WSUL AUTOMATION PROJECT

Progress Report

July/August 1985

IBM/NOTIS Option

In August, Dr. Mort Rahimi made the WSU Libraries an offer
of a one-year-old IBM 4381 mainframe computer that is being
freed up at the CSC with the installation of the IBM 3081.
This computer has the capacity to automate Wayne's library
and the other DALNET libraries over the next three or four
years. The CSC has also agreed to house the Library's
central site hardware and provide facilities management
services for an IBM/NOTIS library system.

In order to use an IBM mainframe computer, the Libraries
must license the NOTIS automated library system instead of
the GEAC system. Initial investigation indicates that this
new IBM/NOTIS option would be substantially less expensive
than the GEAC option for which we have been negotiating.

The Libraries began to gather the necessary data to cost out
this new option and to evaluate the NOTIS software and new
implementation schedule. The goal is to decide on this
option by early September.

NOTIS Site Visits

Two site visits were made to NOTIS installations to learn
more about the work involved in installing and operating the
system on IBM equipment at a campus computer center.

On Monday, August 26, Peter Spyers-Duran, Louise Bugg, and
Francis Buckley of the Detroit Public Libraries, visited
Vanderbilt University Libraries in Nashville, Tennessee.
Vanderbilt plans to have the NOTIS online public catalog
operational for users in early September.

On Friday, August 30, Nancy Allen and Mort Rahimi, WSU Vice
President for Computing, visited the NOTIS installation at
the University of Illinois in Chicago. They had recently
completed loading their online catalog database. Dr. Rahimi
was even more confident that WSU's CSC can manage a NOTIS
installation for the Libraries after his visit.

GEAC Contract Negotiations

GEAC's concerns about the first draft contract were considered for incorporation in another draft during July. GEAC received the new draft in early August and returned an edited version to WSUL for final review. There are only a couple of unresolved issues left. Further work on the Geac contract was put on hold at the end of August, however, pending a decision on the new IBM/NOTIS option.

Circulation Implementation

The Circulation Parameters Team finished all 85+ tables required for the GEAC circulations subsystem and submitted them to GEAC in July, after a careful review with the GEAC project manager, Dean Gattone. This work required that many WSU circulation policies be reviewed with a goal of more uniformity system-wide.

Site Preparation

Specifications for the computer room for the GEAC 9000 hardware were finally received. Plans for the temporary GEAC 8000 site in Room 427 Purdy were completed by the WSU Physical Plant and are ready to implement. All site prep of computer rooms in the Libraries is on hold.

The IBM/NOTIS central site hardware would be housed at the Computing Center and would require little or no additional site preparation.

Barcoding Library Materials

TPS interface barcode reader wands were received and installed on all the Libraries' OCLC M300 terminals used for Technical Services. Staff are now able to wand the barcodes for new and retrospectively converted library materials right into OCLC machine readable records.

The Science Library continues applying barcodes to their reconned materials, gaining experience in the barcoding procedures.

OCLC Archive Tape Project

Proposals were received from two of the five vendors for OCLC tape preparation services. They were reviewed and compared carefully.

The decision on which vendor to contract with for OCLC tape preparation has been delayed until the overall system vendor has been selected. The NOTIS software has the capability of assigning Codabar barcodes to items and creating a print tape to send to a vendor, so that tasks could be eliminated from the tape preparation specifications. The 34 OCLC tapes of all WSUL's machine readable bibliographic records are copied and boxed, ready to be sent to the vendor of choice.

ID Cards

Plans for University-wide barcoded ID cards were submitted to R. Frijters by the University Committee in August. The goal is to issue student picture ID's with barcodes in the Winter 1986 semester. Staff ID's may also be issued then.

DALNET Status

The DALNET Study Group spent most of July and August reviewing drafts of the DALNET Corporation Bylaws and the DALNET Prospectus.

The Group was informed of the new IBM/NOTIS option presented to WSUL. Dr. Rahimi made a presentation of the CSC's services and facilities to DALNET library directors and representatives. Cost, functional, and organizational implications of WSUL's selecting the IBM/NOTIS option are being examined by the Group. WSUL would function as a service bureau to DALNET with this option.

Fran Buckley served as the DALNET representative on the NOTIS site visit to Vanderbilt University. He also served as coordinator of the Study Group during Jim Williams' absence in August.

Oakland University Libraries joined the DALNET Study Group in August.

Retrospective Conversion

WSUL's retrospective conversion project staff converted 1584
titles in July and 1509 titles in August, bringing the total
converted to date to 79,196. The Science Library's titles
are currently being given priority in conversion.

Submitted by,

Louise Bugg

Louise Bugg
Assistant Director for Library Systems
Wayne State University Libraries

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