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BCLN COUNTDOWN

The final stage of the BCLN trial is upon the participating libraries. Because of various delays encountered during the trial, the actual testing of the system will be less extensive than was originally planned. Instead of the whole database being loaded for use, a number of time trials will be done by UBC, BCIT, VCC, and SFU using the WLN Authority file and 1982-83 bibliographic records. UVIC has decided not to participate in this trial. The sample from this trial will be used to estimate the costs of using BCLN for cataloguing and to test the response time and capability of the system. The contract with Bibliotechniques which expires September 10 requires 30 days notice of whether the participating libraries intend to continue. Because the information needed to make that decision will not be analyzed by then, the BCLN participants are already taking steps to inform Bibliotechniques that they will not be continuing after that date.

This does not mean the end of BCLN. Provided the costs of the system compare favourably with the costs of using UTLAS (and those closely involved with it are confident it will), then the institutions must negotiate the funding and organizational structure of BCLN. Some capital funding will be necessary to pay the license for the software, the cost of storing the database, the cost of communication lines as well as user fees. Some of these costs can come by switching funds from UTLAS; the major capital costs will have to funded from elsewhere.

The organizational structure of BCLN remains to be defined. BCLN will have a legal identity and the details of that must be negotiated among the participating libraries.

During this period of negotiation, access to BCLN may or may not continue, depending upon availability of funds and arrangements with Bibliotechniques. So far, the performance and potential of the WLN system have been satisfactory. Provided that the participating institutions are able to continue support of BCLN and funding details worked out, a future for BCLN exists.

BC Libraries have much to gain from BCLN. It will provide cataloguing support, has on-line public catalogue potential, all in the context of a provincial network.

Cataloguing staff received preliminary training on BCLN through a computerized training package developed by Ann Turner. It's in two parts and teaches the basic searching procedures. Public service staff who are interested in familiarizing themselves with the system can run through the program if they like. Copies of the little manual that tell you how to get into this MTS program can be obtained from Joan or Jocelyn , I & O, 2076.

BCLN TRAINING - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

"Well, for better or for worse, BCLN is here, at least temporarily. Our training on the new system has led to many strange happenings around LPC; it's not uncommon to see groups of people staring intently at a terminal whose screen changes so slowly that they've often forgotten what they keyed in the first place. Still we were lucky, Ann Turner designed two self-teaching mini-courses to start off our training. To many of us these were gems as they allowed us to go at our own pace. Also, no matter how many mistakes were made, finally when the right answer was keyed, the computer still told us that we learned quickly. Besides, how many people can say they're on a first name basis with their terminal? In time, after many more BCLN conversations with our terminals, we will be able to form an opinion on the system; in the meantime, we wait..."

- Helene Lefrancois, Cat Records

"Television would have us believe that anticipation is staring raptly at a bottle of extra-thick ketchup while our hamburger gets cold. But we know what it really is. Anticipation is BCLN.

Our new computer system is definitely the talk of LPC. Although some comments aren't printable, people in general are looking forward to using it once the final few(?) bugs are squashed. Training is proceeding quickly and terminal time is precious as diamonds.

Highlights of the system include searching by author, title, series, subject (among others) and an on-line authority file. As you can move easily from one file to the other, you can attach a confirmed heading to a bib record without rekeying, or assemble names and subjects in the authority file and move them to the bib file when you want to search."

- Bill Pelletier, Cat Records

"As has been true of so many changes we've seen here, it's all a kind of balancing act, gain some, lose some. The training itself has been very well managed; the materials well organized and effectively presented. The gains and losses are tabulated according to what we've seen of this new contender and what we know of the current titleholder, and we've had different levels of exposure to each. From my point of view, BCLN is a dream to search on, compared to the limited approaches we were able to afford on UTLAS; UTLAS might be a bit more user-friendly; BCLN seems to require that the user know more about how the system works (as well as how to work the system). But once the maps are mastered, I suspect the travelling will be easier than on UTLAS. The kinds of work I do most will be faster and easier on the new system. In any case, the changes help to keep it all interesting. ..right?"

- Rick Welch, Cat Maintenance

RECON REPERCUSSIONS

The University and the Union have signed a Letter of Agreement about the staff layoffs necessitated by the Recon project not being funded for 1983/84.

The 10 LA3's left in Recon have been transferred to other positions and the 10 most junior LA3's displaced. The positions are in Woodward (5), Serials (1), Govt Publications (1), Catalogue Records (1), Map Division (1), and Dept of Psychiatry Reading Room (1).

The staff members who received their layoff notices effective August 31 will be placed on the recall list for vacant LA3 positions in order of seniority. For the next year, no appointments or temporary promotions to the LA3 level will be made; LA3 vacancies will all filled from the recall list. Any laid-off LA3's who accept other positions in the Library either before or after August 31 will keep their place on the recall list, and, of course, if they obtain positions in other classifications, their seniority will continue to increase. A few have already applied for such positions.

This agreement was worked out according to the collective agreement, which includes a provision that employees in any grant-funded positions have bumping rights after one year if the positions are terminated.

The letter of agreement has attempted to cushion the 10 employees who were laid-off according to the collective agreement, but it is small comfort to them. This is an unfortunate episode, a situation in which there are no winners. People have lost their jobs, others have been transferred to positions they did not choose, and the library has lost both trained and valuable employees and hopes for an integrated catalogue.

STAFF NEWS

Lynn Rosen, Systems, has changed her name to Lynn Copeland.

Diana Kent, reference librarian in Woodward Library, was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the UBC Club of the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society, a society whose members are elected on the basis of research activities. The certificate recognizes a librarian who has provided noteworthy support to scientists, thus contributing to the advancement of research.

Anne Yandle thinks back on her leave:

"After three eventful weeks back at UBC, last year's leave is beginning to seem like a dream - first the noise and excitement of London and environs, and afterwards the contrast in New Zealand's capital city, Wellington, where life had less urgency.

While in London, life varied from day to day - between antiquarian bookshops and libraries. I spent a day a week in Maggs Bros. bookshop, another day a week at the British Library and the rest of the time visiting libraries and bookshops, searching for materials for Special Collections. What a variety of bookshops I saw! From the ultramodern spacious premises of Blackwell's in Oxford to the hole-in-the-wall on Floral Street where Bernard Stone had a wax model of Freud at the back of the shop, supervising the browsers.

Among libraries I visited were the John Rylands Library in Manchester which has a Gutenberg Bible but no money, the Bodleian Library at Oxford where former Special Collections Assistant Linda Sutherland acted as my guide, and the Wellcome Institute Library where I was shown around by Brenda Sutton, formerly of Woodward Library.

A 32-hour trip by air took me from London to Auckland and from winter to summer. I spent much of my time in New Zealand at the Alexander Turnbull Library, the Rare Book section of the National Library in Wellington. My main project was to prepare a major exhibition of their modern press books, a superb collection by any standards.

Dorothy Shields and I spent time travelling in Australia, just as its five-year drought was breaking dramatically. During some of the wet days I visited a number of libraries, among them the Mitchell Library in Sydney with its superb Captain Cook collections, and the Tasmanian Archives with their convict records including some of the Canadian rebels of 1837. Melbourne is the mecca for Australian book collectors as well as being the home of the 'all-Australian-rules' football game. Our last Saturday there was spent first at a football match in the Melbourne Cricket Club grounds, and afterwards at a free outdoor performance of La Boheme by the National Australian Opera Company.

Returning from Australia, New Zealand seemed like a haven of peace and sanity after the extremes of heat, flood and politics in Australia. Central heating is rare in New Zealand, but the chill of two months, May and June, spent there was mitigated by the warmth and generosity of the people. I would surely like to return one day."

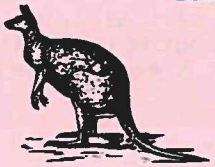
SUPPORT STAFF CHANGES

HELLOS
Bruce Macdonald, Data Control Clerk, Systems
Tony Fletcher, Data Control Clerk, Systems
Queenie Chan, LA1, Copy Service
Kam Tsang, LA1, Woodward
Louise Morris, LA1, Fine Arts
Patricia Webster, LA1, Curriculum Lab
Kathy Odgers, LA1, Sedgewick

UPS & DOWNS
Kathryne Lebold, LA3, Woodward
Ingrid Friesen, LA2, Woodward
Colin Chisholm, LA2, Woodward
Mignon Smienk, LA1, Fine Arts
Yvonne Chin, LA1, Circulation
Alixe Knighton, Sec 4, Administration

TRANSFERS
Patrick Patterson, LA1, Spec Coll
Christiane Fortier, LA1, Cat Products
Kim Mann, LA1, Circulation
Raymond Wong, LA1, Woodward
Mira Blazicevic, LA2, Cat Products
Shelley Brown, LA1, Woodward

GOODBYES
Linda Barker, LA1, Circulation
Bonnie Lissel, LA3(halftime), Cat Products
JoAnne Hooper, Sec 4, Administration
Shannon Fitzpatrick, LA2, Cat Products
Teresa Pryce, LA1, Woodward
Elaine Murray, LA1, Woodward
Carmen Rettich, LA1, Fine Arts
Denise Bonin, LA2, Woodward



LIBRARY BENEFACTOR DIES

Mr. Stanley Arkley, friend and benefactor of the Library and the School of Librarianship died recently in Seattle. He and his wife are remembered especially for the Arkley Collection of children's literature which they donated to the Library in 1974. They also provided funds to continue adding to the collection and for the work of describing and cataloguing it.

When they donated it to the Library, the collection numbered about 1000 volumes; it now numbers close to 3000 British, American and Canadian items. As a collection it is rich in illustrated books and books of the middle Victorian period.

Sheila Egoff may not have retired from the Library School just to complete the catalogue of the collection, but, from her office in the old Asian Studies Division in Main, she is devoting the next year or so to that task. Sheila is seeking funds for staff and equipment to finish the description and indexing of these books and the publication of the catalogue, a tool that will provide access to the collection in a way that it deserves. Mr. and Mrs. Arkley unfortunately did not live to see the catalogue appear, but their memory lives in their generosity to the Library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The cost of Extra-Mural Library cards will increase on September 1. Personal cards valid from September 1 to August 31 will cost $35 (up from $25); those valid for summer only (April 30 to August 31) $15. Senior citizen cards cost $10. Institutional cards will cost $100 (extras $10 each).

These fees cover only the cost of registering the borrower, issuing a card, signing out and reshelving books. They do not contribute to the cost of acquiring and processing books or to reference service.

The Map Division has a large number of duplicate maps left from a Map Exchange among Canadian universities and archives that took place here in June. Any staff member who would like to build a map collection can drop into the Map Division between 9 and 5 and choose some.

Map Division also has a Rubik's Globe. You're invited to try it.

The Library's own personal Telidon trial ended at the beginning of July. The Telidon terminal in the Main Concourse was popular but frustratingly slow, especially noticeable with the graphics. Several people missed a bus waiting for the schedule to appear on the screen. The Library received over 100 written responses mostly favourable to the information and to the technology, qualified by comments on slow response time. This was a large enough feedback to show that Telidon has potential but that the maintenance of the files and even more the eternal problem of response time precluded any further work on it at the moment.

CONFERENCES/COURSES/HAPPENINGS

The 'Republic of Childhood Conference' on children's literature, criticism, and librarianship in honour of Sheila Egoff will be held September 24 at The Inn at Denman Place. There will be workshops by Canadian writers and illustrators, and an evening of storytelling and puppetry. For more information contact Kit Pearson, 101 - 1680 Balsam St., Vancouver V6K 3M1 (736-1381).

Solve the back room mysteries of libraries by taking LIBRARY TECHNIQUES 218 at Langara. Part of the Library Technician Program, the course covers bibliographic searching, acquisitions, processing, and circulation, and will be offered Wednesday evenings Sept. - Dec. Phone Langara for more information.

"Stones of Matera", a photographic study by Augusto Viggiano of an ancient dwelling site, is in the UBC Fine Arts Gallery, Main Library, till the end of August.

Very good, says our roving and inarticulate art critic.

The Council on Library Resources is recruiting applicants for the 1984-85 Academic Library Management Intern Program. Successful applicants receive a stipend which enables them to spend 9 months working with senior administrative staff in a large research library. Canadians are eligible for this program. Applications and more information are available from Erik de Bruijn.

Depressed by the provincial budget? In Erik's office are job postings for: Director of University Libraries, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio and, University Librarian, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Ask to see the Upward Mobility binder for these and many others.