



Wayne State University

# Libraries newsletter

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## Coming: New Automated Library System

The Wayne State University Libraries are pleased to announce that they have selected the NOTIS automated library system to computerize the operations of the Libraries. NOTIS, the Northwestern Online Total Integrated System, is a state-of-the-art system developed by Northwestern University Library for its own use. From its beginning in 1970, the NOTIS system has been designed as a fully integrated library system. It not only computerizes the traditional library functions for staff, but also provides patron access to the data.

### • What is an Integrated Library System?

An Integrated Library System provides an online public catalog, a circulation system, an acquisitions system, and a serials control system using a single database. Access to that database is available through terminals located almost anywhere. In an Integrated Library System, the online catalog not only lists the materials owned by the Libraries, but also whether or not they are available for use.

### • How does an automated library system work?

Records now in the card catalogs must be entered into the system's database in machine-readable form. The Libraries already have records for all materials acquired since 1975 on magnetic tape, so the initial database will have close to 350,000 records in it. This database will also have records added to it for all serial titles to which the Libraries currently subscribe.

Library users will check items out of the Libraries by presenting their ID cards, which will have special barcoded labels attached. Each item in the Libraries' database will also have a barcode label attached, so the Circulation staff member has only to wand the item's barcode into the system as it is checked out.

### • Where will the Library System's computer be?

The NOTIS system will be installed on a dedicated IBM 4381 computer located in the University's Computing Services Center. It will be operated by the experienced staff at the Computing Center, who will provide expert service for the Libraries' system.

Having the computer at the Computing Center makes it easier to link the NOTIS system to the cam-



pus computing network. Eventually, terminals all over campus will be able to access the Libraries' database.

### • What needs to be done to implement the NOTIS system?

After the NOTIS software is installed and tested on the computer, the next task is to load the Libraries' initial database. While the database is being loaded, terminals will be installed in all the campus libraries for users to access the online catalog as soon as it is available.

Preparations will also begin immediately to implement the circulation module of NOTIS. The Libraries will have to encode all their circulation rules into the system, have barcode labels made and put on all the materials in the initial database, and create records in the system for all Library users.

Work will also continue on the large task of creating machine-readable records for all pre-1975 materials owned by the Libraries. The eventual goal is to have everything entered into the database that is now in the card catalogs.