WSU LIBRARIES SYSTEMS OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

October 1986 - September 1987

During Fiscal Year 1986/87, the WSU Libraries Systems Office achieved many automation goals, which are part of the Libraries' long range plan to implement a comprehensive library automation program for Wayne State and to provide a shared automation system for other Detroit area libraries. It was a year when all the previous hard work preparing for these library automation programs began to have substantial visible results.

In 1985, a non-profit corporation named DALNET, for the Detroit Area Library Network, was formed to enable libraries in the Detroit area to automate together. Wayne State is the "host" institution for DALNET, operating the central computer site, testing the software, implementing the system as the pilot library, and then helping the other DALNET libraries with implementation. In 1985/86, the NOTIS software was licensed for use at Wayne State for DALNET, and installed at the central site. NOTIS provides an integrated library system based on a union bibliographic database, with cataloging, authority, online catalog, circulation, acquisitions, and serials control modules.

During 1986/87, five libraries joined WSU as DALNET members, beginning with Oakland University in October, 1986. These members joined in February, 1987: Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills; Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak; and Wayne County Community College of Detroit. The Detroit Associated Libraries, a team of the Detroit Public Library and the McGregor Library of Highland Park, joined in June.

NOTIS Library System Tested

Testing and local modification of the online catalog, cataloging and authority modules of NOTIS software release 4.0.1 was completed by November, 1986, enabling it to be used by WSUL. Release 4.3, containing many fixes to the circulation module, was tested and put into production May 1, 1987, replacing the previous version. It was later modified for use by multiple DALNET institutions in July, 1987.

NOTIS release 4.4.1 was received in May, 1987, and enhanced with release 4.4.2 in July. By the end of September, it had passed testing for use by WSU alone and was modified and installed for testing by multiple DALNET libraries. Boolean/keyword search software for the online catalog of a single institution was received and scheduled for testing in the Fall 1987.

Database Loading

A "Demonstration Database" of 302,000 WSUL monographic records created between 1975 and 1985 was loaded into the online catalog to be made available to the public in November 1986. This database was tape loaded using a locally customized version of the "vanilla" loader program delivered with the NOTIS software.

Over 255,000 authority records for names and subjects provided by Blackwell North America were tape loaded into the production database in November, 1986.

In July 1987, the 302,000 WSUL records were re-loaded using the customized loader program provided by NOTIS, enabling a "real" database to be formed with barcoded item records for use by the circulation module. By August 15, over 70,000 more WSUL bibliographic records representing monographs cataloged between July 1985 and December 1986, were added. On that date, the production database, including all WSUL titles cataloged directly into NOTIS since cataloging began in December 1986, replaced the "Demonstration Database" being accessed by the public.

On August 29, 1987, about 180,000 bibliographic records, representing most of Oakland University's monographic holdings, were tape loaded into the production database. By mid-September, Oakland's remaining 30,000 monographic records were loaded. Loader programs for Oakland and all other DALNET libraries were customized by WSUL programmers.

By the end of September, testing of the NOTIS loader program for WSUL's serials records was almost complete. Wayne State was one of three test sites for NOTIS's development of the generic OCLC serials loader program. The loader programs for the Detroit Cooperative Cataloging Center, of which Beaumont Hospital is a member, and for Wayne County Community College were also being tested. Specifications for Detroit Public Library's loader had been delivered.

In order to increase storage space for the records of the additional DALNET members, a third single density disk drive was purchased and installed in March, bringing the system storage capacity up to 7.5 gigabytes.

NOTIS Implementation at WSUL

The WSU Libraries implemented these NOTIS modules during 1986/87: cataloging, authority, online catalog, and circulation.

LUIS, the online catalog, was made available in all campus libraries during the fall and winter months, beginning with the Purdy/Kresge Library on November 10, 1986. Twenty terminals, about half with screen printers, were installed for use by the public. All WSU public service staff members were taught how to use LUIS, and user aids were created, including signs for the terminals and a LUIS Searching Guide. LUIS screens were modified to be more helpful to users, based on the recommendations of the Library's OPAC Implementation Team.

On December 6, 1986, all newly cataloged monographs began to be entered directly into the NOTIS production database. Cataloging staff completed their formal NOTIS training in November. The new workflows developed provided a phased implementation, beginning with the easiest materials. By September, 1987, multiple volume and location works in all MARC formats were being done, including serials, which were implemented in August. This enabled WSUL to discontinue all OCLC catalog card creation except shelf list cards needed for the official collection inventory.

By early May, 1987, LUIS was made available on the campus computer network, called WSUnet. This made the online catalog accessible to anyone using one of the over 1,000 on-campus WSUnet terminals and to users dialing in on the MERIT Computer Network throughout metropolitan Detroit and across the state of Michigan. Brochures and other aids were produced to help users dial in to LUIS.

In July, preparations began for implementing the acquisitions and serials control modules of NOTIS at WSUL. Seventeen more workstations were ordered, NOTIS software testing was begun, and NOTIS training for key library staff was held in July and August. Vendor records needed for book ordering were keyed into the production database, along with most standing order records. Workflows and new procedures were developed for NOTIS acquisitions, to enable an easier transition from the minicomputer acquisitions system currently in use. Official implementation of the acquisitions module is scheduled for the fall of 1987, with the serials module scheduled for the winter of 1988.

In August 1987, the database management unit began the cleanup projects to fix cataloging records that could not be tape loaded accurately or were discovered to have errors. Database updates, including adding copies and volumes and changing item locations, were also begun.

The circulation module went "live" in August, too, beginning with patron registration. Staff in all library units were taught how to issue library cards. The patron database was tape loaded from the university's machine-readable student and employee name/address records. Fourteen circulation terminals, with printers, and laser barcode scanners, were installed at seven circulation desks in five libraries.

On the first day of the WSU Fall Semester, September 8, the basic circulation functions of charge, renew, discharge, and circulation of items without barcodes were implemented. Over 60 staff members, including student workers, were trained in these new procedures.

NOTIS Implementation at Other DALNET Libraries

Oakland University also made substantial progress with NOTIS implementation during 1986/87. On July 20, they began official use of the cataloging and authority modules, entering all newly cataloged monographs directly into the NOTIS production database. They had two cataloging workstations installed with OCLC transfer hookups. LUIS was made available to their patrons in their main library on August 31, with an official ribbon cutting ceremony held on September 28. LUIS screens were changed to include information about Oakland's holdings.

As the first library to share the NOTIS system with WSU, Oakland was a test site for DALNET peripheral installation procedures, cataloging and LUIS training, official database loading, and batch product generation. They helped lay the foundation for NOTIS implementation at other DALNET libraries.

Detailed implementation schedules were developed for each of the other DALNET libraries. Botsford Hospital was ready to implement the cataloging module in September, but was waiting for their equipment to be installed.

DALNET Telecommunications Network

Oakland University's plan for peripheral installation was approved, and LUIS and cataloging workstations were installed in the summer. Troubleshooting procedures for their site were developed.

The two hospitals, Botsford and Beaumont, had IBM Token Ring configurations tested, approved, and ordered by the end of the summer.

Wayne County Community College proposed a different peripheral configuration using Wyse ACSII terminals with AT&T protocol converters. This option was tested, approved, and ordered by September, 1987.

All OCLC DALNET sites are using Telex terminals for OCLC record transfer. Telexes for the Detroit Public Library were also ordered.

DALNET Governance

The DALNET Board began meeting in April, 1987, after four members had signed contracts with WSUL for NOTIS services, making them members of DALNET. A revised set of DALNET bylaws was drafted for review.

Three DALNET Committees began work in 1986/87, including the Development Committee, the LUIS Screens Committee, and the Database Standards Committee.

Staffing

During 1986/87, the Systems Office staff increased to be able to provide the contracted NOTIS services to DALNET libraries. Two programmer/analysts were added to the team: Ana Fidler in early February, with primary responsibility for developing loader programs; and George Marck in early May, with initial responsibility for implementing the new 4.4 release including the acquisitions module. They joined Dody Fox, who had primary responsibility for the circulation module, and Denise Taylor, who handled LUIS screens, security, and peripheral installation.

Rebecca Lockhart, the full-time NOTIS systems programmer working for the Computing Center (CSC), left May 1. Her NOTIS responsibilities were divided among several CSC employees, and coordinated by Rick McCreedy and Kelly Dazsi.

In May, Charlene Wecker accepted the assignment of DALNET User Services Librarian, responsible for helping DALNET libraries implement NOTIS functions. She developed the DALNET training programs for the NOTIS cataloging, authority, and online catalog modules.

WSUL cataloging implementation was coordinated by Connie Engle, Head of Cataloging, Anaclare Evans, Head of Database Management, and Charlene Wecker. LUIS implementation was coordinated by Charlene Wecker and the OPAC Implementation Team with representatives from each WSU library unit. Circulation implementation was headed by Faith Van Toll, Head of the WSU Medical Library, who was temporarily

re-assigned to the project. The acquisitions module
implementation was led by Acquisitions Head, Barbara Heath,
with serials module planning handled by Diane Paldan.

Other Automation Activities at WSUL

In addition to the NOTIS library automation project, the
Systems Office staff coordinated the ordering, testing, and
installation of most other WSU library automation equipment.
This included CD-ROM players, word processing workstations,
library skills equipment, and database searching terminals.

The two locally developed automated systems, for overdue
books and class reserves, as well as the minicomputer
acquisitions system, Nonesuch, continued to be operated at
maintenance levels.

Conclusion

A major automation effort like implementing NOTIS at WSUL
and five other DALNET libraries requires the help of many,
many people. In addition to those already mentioned in this
report, special thanks this year are due to: Russ Troutman
and Mike Moore for installing all the WSUL NOTIS cabling and
assembling and repairing computer equipment; Jerry
Kasiowniak, Rich Welch, Bessie Copeland, and the staff of
Network Control in the CSC; Charlotte Steffani, who helped
test NOTIS releases and troubleshoot numerous problems;
Heather Braithwaite, for helping implement LUIS dial access;
Tom McGinn, our NOTIS user services librarian; Randy
Menakes, our NOTIS systems engineer; Joan Adair, the WSU
IBM systems engineer; Don Cowan, for acquiring WSUL NOTIS
furniture and phone lines; Nancy Allen, for resolving WSUL
NOTIS policy issues of all kinds; Jim Williams, for
negotiating all the DALNET contracts; all the DALNET
project managers, including Eileen Hitchingham and Indra
David of Oakland University, Debbie Adams of Botsford
Hospital, Joan Smith of Beaumont Hospital, Jim Flaherty of
Wayne County Community College, and Florence Tucker and
Helen Ma of Detroit Public Library; Larry Klain, for
handling all the bills; and, finally, Susan Forshey, for
providing top-notch secretarial support.

All the hard work of these people, together with the staff
members of each DALNET library, has begun to produce
exciting results. WSU and DALNET library staff and patrons
are successfully using the NOTIS automated library system.
And the potential of this system is just beginning to be
realized.

Submitted by Louise Bugg,
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