ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
Dedicate Online Computer System
—Another 'First' for UIUC Library

There have been many "firsts" in the long history of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign, and the latest was observed formally April 12. At that time the new online computer system was dedicated and Chancellor Thomas E. Everhart of the Urbana-Champaign campus became the first post-ceremony user.

The system actually went into operation in August 1984, and had been planned for several years before that. The online catalogue and retrieval system marks two firsts:
—First to offer circulation information on academic libraries and regional public libraries throughout a single state;
—First to be designed for individuals who have had no training or experience in using computers or retrieval systems.

Also, while the University of Illinois' online system isn't the first in an academic library, it is the largest academic library in the nation to go to an online computer system.

Chancellor Everhart presided during the dedication. Others participating were Edward A. Kolodziej, professor of political science and chair of the University Senate Library Committee; Bridget L. Lamont, director of the Illinois State Library, and University Librarian Hugh C. Atkinson.

Recalling the most recent milestones in the history of the University Library—dedications of the Merwin Archive and the sixth stack addition and its sophisticated automated shelving system, both in October 1984—Chancellor Everhart pointed out that society is in the midst of a revolution in information transfer and retrieval processes.

"The University of Illinois is among a limited number of major institutions at the cutting edge of this information explosion," the chancellor stated. "The University Library has earned a reputation as one of the great research libraries in the world. That reputation results not only from the richness and size of its collections...but also from its historic tradition of applying innovative solutions to the problems of storing and retrieving information, and from its dedication to public service.

"The addition of the online catalogue will enhance the Library's reputation as a premier research facility."

Online Catalog: What It Is

The online catalogue consists of two separate, but closely linked parts:
One component, the Library Computer System (LCS), is a circulation system used by the University and 25 other academic libraries throughout the State of Illinois. It is the system which supports the ILLINET resource sharing program.
The second component is the Full Bibliographic Record (FBR), which provides more sophisticated access to a full record and includes searching by subject and by key word.

Together the two elements combine to form the state's most technologically advanced library access system.
LCS is a short-record circulation system. It contains location and circulation status for every item ever catalogued at the Urbana-Champaign Library.

(Chancellor Thomas E. Everhart (right) receives instruction in using the UI Library's online computer system from William Potter, assistant director for circulation and automated systems. Chancellor Everhart was a speaker and presided during formal dedication of the system in the Library. Please turn to page 2)
Online System...
(from page 1)
campus. It can also be used to search
and circulate items from 25 other
academic institutions and the 18
regional public library systems
throughout the state.

FBR was developed jointly by the
UIUC and the River Bend Library
System in western Illinois, based at Coal
Valley. It includes most books and most
serials catalogued since 1974. It will
have as much information as one can
find on a catalogue card, but provides
far more flexible access.

A researcher looking for an author or
title, or both, should try LCS first,
because it contains over 2.7 million
titles and gives location, holdings and
circulation information. One wanting to
search for a book at another campus
would always use LCS.

On the other hand, failing to find the
information in LCS, or wanting to
search for author and subject, or
subject and key words in a title, the
researcher would go to FBR which
contains 870,000 titles, everything
catalogued since 1975. Once a desired
item is located in FBR, the holdings
(where copies may be found) will be
established in LCS.

Access to the System

One of the primary advantages of the
online catalogue system is that it makes
the entire library catalogue available
not only to researchers in the main
library, but also from the campus and
the community, and eventually
throughout the state.

Eleven IBM Personal Computers (PCs)
are in the main library, and 47 more in
the 38 departmental libraries, and all
are controlled by a program written by
Professor Chin-Chuan Cheng. They are
linked to a large computer in Chicago.
Other library computer terminals in the
system function properly only when the
users know how publications are listed
and described, and know how to type
in the correct commands.

But the public computers, thanks to
the program written by Cheng, who is
director of the campus Language
Learning Laboratory, are “user
friendly.” The term means that the PC
user needs only to follow directions
from the computer screen to proceed
with a search. There is no need for the
researcher to decide whether to go into
the LCS or the FBR component,
because the system does it
automatically.

The PC program interprets for the
user the responses it receives from the
large mainframe computer. For
instance, “No matching search codes”
from the large central computer is
interpreted for the personal computer
user as “No items were found.”

Speakers during the formal dedication in April of the Library online computer system
included, from left, Professor Edward Kolodziej, chair of the Faculty Senate Library
Committee and professor of political science; Bridget Lamont, director of the Illinois State
Library, and University Librarian Hugh C. Atkinson.

The program tells users how to get
help and how to call up different kinds
of information with simple keyboard
strokes.

University Librarian Atkinson said that
it is hoped that the Illinois catalogue
can be extended to other libraries
throughout the state, and that terminals
can provide both catalogue and
circulation information on holdings of
nearly all the state’s libraries.

“We have designed our local online
systems in such a way that they can be
useful to the whole state,” Mr.
Atkinson said. “It therefore has great
potential for providing library services
to all citizens of the State of Illinois.”

What About Card Catalogue?

The system does not replace the card
catalogue. The existing card system will
remain intact. However, the card
catalogue will not hold records for
most materials catalogued in the UIUC
Library after 1984.

In a few instances the card catalogue
will serve as the only resource for
locating full bibliographic records.

It had been determined that the card
catalogue had grown beyond a
manageable size and “had ceased to
function at an acceptable level,” at the
time planning began for the online
computer system. It is a highly
labor-intensive process that requires a
large amount of space and is a financial
drain.

The Library’s User Education
Committee, in a staff newsletter in early
1981, stated, “As the card catalogue
grows in size, maintenance becomes
difficult. Additional time is required of
experienced staff to maintain a
catalogue that can never be current
and often suffers from substantial filing
backlogs. The card catalogue has
become physically difficult to use and
presents formidable barriers to all but
the most highly skilled user.”

Because the computer catalogue is
more efficient and cost-productive, and
has other important advantages as well,
it was determined that the University
Library has gone as far as it could with
the card system.

Planning and Financing

In 1979 the UIUC Library submitted
to the Illinois State Library a grant
proposal that outlined a two-year
project to demonstrate a prototype of
an online catalogue.

The Illinois State Library approved
the proposal, and, in 1981, awarded the
Library and the River Bend Library
System a grant of $346,000 as part of the
federal Library Services and
Construction Act. Under the grant the
online catalogue was installed on the
same computer which now provides
the LCS component.

Actual implementation of the system
required additional funding.

Under the overall direction of
Librarian Atkinson, the planning and
preparation was directed by Michael
Gorman, the director of general
services in the Library. Others who
worked on the program from its early
stages were William Gray Potter,
assistant director for automated systems
and circulation; Gary Golden, reference
librarian; Winnie Chan, automated
records maintenance coordinator; Sue
Golden, now a University of Delaware
librarian; Kurt Murphy, now at the
University of Oregon, and C.C. Cheng.

Many other staff members assisted in
implementing the program.
Mary Ceibert (right), assistant librarian in the Rare Book Room, was given special recognition at the annual Volunteer Recognition program of the Library Friends. Making the presentation was Mary Rhoades, chairperson, Volunteer Services Committee of the Friends Executive Committee. Mrs. Ceibert will retire this spring. Her recognition was in honor of the high level of cooperation and dedication she had extended to the Library Friends programs through the years.

Professors Donate Materials to Library

Two professors of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have donated significant collections to the University Library.

Professor Demetri Shimkin, of the Anthropology Department, presented to the Library a large collection of research material, some of it printed in the Russian language.

Professor Robert S. Chamberlin, director emeritus of Campus Development, and Mrs. Chamberlin donated 36 volumes in the French language. Two volumes are children's books and the rest are literature.

University Librarian Hugh C. Atkinson observed about the contributions, "We appreciate your generosity. As you know, the University Library is one of the finest in the world—thanks in part to the support of its friends."

The Benefits of Membership

As a Friend of the University of Illinois Library, you receive:

- Special circulation and stack privileges for Library materials
- Friendscript, the quarterly newsletter
- Non Solus, the annual bulletin
- Invitations to exhibits, lectures and receptions
- A 30% discount on University of Illinois Press publications

The Friends welcome everyone interested in the continued excellence of the University of Illinois Library. There are now over 1000 members of Library Friends.

YES, I/We wish to become members of the U of I LIBRARY FRIENDS

- University Librarian's Council at UIUC: $5000
- Life: $3000
- Benefactor: $1000
- Sponsor: $500
- Student: $10

Please make your check payable to University of Illinois Foundation/Library Friends, 224 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, Illinois 61801. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Name
Address
City
State & Zip
Books are Excellent Memorials, Tributes

A gift or memorial suggestion from Library Friends:

Few tributes or memorials give the long-lasting satisfaction of a good book, and a special program of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign makes it possible.

Special recognition of $25 or more is provided by the placement of a Library Friends bookplate indicating the name of the person in whose honor, or memory, the book is given, as well as the name, or names, of the donor(s).

Proper acknowledgment of the donor's generosity will be forwarded to the honoree or family.

Honor books may be given as a holiday gift that lasts, to pay tribute to someone you admire, as thanks to a friend or a business for a special favor, to mark a birthday, anniversary, retirement or graduation, or to salute a retiring club or organization officer.

Memorial books may be used to pay tribute to the memory of family, friends or loved ones.

Books as either tributes or memorials give pleasure to others while helping to strengthen the collections of the Library.

For details please contact Library Friends, 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana IL 61801, or telephone 217/333/5683.

As those necessities become more expensive and there is less left over we will, I think, face a continuing prospect of tight budgets, and severely constrained financial and human resources allocated to us to perform the roles that we have in society. Those roles are, in some paradoxical way, even more important in a financially strained society than in one which is so exceedingly wealthy.

We librarians are planning changes which will adapt library systems to the necessities which are dictated by these changing times.

—Hugh C. Atkinson
University Librarian

UIUC Librarian Visits Knox Alumni Club

Hugh C. Atkinson, director of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign, was the guest speaker March 26 at the dinner meeting of the Knox County Alumni Club in Abingdon, Ill.

Librarian Atkinson talked about technology in books and the maintenance of a great university library in modern times.

'Healthiest' Network

The Library Journal Hotline published the following item in its April 1985 issue:

"Bernard Sloan, director of the University of Illinois-based Statewide Library Computer System, files these January 31 statistics from what must be the healthiest state network going: An annual increase of 11 percent of volumes in machine readable form to 14,300,417; the LCS fifth anniversary as a statewide system comes up on July 7; this year will see the 15 millionth holding record and the one millionth Illinois circulation transaction."
Quotables

(Editor’s Note: Professor Edward A. Kolodziej, professor of political science and chairperson of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate’s Library committee, was a speaker at the dedication of the new online catalog. His remarks, in part, follow.)

“The Jewel in the Crown!
The University of Illinois Library is the jewel in the crown of a learning institution of world stature and vision.

The development of the online catalogue—including the Library Computer System and the Full Bibliographic Record—provides a new setting for that crown to make the jewel sparkle more brilliantly than ever before. Many facets of that jewel, heretofore lost from view within a once useful but now increasingly outdated and tired card catalogue system—are now open to easy examination by the faculty, students and citizens of Illinois. The jewel with all its facets is only a fingertip away.

This is a great achievement! From the perspective of a faculty member, I am genuinely impressed by the power of this system to locate and identify materials and bibliographic data that might well be lost if left to the old ways of doing research.

It is a powerful tool to deepen scholarly probing by identifying relevant materials more quickly and comprehensively than current methods make possible.

It is a powerful tool to widen the scope of our thinking in defining and in solving problems since the computer can suggest materials and combinations, through key word searches, that the harried researcher might otherwise overlook.

It is a powerful tool that saves valuable time and energy better spent on perfecting a manuscript, on extending the scope of research, or on improving a paper for class presentation.

It is a powerful tool to minimize error in citing sources and in hunting down fugitive materials.

It is no accident that this breakthrough should have occurred at the University of Illinois. Its Library has been a beacon for other research libraries for several generations. It has also been a leader in computer and computational facilities.

The Library and the computer make a perfect match, and we look forward to a long and fruitful marriage in which scholarly excellence, improved teaching, and better service to the state and nation will be a happy offspring.”

Edward A. Kolodziej
Library Friends volunteer workers were honored at the annual Volunteer Recognition Program in the Rare Book Room this Spring, when C. Stuart Houston, professor and head of the Department of Medical Imaging at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, was the principal speaker. Attending the luncheon, and receiving recognition were, from left: picture at left—Fran Workman, Anne Tryon, Adamos Adamides, William Duguid and Bonnie Ferguson; picture at right—Carolyn McGreevy, Lois Bamber, Pat Tarsitano, Fran Johnson, Helen Schultz, Thelma Griest, Mary Rhoades, Nivi Chawla, Harold Schultz and Donna Follmer.

Executive Committee Notes

Development Committee
The purpose of the Development Committee is to provide direction to the Library Friends Executive Committee on membership development and fundraising. This includes guidance and suggestions on direct mail solicitations and renewals, on membership drives to enlist new Friends, on strategies for gift upgrades, and on ways to interpret the Library's need for private support to potential donors.

This fiscal year has been an especially busy one for the Development Committee. Goals have been stated and a monthly calendar of development activities (1985-86) has been completed. Last fall more than 600 lapsed Friends throughout the country were sent a letter requesting the renewal of their support.

This spring other potential donors were contacted by mail, and subsequently by telephone, in a pilot telemarketing effort organized on behalf of the Library.

Two mail appeals were sent out this spring to area graduates of selected classes who are not Library Friends. It is hoped that this effort will greatly increase the visibility and income for Friends.

Several new printed materials have been developed recently for use by the Friends office. One is a brochure describing Friends activities, the benefits of Friends membership, and the importance of Friends' efforts to the University Library.

Another brochure describes books as memorials and books as tributes. Both methods of giving are special opportunities to give pleasure to others while helping to strengthen the collections of the Library.

We hope these new materials will be useful and will generate increased contributions to Friends.

—Carl Webber
Chair, Development Committee; Vice President, Exec. Comm.

friendscript
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at Urbana, Ill. and other offices