NOTIS documentation: Not just a new look

by Michael West, NOTIS Documentation Services

Most of you are aware that NOTIS has been upgrading its software manuals and other publications in recent months. We have announced our plans for documentation upgrades at NOTIS Users Group Meetings, in these pages, and elsewhere.

Customers who purchased the NOTIS Generic Transfer and Overlay (GTO) System or the Multiple Database Access System (MDAS) last year were the first to see the future of NOTIS documentation. Subsequently, our January, 1990 user documentation update (Volume 3 of the *NOTIS User's Guide*) and our February technical documentation update (the "Troubleshooting Guide" plus updates to the *Programmer's Reference Manual*) were the first examples of our new, high-quality publication format to go into general distribution.

We are still in the process of converting all our technical and non-technical user documentation from an outdated mainframe-based word-processing system to our "desktop-publishing" hardware and software. Preparation for a smooth conversion has required all of us in Documentation Services to educate ourselves regarding the possibilities and limitations of desktop-publishing. These things must be done carefully and with forethought.

This conversion process involves not just a new physical appearance—we are also thoroughly revising the old material in order to make it more accurate, more concise, and better-organized. By removing redundancies and

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BULLETIN

7-to-7 phone coverage is coming soon.

obsolete material, we are greatly reducing the size of the NOTIS bookshelf even though we are adding new material where it is needed.

"NUG 2" coming in April, no tech update in May

Our April user documentation update will consist of Volume 2 of the *NOTIS User's Guide. NUG 2* corresponds to the old *Terminal Operator's Manual (TOM)*, Volume 2. This is the volume describing NOTIS circulation function. Perhaps the best news is that there will be no "asterisked" chapters in the new *NUG 2*—it is a complete manual. (Previously, asterisks were used to flag unfinished chapters.)

There will be no technical documentation update issued in May. The forthcoming 5.0 Release of the NOTIS software will be accompanied by a complete technical documentation update.
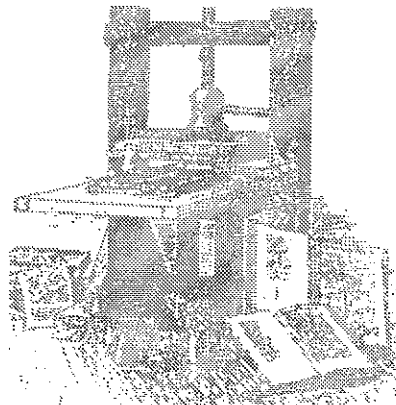
Tech doc revamp

Some time ago it became obvious to us that the old structure of NOTIS technical documentation was no longer supportable. Our current plans call for altering the current *Installation and Operation Manual/Programmer's Reference Manual* structure by creating two new volumes:
- A technical reference manual containing record layouts plus JCL/flowchart descriptions and procedures for batch operations. This manual would also include some introductory material, distilled from the current *PRM* and *I&O* manuals, on the interrelationships of NOTIS records and programs.
- A guide to NOTIS messages and codes, similar to the current "Troubleshooting Guide."

In addition, each major release of the software would be accompanied by an installation guide containing a list of all modules and their functions. Since this information is release-dependent, it would be revised and reissued with each release.

Suggestions?

If you have any ideas about how we can further improve the format and content of any of our manuals or other publications, please let us hear from you. ■

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.

NOTIS's Manager of Technical Support discusses our new guidelines for packaging batch job control language (JCL).

Technical Support update:
Our new JCL standards

by Jonathan Elliott, NOTIS Technical Support Manager

Over the past several years the NOTIS software has undergone tremendous growth in capabilities and complexity. At the same time, the number and diversity of NOTIS sites has also grown. Growth in either of these areas would present a challenge to any software company, but combined they require considerable expertise in order to provide a product that can be used by all.

When NOTIS begins packaging a new release we must consider many things, including the decisions you have made at your sites. Taken together, these considerations set the boundaries within which we write Job Control Language (JCL). Given the wide range of operating systems, software, and hardware, it is impossible for us to provide JCL that is just right for everyone.

What we can do is create a package that can be easily modified to run at each site. We continuously monitor and modify standards and procedures to provide our customers with the best products and service. One example is our recent decision to revise batch jobs to utilize symbolic parameters as much as possible, reducing individual job modification time.

Because the NOTIS software runs on the IBM 370 platform, we use features that are supported by IBM. This also means that although NOTIS software runs on previous operating system release levels, the JCL we distribute will require fewer modifications if you are on the current versions of IBM software.

It is our goal to provide excellent service to all customers. If there are standards or procedures that benefit your site and may also benefit other sites, please forward them to us through the Programmers Special Interest Group or the User Survey. ■

The things taught in schools and colleges are not an education, but the means of education.
　　　　　—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Basic support ending for some record-loader programs

NOTIS Conversion Services has announced that basic support will be ending for some loader and loader-related programs that have been replaced by newer programs. The replaced programs include the following:

- LBC10—NOTIS Record Loader
- LBC60—OCLC Serials Union List Loader
- LBC70—RLIN-Type Record Loader
- LBC90—OCLC-Type Record Loader
- LD08X—Linked Item Record Creation

Release 5.0 of the Library Management System includes new versions of record loaders LBC10, LBC70, and LBC90. The new loader will be modular and easy to maintain.

The linked-item-record-creation functionality of the LD08X program is included in the generic functionality of our recently released LBC30. Therefore, LBC30 replaces the old LD08X program.

The LBC60 program is being incorporated as a separate holdings module of LBC30.

Basic support for the replaced programs will continue until April 1, 1991. After that date support will be provided at our current hourly consulting rate.

Please contact Jim Miesse (708-866-0198) or Bill Easton (708-866-0159) if you have any questions. ■

NOTIS to get new phone system

In order to accommodate our increasing phone volume more efficiently, NOTIS will be installing a new phone system on May 25, 1990. On that date, there may be a brief interruption of no more than one hour in phone service. If you are unable to contact us at some point during that day, please try again; we will be ready and better able to serve you in a very short time. Thank you for your patience. ■

4.6 file size calculations for the 9370

James Armstrong of Princeton Theological submitted these file size calulations for NOTIS version 4.6 running on a 9370 series with the DOS/VSE operating system.

A sample of 310,000 Princeton records indicates that the following space usage may be anticipated. New cluster definitions should be established with these values in mind (the authority sample was 128,000). ■

Fileid	Loc	10KDatBlk	10KIxBlk	350KDataBlk	350KInxBlk
LVEBIBF	C02	17,425	43	610,000	1,505
LVEAUTF	D02	9,525	24	333,500	840
FLATFILE	D01	14,375	—	503,125	—
LONGWORD	C02	180	—	6,000	—
LVESTNX	D03	1,055	5	36,950	180
LVEATLX	D03	3,475	17	121,650	595
LVESUHX	D03	235	2	8,250	70
LVESUTX	D03	2,315	—	81,100	—
LVECALX	D02	340	2	11,900	70
LVEAUTX	D03	25	2	14,900	75
LVEMHIX	D03	8,525	165	298,400	5,775
DICTLUVE	D02	905	—	31,700	—
INVTLUVE	D02	4,420	—	189,700	—
TNDXLUVE	D02	520	—	18,200	—
FLATFILE	D01	3,900	—	273,000	—
LUSBIBF*	D03	17,425	43	175,000	450

* A workfile for 100,000 records.

DocAlerts

Please make these corrections to your NOTIS documentation.

1. A production error in the 1990 issue of the NOTIS "Troubleshooting Guide" caused the following spurious entries to appear in the index:
   - Abend 0C4 (in LB020) (Problem 6006)
   - Abend 0C4 (in LB040) (Problem 6006)
   - Abend 0C4 (in LB060) (Problem 6006)
   - LB020, 0C4 abend (Problem 6006)
   - LB040, 0C4 abend (Problem 6006)
   - LB060, 0C4 abend (Problem 6006)

   The problem to which these entries refer was eliminated in release 4.5 of the NOTIS LMS product. Please correct the index to your copy of TSG by crossing out these entries. Users who have not yet installed release 4.5 should refer to the earlier editions of the TSG, since the present edition covers only the 4.5 and 4.6 releases. Thanks to Kathy Olivierre at UPRLC for pointing out the discrepancy.

2. Another "Troubleshooting Guide" error occurred on page 220. Problem 9500 contains a "see" reference to problems 9501 and 9502. Please delete this reference. Problems 9501 and 9502 have been eliminated.

3. Please remove Appendix D from your Installation and Operations Manual. This test script is not valid for the new sample data supplied on the installation tape. ■

"Star Search" Department:
Join the NUGM Singers

Susan Gangl, Dan Donnelly, Don Osier, and Kathy Gorman of the University of Minnesota have written a number of songs about NOTIS. They are willing to share them with all NOTIS users. The songs are set to well-known tunes. A few examples:
- "Cattle Hymn of the Public Terminal" (to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic")
- "Read Me Tender" (to the tune of "Love Me Tender, Love Me True")
- "Goodbye Card Catalog Road" (to the tune of "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road")

The NUGM Planning Committee is looking for people who would like to form a singing group to perform three or four of these songs during lunch on Day 2 of NUGM 1990. We also need musical accompaniment and someone to conduct (or at least coordinate) the singers and musicians. If you are interested in joining the NUGM singers, please contact Liz Feltmann at (708) 866-0180. ■

What's In a Name?

Wow! Six new OPAC names this month. If we've missed you, please let us know. Thanks to Ann Marie Secord (LIBROS), Maureen Pastine (PONI), Mildred Kingsbury (CRISTAL), David Reiman (UTMOST), Karin Begg (QUEST), and Mary Burgett (LIBRIS). ■

OPAC NAMES

ACORN ....Vanderbilt University	MURLIN ......University of Regina
BEACON .....Grand Valley State University	MUSE ....McGill University
BISON ....SUNY-Buffalo	OASIS..........University of Iowa
BYLINE........Brigham Young University	OLIN ....University of Oklahoma
CATALYST ...Kent State University	ORBIS ....National Geographic,
CENTRA ......Central Michigan University	Yale University
CHESTER .....West Chester University	PEGASUS ....University of California–Santa Barbara
CLIO ....Columbia University	PennLIN ......University of Pennsylvania
COAST ....California State–Long Beach	PITTCAT......University of Pittsburgh
CRISTAL ......Upper Peninsula (Michigan) Region	PONI ....Southern Methodist University
of Library Cooperation	QUEST ....Boston College
CUNY+ ....City University of New York	QLINE ....Queen's University
DELCAT.......University of Delaware	ROCky.........Iona College
ELIXIR ....SUNY-Binghamton	SADIE..........Southwest Missouri State University
FOCUS........Michigan Technological University	Scholar ....Cleveland State University
JANUS.........Johns Hopkins University	STARS..........SUNY-Stony Brook
LIBRIS ....Rice University	THOR...........Purdue University
LIBROS........National University	TOPCAT......Fort Hays State University,
LOLA...........Louisiana State University	Western Kentucky University
LUIS ....(pronounced loo-EECE)	TULANET ....Tulane University
University of Texas-El Paso	UNACAT.....University of North Alabama
LUMINA......University of Minnesota	UNICAT ......Burroughs Wellcome Company
LUNA..........N.A.S.A.	UNIS ....University of Utah
MAGIC ....Michigan State University	UNLOC.......University of Notre Dame
MCLUIS ......Montgomery College	UTMOST.....University of Toledo
MINERVA ...University of Louisville	VICTOR.......University of Victoria
MIRLYN ......University of Michigan	VIRGO ....University of Virginia
MORRIS ......McMaster University	YORKLINE...York University

Troubleshooting

by Jerry Specht, Chief Systems Engineer

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 Installation & Operations Manual*) we list them here in NOTISes so you won't have to wait for a new release in order to be aware of them. If you have suggestions, send them to Jerry Specht.*

We recommend that you take these troubleshooting pages and append them to the February 1990 "Troubleshooting Guide."

The problems have been, and will continue to be, assigned temporary numbers beginning with V400, so that they will be in sequence. Periodically, we will issue an updated index which will include both these problems and the ones already in the guide. Once per year, we will send you an entirely new guide in which all of the problems that have appeared in NOTISes since the last publication of the guide will be integrated and assigned permanent numbers.

Announcements

News from San Diego

[Anne Marie Secord, National University's Director of Library Services, has passed us the the following announcement.]

National University Library in California is celebrating National Library Week this year by introducing the cataloging and OPAC modules utilizing the NOTIS system. The new OPAC is named LIBROS (Library Resources Online System) and can be used to search the Library System's holdings at the more than 600 mainframe terminals located at any of the eleven campuses. ∎

NUGM reminder

The 1990 NOTIS Users Group Meeting is fast approaching. NUGM will be held October 24–25, 1990, with the following pre-NUGM workshops being offered on October 23.
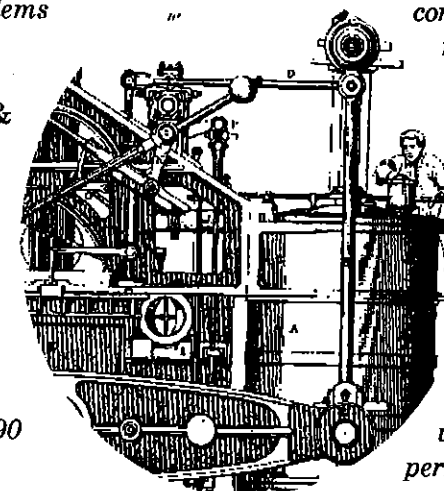- Online Public Access Catalog
- Serials Workshop on NOTIS MFHL (MARC format for holdings and locations)
- 5.0 Upgrade and Migration ∎

V429   Problem:

(4.6 and 4.6.1 only)
You find the current placement of the **action date** in the **order record** inconsistent with its previous placement and with its placement in other records.

Causes/Solution:

The following change, 12 lines after the label TBL3 in LC842BAL, causes the action date to be displayed in front of the modification date —as it was previous to Release 4.6.

```
DC        Y(M#LS05)
DC        YL1(33,...
DC        Y(M#LS02)              moved up
DC        YL1(22,DTMOD5...       moved up
DC        Y(M#LS03)              moved down
DC        YL1(23,DTFADR...       moved down
DC        Y(0)
```

V430   Problem:

You have set the maximum **overdues** values in the LB660 step of the **LB610** job to 0 (to indicate no blocking) but **patrons are still being blocked.**

Causes/Solution:

This can be corrected by inserting 2 state-ments one line after the label A173 in LB660BAL.

```
A173    CP        ....
        BL        A010
        CP        6(3,R14),=P'0'     insert
        BE        A010               insert
        OI        ....
```

This or an equivalent change will be included in the 5.0 version of LB660BAL.

V431   Problem:

When you run **LBC80/LBC12** the processing unit is changed to AA.

Causes/Solution:

You need to specify your processing unit in the second and third of the sysparm positions in LBC12JOB. (The first position specifies the first letter of the bib record keys.)

Example: Your bib keys begin with "A" and your processing unit is "DU". You would specify "SYSPARM=ADU".

V432   Problem:

(4.6 and higher)
You would like to have **OPAC statistics** be logged for all terminals, not just those locked

*Boldface type in the problem description indicates index terms and/or main topics.