ubc library bulletin

No. 200 March 1987

DRS: MONSTER or HELPER

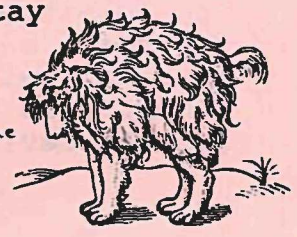
The DRS File was created in 1980 to list pamphlets and other material not appropriate for full cataloguing, and to make the records accessible to all. If anything the file has been too successful. The original material came from Woodward, Curriculum Laboratory, and Ecology. There are now over 57,000 records on DRS for 33 different collections of materials from just about every UBC library location, and some non-UBC locations as well: a hodgepodge of material of great local usefulness. But this very diversity makes predicting the potential usefulness of the DRS difficult (a difficulty that its generic name does nothing to mitigate).

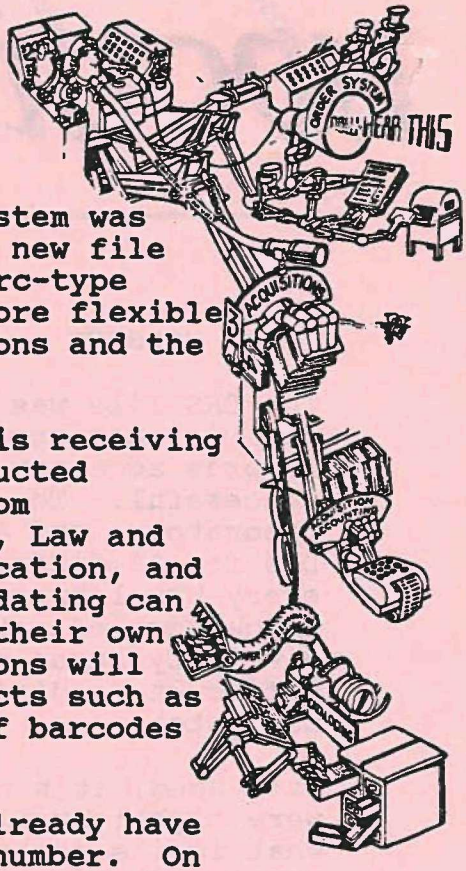
It's used; it's needed, but there is confusion. The problems were highlighted at a recent DRS Users Meeting. For example, what is its relationship to the UBC catalogue? Some material on DRS is catalogued (e.g. IEEE conference proceedings); some used to be catalogued but no longer is (e.g. Fine Arts exhibition catalogues); some material (previously local card files) is listed only on the DRS (Special Collections Pamphlets File).

In 1980-81, a taskforce on cataloguing alternatives came out strongly against reducing the level of cataloguing as a means of dealing with the cataloguing backlog, a decision that has never been questioned. The natural growth of the DRS indicates a need for brief cataloguing facilities for some kinds of materials, and for kinds of access not provided by the catalogue. Should limits be set on this growth? What are the longterm implications of the existence of this pseudo-catalogue?

Another issue at the DRS meeting was the relationship between the Bibliography File (which is to contain the Canadian Political Science, Angling, etc. bibliographies) and the DRS (where the contents of these bibliographies have been listed). A separate file permits field definitions more appropriate to bibliographic material, but increases potential lookups. Where and how should these reference tools, which list catalogued monographs, report literature, journal articles, etc. be available: online, on fiche, on paper, separately, collectively, locally, system-wide?

We will hear more about these issues which concern all staff, not just those maintaining DRS records. Both the Public Catalogues Task Group and COPPSAC would be interested in your comments. In the short term, there will be some DRS consciousness-raising. The Bulletin is planning a regular column on DRS material, and PCTG will be distributing information. And you will also have to learn about para-DRS files, like RRS and Bibliography. Stay tuned.





MORE AUTOMATION FOR ACQUISITIONS

The long-planned second phase of the acquisitions system was turned on March 9, 1987 with the introduction of the new file structure, fully integrated with LDMS and using a Marc-type format. These changes make the acquisitions files more flexible and will permit better integration between acquisitions and the other processing files.

Right now staff are being trained, and the new file is receiving its inevitable finetuning: activities that when conducted simultaneously are basically incompatible. Staff from Acquisitions, Gov Pubs, Catalogue Products, Woodward, Law and Serials are being trained in data entry, file modification, and claiming. All ordering, receiving, claiming, and updating can now be done online. Law and Gov Pubs are doing all their own data entry, orders and receiving, although Acquisitions will continue to process invoices. For the moment, products such as book cards and order forms are unchanged. Murmurs of barcodes have been heard.

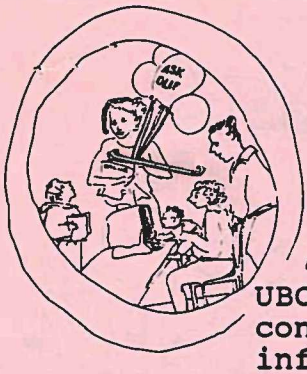
Staff who search the In-Process File and List will already have noticed format changes, most obviously the new P.O. number. On the In-Process List only the new order number is displayed; the old one is available online. Rush traces should include both numbers where possible because many items in cataloguing are still stored by their old numbers. Both the online and fiche in-process formats will change; the Public Catalogues Task Group will oversee the revisions.

Development of the acquisitions system started in 1978. Phase 1, the automation of invoice processing, was implemented three years ago. Expect further developments: automatic transfer of records from the Library Marc files into the acquisitions files, automatic production of book cards, spine labels, etc., use of electronic mail to send purchase orders, and loading vendor-supplied records directly into our files are all planned. These developments will reduce the amount of keying now done, and have the potential to streamline procedures considerably. It's a genuine revolution, but a gradual one.

M O R E L I B R A R Y S P A C E

A President's Advisory Sub-Committee on Library Space Planning was formed recently. Committee members include representatives from Applied Science, Arts, Commerce, Science, Facilities Planning, Budget Analysis, as well as Peter Larkin, Vice-President for Research, and K.D. Srivastava, Vice-President for Student and Academic Services (& the Library), and Doug McInnes and Bill Watson for the Library.

The Committee was established to review (re-review?) our needs for space and make recommendations about the allocation of space in a new building to be erected on the old Bookstore site. Commerce is involved because the intention is to include space for the David Lam Business Management Library.



Open House

UBC Open House was a tremendous success, and the Library's contributions were well-received. The online Open House information file, OLIF, mounted by the Library, was very popular. At one point, over 100 terminals from all over campus were connected to it (and what's more the Library computer system survived to tell the tale). All the libraries had lots of visitors. The Print the Headlines for the Day You Were Born offer in Gov Pubs was wildly successful with over 800 prints made. The puppet shows in Sedgewick (courtesy of the Library School) had great audiences of small people. The sale of paperbacks and records virtually sold out, and raised $1500 for the library's acquisitions budget.

Contests to win a library card and a Wilson card were very popular. The 3 winners of a UBC Library card were: Larry Bauder, Harwood St., T. Kaneko of Sofia St., and Phil Knaiger of Collingwood St. The lucky winners in the Wilson card draw were: Malcolm McSporran of West 2nd, Raye Naud of West 21st, and E. Lipov of West 13th.

The organizing committee, headed by Julie Stevens, gets a big vote of thanks, as do Bianca Barnes and Merry Meredith, whose signs and graphics were just about the smartest things on campus. Probably no one wants to know, but just for the record the next Open House is in 1990.

SEDGEWICK MONITOR PROGRAM MONITORED

A survey conducted in Sedgewick at the end of February assessed student response to the monitoring program, which has had monitors patrolling Sedgewick to enforce the Policy on Unacceptable Behaviour, forbidding food consumption and excessive noise in campus libraries.

Staff perceptions were that Sedgewick was much quieter and cleaner, and the custodial staff reported that garbage had been reduced by a third. The student response confirmed these impressions. Over three-quarters of the 528 respondents agreed that the monitor program had helped cut dowm both noise and food consumption in the library (77% agreed that noise had been reduced; 79% that food and drink consumption was less.) 50% agreed that Sedgewick is a better place to study than it was last year; 14% disagreed. The rest (36%) who didn't know if Sedgewick was better were primarily first year students.

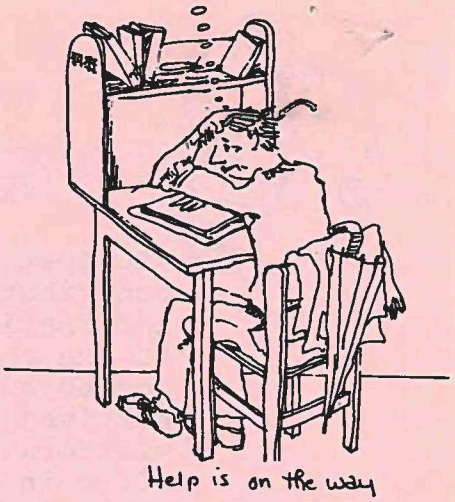
Comments were mostly positive: "Sedgewick Library this year bears no resemblance to the Sedgewick Social and Eating Club of last year." It is worth noting that a considerable number commented on the need for campus facilities where they could legitimately eat and study at the same time: "Due to my tight schedule, I can't afford to eat and not do something else simultaneously."

TERM PAPER CLINIC A RUNAWAY SUCCESS

Sedgewick's Term Paper Clinic was a runaway success, with about 150 first and second year students taking advantage of it in February. The 5 Sedgewick librarians prepared research guides for about 110 topics in all, ranging from Frankenstein in art to racism in Canada.

After a preliminary interview with the student to determine the topic, the librarian compiled a research guide suggesting the best subject headings for books and magazine articles, and appropriate reference books, and then met the student again to show him or her how to find the information in the library.

This is a labour-intensive but very effective method for teaching library research. Feedback from faculty suggested that the help produced better research papers.



NEW MICROCATALOGUE ARRIVES

The new microcatalogue arrived recently. The cutoff date for the over 580,000 records in it was January 2, 1987. This is all we get till summer's end as the microcatalogue is now on a twice a year schedule. The next cutoff will be about August 1, with distribution mid-September.

NEW CATALOGUE ACCESS INAUGURATED

Recently the UBC online catalogue was fully integrated into LDMS General Inquiry so that it can be searched by any library staff member. This is a step of considerable significance, taken without ceremony, unless one considers the series of public service training sessions in February as inaugural. More training will be offered in the next few months; expect memos.

COMPACT DISCS ARE BIG HIT

Wilson Recordings Collection first started buying them in 1984, when 36% of its budget was used to buy this elegant and durable technology. This year Wilson is buying almost nothing but compact discs. Currently there are about 2200 CD's in the collection (compare with 35,000 records). The compact discs are enormously popular and the problem has been to restrain people from using unethical borrowing tactics to keep more than their share. At one point in November last year, 85% of the CDs were out on loan. Want to hear what the hype is all about? You need your own player. Wilson still doesn't have its own publicly-available CD player.

EQUIPMENT: MICROPRINTERS IN BUT TYPEWRITERS OUT

Government Publications staff (and their users), once recovered from their Open House success, are enjoying two new acquisitions: Canon microprinters for copying both microfilm and microfiche, with zoom lens and the ability to use ordinary paper. Cost is still the same, $.30 an exposure, and oh, those headlines look so nice.

The fire marshall had the typewriters removed from the hallway outside Curriculum Laboratory. There are now no typewriters available for public use anywhere in the library system. Send people to Kinko's in the Village to rent time on IBM selectrics.

STAFF NEWS

Beth Anholt, Curriculum Lab librarian, has returned from maternity leave.

Donna Carpenter will be joining UBC Library permanently. She has been appointed as the new Acquisitions Librarian. Currently half-time Reference Librarian in Woodward, she will spread herself between Woodward and Acquisitions until the end of term.

John Nanning retires (early) at the end of March. He started in the Prebindery ten years ago when it was still in the basement of the Main Library. He moved to Copy Services in Main Circ three years ago. Now he's moving to Salt Spring Island. (John, can we come and visit?)

Teresa Petrala also retired early at the end of February. She worked in the Science Division from 1975 until 1986 when she moved to Gifts and Exchanges. All the best in your retirement, Teresa.

Hellos
Robin Webster, Clerk 2(temp), Acquisitions
Jenny Manhas, LA1(temp), ILL
Patti Roy, LA1(temp), Circulation
Judith Fellows, LA1(temp), Circulation
David Hart, Asst Tech., Crane

Goodbyes
Patricia Baron, Sec4, Admin (to UBC Press)

Promotions
Jonathon Clarke, LA2 (temp), ILL
Gary Lum, LA2 (temp), Circ

Transfers
Arlene Schmidt, LA2, Serials to Gifts & Exchanges
Trevor Tunnacliffe, LA2, ILL to Serials

SERIAL LIST

Users of the Serial List should beware of floating cross-references, which are a result of the removal of reading rooms holdings. If you discover a blind or circular cross-reference, go online immediately. Please report ones you find to Serials Division, as there is no way of tracing them.

SPRING RITES ENACTED

The courtyard between Sedgewick Library and the Math Building was the stage for an enactment of the Greek spring myth at lunchtime on March 24. Persephone was kidnapped by Hades, and kept underground in Sedgewick until Zeus commanded her return because the people were starving. This drama, in brilliant sunshine, was staged by Teresa Vandertuin as a final project for a Theatre course. A pleasant change from the tedious reruns of the Engineers at the Main Library pond.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...ANNOUNCEMENTS... ANNOUNCEMENTS...ANNOUNCEMENTS... ANNOUNCEMENTS...ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online Users Group Meeting: Thursday, April 2, 11:30-1pm. Sedgewick Conference Room. Jocelyn Foster will discuss what uers really want for online access.

Slide Show in Sedgewick: "Lived in Silence," an installation by Jacquelyn Smith, in the Sedgewick stairwell. Wed.-Thurs., April 1-2, 10am- 5pm.

PERSONNEL SERVICES MOVES

Personnel Services, previously located in Mary Bollert Hall, is moving to the third floor of the General Services Admin Building sometime at the end of April. To accommodate this move, Faculty and Staff Services have moved across the floor in the Admin Building.

Editor: Jocelyn Foster (2076)