

WSUL Automation Project
Progress Report
May 1986

NOTIS Contract

During May, a "final" release tape of the MVS version of NOTIS 4.0.1. was received, containing programs for the patron loader interface, catalog cards, and other batch functions. This tape will be loaded and tested in June. As other low-use batch MVS programs are needed that were not converted from the VSE version, we must request them from NOTIS.

NOTIS Installation

The links between the IBM 4381 and the CSC's 3725 front end processor have not yet arrived from IBM. Access for NOTIS terminals to the 4381 still goes through the IBM 3081.

IBM provided prices for purchasing a 3725 front end processor that could be dedicated to WSU Library System and DALNET use. Prices were also provided for current upgrade options for the IBM 4381. Arrangements were made to license the IBM system software that is now in use on the IBM 4381.

Database Loading Status

Testing continued at NOTIS of Wayne State's customized loader programs for OCLC bibliographic records for books. The records for books will be loaded in two parts: 1. the database from 1975 through June 1985; and 2. the database from July 1985 to present. After the load is completed and the database stabilized, ongoing additions can be done either via tape loading or via direct terminal-to-terminal transfer from the OCLC database.

The Library of Congress name and subject authority records matching the initial WSUL bibliographic database were successfully loaded. The target is to go into "production" with this database by mid-July.

Work began on writing the specifications for the loader for Wayne State's serial records. These records on an OCLC "snapshot" tape contain bibliographic and summary level holdings data for about 30,000 serial titles owned by the Libraries.

Work on the patron loader will resume in June, now that the MVS programs were received.

Peripheral evaluation and Installation

All but one of the remaining Telex 476L ALA-character set terminals ordered arrived in May. Cabling and wiring were completed in time for six of them to be installed and tested in Technical Services and the NOTIS Training Room by May 22 NOTIS cataloging training day.

The OCLC M300 to Telex 476L link was successfully established by direct cabling. The pin settings enabling use of the Black Box switch have yet to be determined.

A price and functionality comparison was begun for terminal, printer, scanner, and security equipment options for circulation and the online catalog. This equipment will be ordered in June.

NOTIS Implementation

The first two days of NOTIS training were held for Library staff on May 22 and 23. Tom McGinn, our project manager at NOTIS, trained six staff in the basics of the NOTIS cataloging system. The staff trained were C. Wecker, L. Bugg, C. Engle, D. Paldan, A. Evans, and C. Steffani. They will be responsible for designing and implementing a NOTIS cataloging training program for the rest of the Library staff who need it.

The former Music Listening Room in the Purdy Library was transformed into a NOTIS Training Room during May. Three NOTIS workstations were installed.

Technical Services staff developed draft cataloging workflows for use with the NOTIS system, and began detailing the various database management projects that may need to be done in order to "clean-up" and stabilize the Libraries' bibliographic and authority databases.

The Circulation Team gathered data to define the security requirements for circulation staff on NOTIS. Faith Van Toll, director of the Medical Library, designed a generic barcoding workflow, procedure, and training materials for use throughout the Library System. Training in barcoding begins the first week of June. The linked barcodes arrived from Datacomposition the last week of May.

Bids were sent out via Purchasing for plastic Library Cards. These cards will be used for WSU students, outside borrowers, and faculty/staff who do not obtain a new barcoded picture ID card.

NOTIS Visitors

Staff from Michigan State University and University of Michigan libraries visited Wayne's NOTIS installation on May 21 for a demonstration and discussion. The ten visitors included systems staff, circulation and reference librarians, as well as public service administrators.

On May 15th, the directors of five major research libraries in Michigan--Detroit Public Library, the Library of Michigan, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University--met at Wayne State to initiate discussions regarding potential statewide services made possible via their NOTIS installations.

DALNET Status

DALNET Library Directors/Administrators met on May 8 and came to agreement on the DALNET Bylaws document. Negotiations began with Oakland University Library for NOTIS services.

Copies of Oakland University's and the University of Detroit's OCLC tapes were sent to Blackwell North America for tape processing.

Two meetings of DALNET NOTIS Coordinators were held, one on April 28 and one on May 13, to assist DALNET libraries with planning local site costs, including telecommunications and peripherals.

Retrospective Conversion Project

During May, Library staff converted 2,270 records into machine readable form, bringing the total converted to date to 92,832.

Investigation began into other options for increasing retrospective conversion, including contracting with OCLC and using OCLC's Microcon service.

Submitted by,

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