

# Library CONNECTION

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Colorado State University Libraries

## From the Director

### Online Catalog Up and Running



*Joan Chambers*

This fall semester, a prototype of the Libraries' online catalog is up and running in Morgan Library. Terminals are available in Room 100 and at each service desk. Additional terminals will be installed throughout the building. You are encouraged to use the catalog and to share your reactions and suggestions. A special suggestion box will be placed in Room 100.

During the summer, catalog records of all books processed since mid-1982 were loaded into an IBM 4361 computer to form the Libraries' database. Titles of journals were also included. The online catalog is designed to be self-instructing and easy to use. Menus and instructions appear on the terminal screen to explain how to use the system. You can search for books by author, title or subject in much the same manner that you search the card catalog. The prototype catalog includes records for 190,000 titles. Before the end of fall semester an additional 90,000 records will be added. It will still be necessary to consult the card catalog

to find the 200,000 records that are not yet included in the online catalog.

Currently the online catalog is available only from terminals in the Libraries. Later in the year, it will become available outside of the library to anyone who has access to CSU's PACX. To connect to the Libraries' online catalog, you will simply enter the word LIB for the 'enter class' command from the PACX. Next you will need to identify the type of terminal you are using from the choices displayed or pick "DELT" for the default. At this point you will be connected to the online catalog and you can begin a search. Your terminal will automatically be disconnected from the computer when the connection to the PACX is broken or when the terminal is not used for several minutes.

The online catalog is part of a comprehensive library software package developed at Northwestern University called NOTIS (Northwestern Online Total Integrated System). The Libraries has been using the NOTIS system since August 1985 for circulation of books and journals. At some time in the future, the information from the circulation system will be combined with the online catalog, so that users can find out whether the books they want have already been checked out by someone else.

Another feature of the system that will be available in the future is the capability of searching by Keyword using logical (Boolean) connectors to combine search words. The database can be expanded by adding additional records, such as (1) books on order, (2) government documents, (3) complete lists of volumes and issues received for each journal title, and (4) the remaining records from the card catalog. The continued implementation and expansion of the total library system is a phased project which is dependent on the availability of funding.

## New Options for Database Searching

When you enter the Morgan Library this fall you will observe a number of new terminals. Two new services have been provided using computers to access information more quickly and conveniently.

In the "From the Director" column the prototype of our new online catalog has been described. There are other new computer workstations, however, in our three reference areas. While the online catalog provides information on what CSU Libraries owns, these three new workstations provide access to national and international bibliographic and numerical databases stored on CD-ROM disks (Compact Disk - Read Only Memory). A single CD-ROM disk, which looks just like an audio CD, can store up to 275,000 pages of text, or the equivalent of 1,500 floppy disks or 28 20MB hard disks.

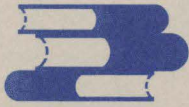
Since 1976, CSU Libraries has offered remote access to more than 300 databases, from several vendors nationwide, through the CLASS service (Computerized Literature Access - Search Service). CLASS, using microcomputers, modems and telephones, provides bibliographies, directory information, or full-text of articles on virtually any subject.

The new CD-ROM workstations provide in-house, self-contained, access to several of the most popular databases formerly searched on remote computers through CLASS, and one database containing water resources data formerly unavailable in any form. More databases will be acquired in the future as funding is available.

The first products available are two bibliographic databases, ERIC and NTIS, and HYDRODATA, a numeric data-

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### Options ...

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base. ERIC and NTIS are produced by DIALOG, the largest vendor of remote access databases. They are searchable in two modes, "Easy Menu" and "Commands". Most library users should use the "Easy Menu" mode, designed to easily guide novice searchers through the information retrieval process step-by-step. The "Commands" mode is available for experienced or trained searchers who are familiar with DIALOG's command structure. Another DIALOG product, MEDLINE, is on order.

As in the remote access DIALOG service, the CD-ROM products offer a variety of search features that promote the production of very fast and relevant searches (bibliographies). Multiple terms can be searched and combined, using Boolean (and, or, not) operators and other connectors, to locate very specific references covering a number of years, usually in just a few minutes.

### ERIC

The ERIC database on CD-ROM is available in the General Reference area. ERIC, compiled by the U. S. Department of Education, Educational Resources Information Center, provides access to abstracts of articles published in over 700 educational journals, and thousands of research reports, evaluation studies, curriculum guides, and lesson plans collected by the U.S. Department of Education.

ERIC corresponds to two printed indexes: Resources in Education (RIE), which covers significant educational documents, and Current Index to Journals in Education (CJIE), and index to journals of interest to every segment of the educational community.

### NTIS

NTIS on CD-ROM is located in the Documents Reference area. Produced by the National Technical Information Service, NTIS covers U.S. Government-sponsored research, development, and engineering reports and analyses prepared by federal agencies, their contractors, and grantees. It contains abstracts of unclassified, publicly available reports, software packages, and data files from 300 government agencies, including NASA, DOD, DOE, EPA,

DOT and Department of Commerce. In addition some state and local government agencies now contribute their reports to this database.

NTIS corresponds to the printed products Government Reports Announcements and Government Reports Index.

### MEDLINE

MEDLINE has been ordered for the Science Reference area, and may be available by the time this issue is delivered. Produced by the National Library of Medicine, MEDLINE includes references and abstracts from approximately 3,200 medical and biomedical journals published in over 70 countries.

The corresponding printed indexes are Index Medicus, Index to Dental Literature, and International Nursing Index.

### HYDRODATA

Unlike the previous three products described, HYDRODATA does not provide bibliographic references, but access to over 1.2 gigabytes of USGS streamflow data — average daily values and the peak values for all past and present gauging stations in the 50 states. HYDRODATA II, The Climate Disc, provides rapid access to the data contained in the National Climate Data Center files for cooperating stations — daily data representing more than 100 years of observations of temperature, precipitation, snowfall and evaporation. HYDRODATA is available in the Documents Reference Area.

These CD-ROM products are designed for "end user" use — i.e., the person needing the information conducts the search without an intermediary. Many databases

will never be available on CD-ROM, or the volume of use at CSU will not warrant the expense of their acquisition in CD-ROM format. For these, the CLASS service will be available as before.

For information about the CD-ROM products described, stop by the appropriate reference desks in the library. Try a search! For information on CLASS, contact Barbara Burke, 491-1869.

Barbara Burke  
Microcomputer Services Librarian







## New Personnel



*Nancy Allen*

In August, Nancy Allen assumed the position of Assistant Director for Public Services. Before coming to Colorado State, Ms. Allen was Assistant Director for Services at Wayne State University Libraries in Detroit, where she gained extensive experience in planning library services in an automated environment. Ms. Allen has worked closely with teams of librarians, support staff, and administrators to develop programs and plan policies. Her professional accomplishments include several monographs, book chapters, and articles, mainly in the field of communications.

As Assistant Director for Public Services, Ms. Allen oversees the departments of Interlibrary Loan, Social Sciences & Humanities, Sciences & Technology, and Access Services. Ms. Allen can be reached at x1838 by faculty who have suggestions or comments about the Public Services Division of the Libraries.

Karen Weedman, Senior Systems Analyst, is responsible for the implementation of NOTIS, the Libraries' computerized integrated system. Prior to coming to the Libraries, Ms. Weedman was the Senior Systems Analyst at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital where she was responsible for their billing and data systems. This included planning and designing new programs, such as their online medical records system, as well as making enhancements to their existing software. She has worked extensively with computers since her undergraduate days at Purdue where she majored in Math with a Computer Science option. Ms. Weedman's expertise will greatly facilitate implementation of the various NOTIS modules.



*Karen Weedman*



*Jean McBride*

Jean McBride, the Libraries' new Director of Development, has worked at Colorado State University for the past five years as the Director of Development for the College of Applied Human Sciences. Before coming to Colorado State, she worked in the field of human development and family studies.

Ms. McBride looks forward to setting up development and public relations programs for the Libraries. In describing her new job she said: "No other unit on this campus, it seems to me, is as central to the mission and goals of the University as is the library. Students, faculty, alumni and community members walk through our doors on a daily basis. It has been stated many times that a library is the heart and soul of any educational institution. While the prose may be a bit flowery, the sentiment is as true for Colorado State as for any other university.

"The plans for the coming year are exciting and perhaps somewhat ambitious. You can look forward to some outstanding exhibits and special events sponsored by the Libraries. For example, we will be recognizing faculty authors in a special reception/exhibit later this year. I will be aggressively pursuing the corporate and foundation arenas for collection support. In addition, we intend to develop a strong Library Associates program.

"If any of these things interest you, or if you have suggestions or comments, please give me a call at 491-1872. I am looking forward to working with the University community on behalf of the Colorado State University Libraries."





## The Successful Library Exercise.

### Number 5. Developing Independent Thinking.

*"Books are not made to be believed, but to be subjected to inquiry. When we consider a book, we mustn't ask ourselves what it says but what it means..."*

*Umberto Eco, **The Name of the Rose***

The development of independent thinking involves progression from the simple thought processes of understanding and recall to the more complex ones of analysis, synthesis, evaluation and application. By growing intellectually, students advance from absorption to the creation of knowledge.

The library provides an ideal place for students to pursue research that develops independent thinking. Library assignments that promote this goal are those that are constructed in a way to require students to think. While questions that can be answered by copying from a printed source may be useful beginning exercises to acquaint students with the library, they do not require original thought. Better learning results when students are assigned individual projects or projects where cooperative effort in small groups requires participation by all members.

These research assignments should emphasize that original effort is expected on the students' part. This can be done by decreasing the number of simple-answer questions and increasing or emphasizing open-ended inquiries

that ask for conclusions and justification for those conclusions. It is essential for students to understand that they will not necessarily find the answers in library books, but rather from their own minds, using the information gained from printed sources.

Evelyn Haynes  
Social Sciences and Humanities Librarian



### Library CONNECTION

**Library Connection** is published twice during the academic year to acquaint users with the resources of the Colorado State University Libraries. Requests to be placed on the mailing lists, comments and questions about the content may be referred to members of the faculty newsletter committee, Jennifer Monath, chair; Barbara Burke; and Martha Traynor.

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