

# NOTISes

*For users of  
NOTIS  
library  
information  
systems*

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## Thank You!

Our Customer Satisfaction Survey received a response rate of 79%. Thank you very much for taking the time to respond. We will be reporting results of the survey in future issues of NOTISes. Again, we appreciate the time you took to fill out this survey. ■

## NOTIS announces its development schedule for 1991

NOTIS is always looking ahead to the future, so we can continually enhance our existing products and develop new products to meet changing needs. Two of our projects will result in substantial enhancements to the NOTIS™ Library Management System, KeyNOTIS™, and the Multiple Database Access System. Other projects will result in brand new software—new “firsts” from NOTIS.

Enhancements to the NOTIS library management software include location-based catalogs and redesigned serials check-in. New products include electronic data transmission based on the ANSI X12 standard, new capabilities for NOTIS' Multiple Database Access System, and a system-to-system connection for OPAC searching and interlibrary loan based on Z39.50 and utilizing the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI).

“Keeping our existing products up-to-date and creating new software to meet the demands of the future is definitely what NOTIS is all about,” said Jane Burke, NOTIS President. “And we do this by listening all of the time to our current and prospective customers. We have to reinvent ourselves all the time if we are to continue to succeed as we have in the past.”

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### BULLETIN

We'd like to welcome Trinity College as a new customer!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Organizational changes in Customer Services

We are happy to announce that effective February 1, Carole Norris will manage Technical Support. Carole was previously the Manager of User Services. We want to congratulate Kathy Cunningham, who will replace Carole as Manager of User Services. Kathy was previously the training coordinator for User Services. ■

## News from Documentation Services

### Update to the Trouble Shooting Guide

Documentation Services will not issue an update to the NOTIS Troubleshooting Guide in February. This will allow us to concentrate on publishing a new NOTIS Technical Reference Manual, which was the #1 priority in the 1991 Customer Satisfaction Survey. This new reference manual contains job documentation and brief program descriptions, and will be shipped to you as part of your Technical Update subscription along with the 5.0 Release tape.

### Photocopying Programmer's Reference Manual

As we reported in the January issue of *NOTISes*, Documentation Services is no longer publishing the NOTIS Programmer's Reference Manual (PRM). We will, however, allow you to photocopy all or part of the manual for *internal use only*. Please do not distribute PRM to any non-NOTIS customer. We appreciate your cooperation.

### Attention LIB1s

Many of you have requested documents to assist you in implementing Release 5.0. We have OPAC screen prints available for purchase from Documentation Services. Please contact Jutta Kehoe at (708) 866-0199 for further information. Release 5.0 phone support will begin after the shipment of Release 5.0 tapes.

The NOTIS Library Implementation manual (an all new edition) will be ready for distribution to all user update subscribers at the end of April. ■

## NOTISes

*NOTISes* is published monthly by the Documentation Services department, NOTIS Systems, Incorporated. The purpose of *NOTISes* is to provide timely, helpful, and accurate information about NOTIS products and services to the NOTIS user community.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscriptions are available to NOTIS users at the rate of \$65 for one year by calling us at (708) 866-0150 or writing us at 1007 Church Street, 2nd Floor, Evanston, Illinois 60201-3622.

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** We welcome articles and suggestions from the user community. Please call for formatting suggestions before submitting items for publication.

MANAGER, DOCUMENTATION SERVICES  
Jane Larkin

EDITOR  
Robyn McMurray

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Sherri Miller

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### Problem after hours? No problem!

You can call a systems engineer to help you resolve your technical problems from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (CST). From 7:00-8:30 a.m. and from 5:00-7:00 p.m., the system engineer on duty will handle incoming calls in correlation with the voice mail system. Simply call Customer Services at (708) 866-1100.

## What you can expect from Basic Support

With the release of LMS 5.0 scheduled in April, we want to remind you that any problem in a previous release that does not exist in the current software release will be closed. ■

## Attention Tech1s:

Dave Dempsey's NUGM presentation on "Tuning and Tailoring Keyword/Boolean" will be mailed with GTO 3.0 Release documentation to all Tech1s. If you do not receive a copy, please call Technical Support. ■

## Circulation discharge problem and solution

Two sites have noted a random problem with the discharge of items. Specifically, the system appears to discharge an item without actually discharging it. During discharge, the system message "Successfully discharged..." appears, but the item record is not updated and the item stays charged to the borrower.

While the problem has not been replicated on the NOTIS test systems, the following recommendation has alleviated similar problems in the past. You should ensure that the TWA size is at least 1700 bytes for LCxx transactions and at least 768 bytes for L\$xx transactions. You should make this modification in conjunction with TSG V401. Also see Note 1 in *NOTISes/61* Troubleshooting section for more information. ■

## New currency code standards in Release 5.0

Currency conversion is one aspect of the new functionality that is available in NOTIS LMS Release 5.0. To construct your foreign currency codes, NOTIS recommends using the ISO (International Standards Organization) Standard 4217:1990 (E/F). The ISO standard supports the American National Standards Institute.

The ISO standard's official title is "Codes for the Representation of Currencies and Funds." It costs \$51, which includes shipping.

To order, or to get more information, please contact: ANSI at (212) 642-4900, or 1930 Broadway, New York, New York, 10018. ■

## "Orphan" OPAC looks for a name

California State University—San Bernardino, our first KeyNOTIS site, is holding a contest to name its "orphan" OPAC. The winner receives a \$75 Coyote Bookstore prize. California State University—San Bernardino will announce the winner in Spring Quarter 1991 at which time we will publish their new OPAC name. ■

## We sent this letter to library directors, data processing directors, Lib1s, and Tech1s

One of our greatest challenges at NOTIS is to identify what enhancements to our existing products are most desired by our users. For the last two years we have asked you and your colleagues to suggest ways to improve our software. The most frequent suggestion from directors is to reduce the staff resources required to maintain the NOTIS Library Management System.

### Release 5.0

Release 5.0 addresses this issue completely. In 1990 we did some significant software engineering to reduce the technical resources needed for ordinary, everyday maintenance of the NOTIS Library Management System at customer sites. In part, we were able to do this because of increases in maintenance revenue. That additional revenue allowed us to focus on the needs of management, in addition to the needs expressed by your staff.

The resource-saving features are part of LMS Release 5.0, which will be shipped to you in March 1991. Release 5.0 is a truly new version of NOTIS, not only because it reduces staff requirements, but also because of major improvements in functionality.

The release significantly reduces the staff resources required to maintain NOTIS software in two ways. First, table and screen functions are now part of an online system control file. With Release 5.0, data center staff will be relieved from making table and screen changes, reassembling programs, and performing other time-consuming tasks. In addition, by moving control of the table and screen changes to the library staff, you can implement changes more quickly and reduce communication time between the library and data center staffs. This will save staff time in both areas.

### Installation of Release 5.0

Our goal is to have 80% of our customers in production with Release 5.0 by summer 1991. Meeting this goal helps all of us. As demands on your staff are increasing, the sooner Release 5.0 is in production, the sooner you benefit from our easier-to-maintain software. NOTIS will also save staff resources on phone support because of the high quality of this release and the fact that we can replicate your problems more quickly with online control file capabilities. This allows NOTIS to allocate

more of your maintenance dollar to new development.

Based on information from two Beta sites, the staff time required to install Release 5.0 is one programmer month and one library staff month. For staff who attended NUGM, this estimate may be high because of the 5.0 training at NUGM 1990.

We hope that by giving you these estimates now you can plan for the resources needed to be in production by summer 1991.

### Source code changes

Because we are looking to reduce the staff time you allocate to NOTIS, we have also done considerable analysis of the problems reported to NOTIS. We found that the number of hours you spend on NOTIS software directly relates to the number of source code changes made at your site.

The more changes to source code, the more time your staff spends on NOTIS. For that reason, we are strongly discouraging you from making source code changes to Release 5.0. Our support policy states that we do not answer questions that stem from source code changes. In order to reduce staff time in bringing up Release 5.0, we want to encourage you to install Release 5.0 in the distributed version.

This not only insures that you will receive responsive support for Release 5.0, but it also allows you to install the release more quickly. Although we do not support source code changes, it is clear that you find the possession of source code an important benefit, and we will send you source code for all Release 5.0 programs with one exception. We won't send you system control function source code because changes to this could have disastrous effects on the operation of the Library Management System.

If you need system control source code, we will send you a form that outlines the risks of changing system control functions. We will ask both the library director and data processing director to sign the form prior to shipping the source code for the system control functions.

NOTIS has spent a tremendous amount of time on Release 5.0. We are proud of this release and are looking forward to seeing it in production soon. We urge you to begin making plans now for scheduling the installation of Release 5.0. ■

## NOTIS offers technical user training on SAS Data Extract programs

**Where:** NOTIS Headquarters, Evanston, Illinois  
**When:** April 24-26, 1991  
**Who:** Technical users interested in developing SAS reports generated from NOTIS files  
**Cost:** \$900 for 1 person, \$600 for each add'l person  
**Register:** Fill in the Registration Form on page 8

### GOALS

This course is intended to give the NOTIS technical user a solid base from which to develop their own SAS reports generated from NOTIS files. The seminar will present a review of SAS programming concepts as they relate to the NOTIS/SAS Data Extract programs, an overview of the NOTIS record structure, a detailed review of the data extract programs themselves, and hands-on lab assignments working with the data extract programs.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To gain an understanding of basic SAS report code and typical uses, especially as it pertains to NOTIS flat file extracts.
- To gain an understanding of the NOTIS flat file extract record structure for the purpose of creating useful SAS programs with speed and efficiency.

### TOTAL TIME

3 day intensive course divided into 12 sessions and 3 labs.

### CONTENTS

- SAS code; the structure of SAS code, how to create basic reports and utilities, and useful SAS functions.
- The NOTIS record structure and how to deal with these files using SAS language. Our approach to understanding these records will be through the DATA section of the SAS code.
- The NOTIS data extraction programs; what they do and how they operate. Close examination of the code to gain an understanding of the processing and potential use of these extraction tools.
- Using output from the extraction programs, we will code and execute a variety of SAS report jobs against most of the NOTIS online files. These will be based on the extraction jobs as well as the needs of individual trainees. ■

## NOTIS and UMI/Data Courier sign agreement

NOTIS and UMI/Data Courier announced an agreement that permits users of NOTIS' Multiple Database Access System (MDAS) to purchase UMI databases for local online access.

The agreement includes ABI INFORM, Dissertation Abstracts, Newspaper Abstracts, Periodical Abstracts, and Business Dateline. ABI INFORM is the only one that NOTIS is developing a loader for at this time.

The MDAS software allows NOTIS sites to mount data files locally and provides one user interface to the NOTIS OPAC and other databases. Author, title, subject, and keyword searching is the same in the OPAC and all other databases. MDAS automatically "hooks" database citations to local holdings data in the NOTIS files for a seamless display to the user.

MDAS users interested in the UMI databases should contact Valerie MacLeod, Manager of Systems & Documentation, at 1-800-626-2823 for database pricing information.

MDAS sites should contact their NOTIS Marketing Representative for other information or call (708) 866-0156 and ask to speak to a Product Specialist. ■

## NOTIS will sell licenses to the MDAS Loaders

Beginning in the first quarter of 1991, NOTIS will begin selling licenses to the MDAS loaders to all MDAS users. We are selling the MDAS loaders to respond to our MDAS users who wish to load their own data. This was the highest priority request on the MDAS enhancement ballot.

The following loaders are available for sale through Conversion Services:

- Wilson loader which loads the following indexes:
  - ART—Art Index
  - ASI—Applied Science and Technology
  - BAI—Biological and Agricultural
  - BPI—Business Periodicals
  - EDI—Education Index
  - GSI—General Science
  - HUM—Humanities
  - ILP—Index to Legal Periodicals
  - RGA—Readers Guide Abstracts
  - SSI—Social Sciences Index
- ERIC (RIE/CIJE) Loader
- MEDLINE Loader
- Compendex Plus Loader
- PsycINFO Loader
- Current Contents Loader which consists of the seven subsets:
  - Clinical Medicine
  - Life Sciences
  - Engineering, Technology, and Applied Sciences
  - Agriculture, Biology, and Environmental Sciences
  - Physical, Chemical, and Earth Sciences
  - Social and Behavioral Sciences
  - Arts and Humanities

The MDAS loaders were developed in cooperation with the database vendors. In some cases the specifications for the individual loaders were approved by the vendors and became part of the contract NOTIS has with the vendor.

Many of the database vendors expressed concern about the integrity of the data and how it is to be displayed. The loaders will be distributed in load module only, source code will not be provided. Documentation will be distributed with each loader to assist you in loading the data.

MDAS users who are now having their data preloaded by Maxwell Online, may choose to terminate that service. NOTIS will credit the months remaining on the preloading subscription against the cost of the loaders.

If you have any questions or would like to purchase any of the loaders, please contact Bill Easton, Manager of Conversion Services, at (708) 866-0159. ■

## Conversion Services' goals for Release 5.0

Conversion Services is working on converting NOTIS' conversion programs to be compatible with Release 5.0. While we are working on our programs, we are fixing the bugs that have been reported to NOTIS and also incorporating some of the enhancements you have suggested.

Conversion Services' first concern is working with the distributed generic programs. Our goal is to distribute these programs with the Release 5.0 distribution tape, but the programs must be Beta tested before we distribute them. This is what we hope to accomplish:

- Correct all known bugs that have been reported.
- Incorporate the MFHL format and reading of the Control file in all distributed generic programs.
- Follow the standards developed by Systems Development, and modify the programs to incorporate these standards, such as
  - begin each program with a standard documentation box
  - include a maintenance log
  - include a NOTIS copyright documentation box
  - precede each subroutine with a descriptive documentation box
  - include a descriptive line for each line of code
  - delete all commented out code
  - code all system macros with macros adopted by Systems Development
  - precede all forced abends with a message
- Incorporate suggested enhancements, if they are generic enough to benefit all users.

### We need Beta test sites

We will spend a significant amount of time testing all the changes that are being made to our programs. We would also like to have our users be Beta test sites. Right now we are looking for sites to volunteer to test Release 5.0 Conversion programs.

We realize that most sites do not have the data necessary to test our programs and are not running Release 5.0. Some of the Beta testing will have to be done after the release. If you would be interested in Beta testing conversion programs for Release 5.0, please contact Bill Easton.

### A new generic loader with Release 5.0

A new generic loader will replace LBC90/70 in Release 5.0. This new loader is parameter driven and a number of parameters will be passed to the program to allow you to designate processing unit, NOTIS location and sublocation, spanned or unspanned records, and starting record key

Updates and enhancements to Conversion Services for cost products will be available no later than June 30, 1991. These updates will be distributed to those users who pay a maintenance fee on their conversion programs. All other users will need to request these enhancements.

We will have more information on this in the March issue of *NOTISes*. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Easton at (708) 866-0159. ■