ubc library bulletin

No. 205 December 1987

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

The three B.C. university libraries received an early Christmas present from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training this week with the approval of a $250,000.00 grant for an interuniversity library automation project. This is in response to a joint proposal submitted to the Ministry in early November which requested funds for improving resource sharing capabilities between the libraries. The money will be used to upgrade the UBC library mainframe computer, to provide SFU and UVic with terminals to access the UBC online files, to give UBC faculty online access to the library databases and to install eight to twelve public workstations in selected UBC library locations.

The computer model upgrade from an IBM 4381 model group 1 to a model group 13 should take place this month. This will increase our CPU capacity by about eighty percent, from 2 mips (million instructions per second) to 3.6 mips, and will allow for another 30 to 50 simultaneous users online. The extra 16 megabytes (16 million characters) of memory will be added in December or January. We'll all know when these changes take effect because there should be a dramatic improvement in system response time.

The libraries at Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria will each receive two workstations which will give them direct online access to the UBC library catalogue and other online files. This should result in improved interlibrary loan services to SFU and UVic faculty and students.

Following phase I in Bob MacDonald's technology development plan, the UBC faculty will be the first group of "public" users permitted online access to the UBC catalogue. This should take place after February 1st.

The most visible result of the extra funding will undoubtedly be the installation of public access workstations within the library. Where the eight to twelve workstations will be located is yet to be decided. The library administration plans to allow for staff participation in all areas of the planning and implementation of the online public access catalogue (OPAC). Because these public terminals will herald our first step into OPAC, decisions about their locations, hardware configurations and user interface will be extremely important. In addition, the necessary technical support structure and training programs must be put into place.

It's planned that "dumb" terminals will be installed for public use as early as March. These will be replaced by workstations, using microcomputers with "user friendly" software, later in the spring.

INTRODUCING THE LIBRARY COPY CARD

Further evidence of the library's new high tech image will appear this month when all photocopiers in the library are replaced by Xerox 1045 copiers. The exception will be Crane Library which will receive a Xerox 1025RE.

The new machines will be equipped with Debit Card II magnetic card readers, enabling users to make copies with copy cards instead of coins. At least one machine per library will accept both coins and copy cards. The copy cards, valued at $5.00, $10.00, $20.00 or higher, will be sold through Copy Services at Main Library and Woodward Library. The $5.00 cards will also be available in all branch libraries. The price for copying using a copy card will be 7 1/2 cents versus 10 cents when using coins. There will be a $1.00 refundable deposit fee for all copy cards. Card sales will begin as soon as the new machines are installed.

Copy cards for library staff will be available upon request from the Librarian's Office. For further information about the new copiers please call Erik de Bruijn at 4555.

SFU'S CATALOGUE COMES TO UBC

Richard Malinsky, Head of Reference at SFU library, demonstrated SFU's online public access catalogue (GEAC) and online library services (EASYMTS) to a packed room of UBC library staff on Thursday, November 19th.

Using a GEAC DUAL 8000 turnkey system, SFU library now has all their cataloguing, acquisitions and circulation information available online. They have twenty-one terminals for public use in the library as well as distributed access via the 1,100 other terminals on campus.

The user friendly software, keyword searching capabilities and the added advantage of the completion of RECON (retrospective conversion of the card catalogue) make it an attractive system. Future development plans include improving response time and adding dial-in access, boolean searching, authority control and a print facility.

In addition to the online catalogue, we also saw a demonstration of their other online system which uses EASYMTS or SPIRES. This is a separate service for public access to several online files such as the Grolier encyclopedia, SFU theses and ERIC (current 5 years) and PsycINFO (current 4 years) databases. This facility, which is open to all SFU students and faculty, is very popular. Current use is over 500 searches per week. SFU plans to extend the current list of databases to include MEDLINE, INSPEC, a dictionary and SFU's sound recordings, maps and manuscripts.

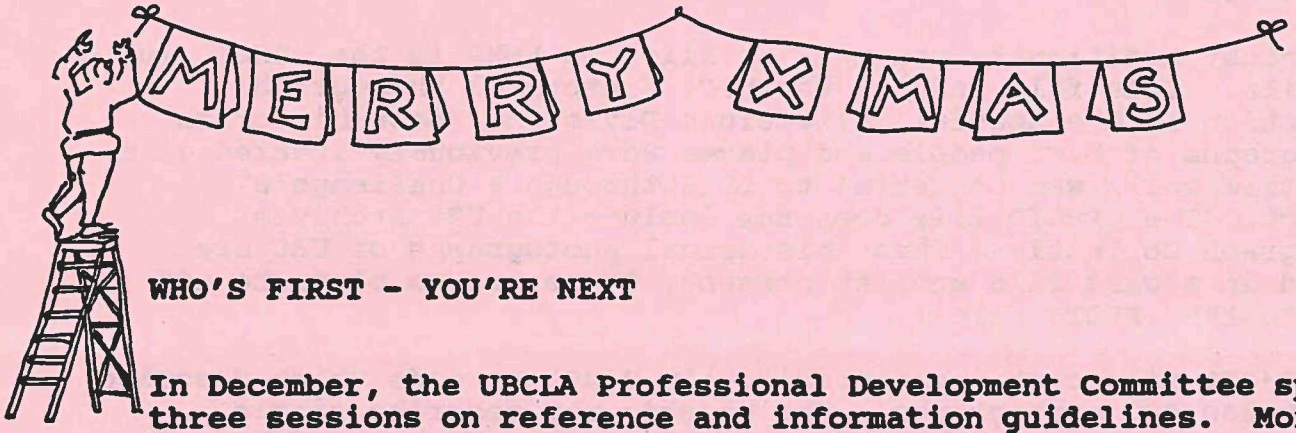
If you are interested in looking at some of SFU's documentation for these two systems, please call Jim Henderson at Woodward Library (6638).

NEW NAME AND COLOR FOR DRS

The controversy is over. The new name for DRS will be MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS. The name change was recommended by the Public Catalogue Task Group (PCTG) and approved by COPPSAC (Committee on Processing/Public Services and Catalogues) this month.

The new name, MISC. MATERIALS, will appear on the next fiche, due in January. To complete the make-over, the PCTG has also decided to change the color of the eye-readable strip from orange to yellow.

Library handouts and signs will need to be updated. Early in January, the name of the file on LDMS will be changed from .DRS to .MISC (or .MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS).



WHO'S FIRST - YOU'RE NEXT

In December, the UBCLA Professional Development Committee sponsored three sessions on reference and information guidelines. More than fifty public service staff attended the sessions to view and discuss the American Library Association video "Who's first-you're next".

The phrase "it depends" came up repeatedly in both the video and follow-up discussions about UBC's information and reference policies. Issues examined ranged from service for non-UBC students to the teaching role of librarians. There was general consensus on a number of points: in-person inquiries have priority over phone inquiries; our primary purpose is to teach the process of finding information rather than just providing it; we should show how to use the microcatalogue and serial list instead of searching the online system; and we do not normally provide extensive subject searching for phone inquiries.

But, again, there was always the rider "it depends" - on who the inquirer is, the nature of the inquiry, the information sources available, etc. For example, in one library, instant service is almost guaranteed if you walk in wearing a green gown and mask (it's not Fine Arts).

In general, the sharing of information among the participants was not only useful but also interesting and entertaining. The sessions gave public service staff a chance to become more aware of the variety of reference and information services provided throughout the library system.

SYSTEMS UPDATE

SHORT IS BEAUTIFUL

Systems has made a programming change which has shortened the time it takes to signon to the library computer. Signon time should now be reduced from over 20 seconds to less than 10 seconds.

Beginning December 17th, there will be a new signon procedure for LDMS. Rather than displaying a short menu of the available LDMS files, the system will display only new messages and remind users to type SHOw COMmand if they want to see a menu. To enter a file, issue a "dot" command. This change is in response to requests for a shorter and faster signon procedure.

.PHOTO FILE

The latest addition to the menu of files on LDMS is the .PHOTO (or .p) file. This file indexes the B.C. Historical Photograph Collection in the Special Collections Division. These historical photographs of B.C. people and places were previously indexed in a card file which was converted to LDMS through a Challenge'87 project. (The .PHOTO file does not include the UBC Archives Photograph Collection. These historical photographs of UBC are listed in a card file and, at present, there are no plans to add them to the .PHOTO file.)

The .PHOTO file contains approximately 2,000 records which describe almost 200,000 photographs. The records may describe single photographs, photograph albums or collections of photographs. For example, there is one record for the Fisherman Publishing Society collection of about 20,000 photos.

Since all of the indexing has been done by a number of students, there are inconsistencies within the file. The keyword indexes are, therefore, very useful for subject searching.

Please refer questions about the .PHOTO file to Laurenda Daniells (5877).

LDMS REVIEW

In the last few months a number of changes have been introduced in library systems. Information & Orientation is holding some training sessions over the Christmas holidays to review some of the new time-saving commands. The sessions will be held in the Arts Terminal Room, bottom floor of Sedgewick Library on:

Friday, December 18th	10:00am-11:00am
Monday, December 21st	10:30am-11:30am
Tuesday, December 22nd	10:30am-11:30am

Please phone I & O (2076) to sign-up for a session.

GLASNOST AT UBC LIBRARY

In the last few months, the Online Users Group sponsored several successful meetings for library staff to discuss the library's online systems with John Campbell, from the Systems Division. As John put it, "If the Russians can do it, why can't we?".

The sessions were open to all interested staff. The first meeting was about hardware and covered everything from NIM's (network interface machines) to dead terminals (not to be confused with dumb terminals). Although some of the information was quite technical, some useful tips were given out. For example, switching a terminal off and on should be done with caution. Always wait 10 to 15 seconds before turning the machine back on since the "thermal shock" could result in an explosion.

Other sessions on the library's software have been equally informative and interesting. Due to popular demand, these sessions will continue to take place on a regular basis. They will be held on alternate Thursdays, 10-11 am, as follows:

Thursday,	Dec. 17th,	Sedgewick	conference room
"	Jan. 7th,	LPC large	"
"	Jan. 21st,	Sedgewick	"
"	Feb. 4th,	LPC large	"

Thereafter, the meetings will probably be held once a month.

STAFF NEWS

Kathy Scardellato has been recommended to the President's Office for the position of Librarian/Analyst in the Systems Division. She will be replacing Brian Owen, who left the position in August. Kathy has been Serials Librarian at UBC since June, 1980. She is currently on maternity leave and will be starting her new job on February 1st, 1988.

Elisabeth Caskey is Acting Head of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division while Jocelyn Foster is on maternity leave. Jocelyn gave birth to a baby girl last week and is expected back at work in June.

STAFF CHANGES

HELLOS

William Coone, Library Monitor, Sedgewick
Brad Goodridge, LA2 (Sessional), Social Work
Jessica Antosz, Sec 2 (half-time), Admin
Nancy Chan, LA2, Serials

TRANSFERS

Edmund Kam, LA4, Cat Products to Cat Records
Ripple Wong, LA2, Cat Products to Acquisitions

PROMOTIONS

Nancy Wyatt, LA4, Cat Products

GOODBYES

Paul Nelles, LA1, Circ
Gary Lum, LA1, Circ
Margaret Power, LA1, Woodward
Sara Lohmann, LA2, Social Work

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUB LOOP BOOK RETURN REMOVED

Early in January, the SUB loop book return will be removed when construction begins on the new SUB parkade. After January 8th, books should be returned directly to the appropriate branch.

BAH HUMBUG

In case you haven't noticed, there will not be a library-wide Christmas party this year. Instead, UBCLA is planning a library spring party. Mark your calendars now-it will be on April 14th at Cecil Green.

GENTLE CREATURES

The library is mounting a book preservation campaign. There will be displays of battered books in several of the branch libraries and Main, starting around mid-January. Bookmarks and posters reminding users and staff to treat books gently will be available throughout the library.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

The UBC Faculty Women's Club has published a cookbook, Vancouver entertains : a menu cookbook for entertaining, recipes & histories of Vancouver's ethnic communities. It's available at the UBC bookstore but the club will make more money for the UBC Centennial Scholarships if they sell the books directly. If you're interested, there are order forms in I & O.

Editor: Brenda Peterson (2076)