO PC to an IBM 7171 controller. Therefore, the PS/2 model 30-286 is still recommended as a GTO microcomputer if you are operating in an IBM 7171 environment.

Any GTO customer who needs further clarification or has other information to offer should call NOTIS Systems' Technical Support Group at (708) 866-0128. ∎

Problem after hours?
No problem!

You can now use our new voice mail system to report a problem outside of office hours (before 8:30 am or after 5:00 pm CST). Simply call Customer Services at (708) 866-0160. A recorded message will prompt you to enter the extension for the person you are calling. Press 128 on a touch-tone phone's keypad to leave a detailed message for User Services or Technical Support staff.

Price increase for printed tag tables

We announced in September that we will no longer be including the tag tables in the *NOTIS Terminal Operator's Manual*, Appendix II to Vol. 1, Part 3. Documentation Services will provide you with a copy of the printed tag tables on two-sided, three-hole punched paper for $40. However, you will find it more convenient to run batch job LB270 locally to produce tables that incorporate any local modifications made to LC110DAT. ■

TOM gets new look, new name

As we reported to you in the November issue of *NOTISes*, Documentation Services will be producing all future material by using desk top publishing techniques. To go along with our new look for user documentation, we have chosen a new name for the Terminal Operator's Manuals. We feel the new title, *NOTIS User's Guide*, better reflects the contents of the manuals. The first manual to receive the new look and the new name will be volume 3, the online public catalog documentation. *NOTIS User's Guide, Vol. 3*, has been completely revised and will be issued in its entirety to all User Update subscribers in January. In February, we will be issuing the "Troubleshooting Guide," also produced on desk top publishing software. As always we want to hear from you. Let us know what you think of our new look. ■

Vænundantur in ædibus Afcenfianis.

Tulane loads 1.7 million records!

Hats off to Tulane University on the successful loading of their production database. According to Lewis Cartee, Systems Librarian at the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, the Data Phase loader (LBC30) loaded approximately 303,130 bibliographic records and the OCLC 2 loader wrote 119,775 records. The production team then built 410,988 item records and linked 399,770 of those items with LDM25 (the bar code batch link program).

Tulane's database is now fully functional with almost 1.7 million bibliographic and holdings records and the Tulane team is now looking forward to bringing up the Circulation and Serials modules in 1990. ■

What's in a name?

Have you given us your online public access catalog (OPAC) name? This month we are adding four new entries to our ever-growing collection (see next page) of local OPAC names: MAGIC (Michigan State University), COAST (California State University at Long Beach), Scholar (Cleveland State University) and TULANET (Tulane University). ■

OPAC NAMES

ACORN	Vanderbilt University
BEACON	Grand Valley State University
BISON	SUNY-Buffalo
BYLINE	Brigham Young University
CATALYST	Kent State University
CHESTER	West Chester University
CLIO	Columbia University
COAST	California State.–Long Beach
CUNY+	City University of New York
DELCAT	University of Delaware
ELIXIR	SUNY–Binghamton
FOCUS	Michigan Technological University
JANUS	Johns Hopkins University
LOLA	Louisiana State University
LUIS*	University of Texas-El Paso
LUMINA	University of Minnesota
LUNA	N.A.S.A.
MAGIC	Michigan State University
MCLUIS	Montgomery College
MINERVA	University of Louisville
MIRLYN	University of Michigan
MORRIS	McMaster University
MURLIN	University of Regina
MUSE	McGill University
OASIS	University of Iowa
OLIN	University of Oklahoma
ORBIS	National Geographic, Yale University
PennLIN	University of Pennsylvania
PITTCAT	University of Pittsburgh
QLINE	Queen's University
ROCky	Iona College
Scholar	Cleveland State University
STARS	SUNY–Stony Brook
THOR	Purdue University
TOPCAT	Western Kentucky University
TULANET	Tulane University
UNACAT	University of North Alabama
UNICAT	Burroughs Wellcome Company
UNIS	University of Utah
UNLOC	University of Notre Dame
VICTOR	University of Victoria
VIRGO	University of Virginia
YORKLINE	York University

*Pronounced loo-EECE

Implementing Dynamic Transaction Backout

Jerry Specht
NOTIS Chief Systems Engineer

Protect the integrity of your files through the proper use of this important safeguard

The CICS environment used by NOTIS software provides a feature called Dynamic Transaction Backout (DTB) which can significantly ease recovery from a system crash or certain types of abnormal situations. In essence, the DTB facility can restore your files to the state they were in at the beginning of any operation that terminated abnormally. However, before DTB can work for you it is necessary for your systems support staff to set up certain parameters.

Beginning with Release 4.6 of NOTIS, we strongly recommend that DTB be implemented on all files that are updated online. (Exceptions are JABNS and JABRS: see Problem V338 of the Troubleshooting Guide; and LTVCHR: see the 4.6 upgrade instructions, page G1.) Files that are updated online are those with either "UPDATE" or "NEWREC" specified in their FCT SERVREQ.

Since a number of NOTIS customers have had problems resulting from failure to properly implement DTB, we are offering the following summary of the steps that must be taken to activate this facility:

1. In the SIT, specify DBP=YES (or DBP=1$) and DBUFSIZ= 20480. The latter value must be at least large enough to accommodate the largest record updated online.
2. In the PPT, in the TYPE=GROUP (the system part of the PPT), specify "FN=BACKOUT." Note that this is included in the standard IBM-supplied PPT entries, so unless you've changed them, you won't need to do anything.
3. In the FCT, you need to have a "LOG=YES" parameter and DELETE as a SERVREQ value in the entry for each file which is to be backed out. (See problem V356 with respect to DELETE.) The 4.6 sample FCT (LICFCT) did not specify these properly; The 4.6.1 version does.
4. In the PCT, specify "DFHPCT TYPE=INITIAL,DTB=YES" or specify "DTB=YES" in the TYPE=ENTRY for each individual transaction.
5. System Journal: The system journal or "system log" (DFHJ01A/DFHJ01B) needs to be defined and formatted and needs to have an entry in the JCT. Note that the BUFSIZE=4096 in the IBM-supplied JCT entry for the system journal is too small. It needs to be increased to BUFSIZE=20472. ∎