

WSUL/DALNET AUTOMATION PROJECT

Progress Report
February-March 1988

DALNET Database Loading

Over 350,000 bibliographic records were loaded into the WSU Libraries' production database from OCLC MICROCON tapes in February, with about 25,000 more records added in March. These records brought the WSU database to over 800,000 records.

Also in February, over 50,000 unique name and subject authority records (matching headings from the first 150,000 WSU MICROCON records) were loaded into the shared DALNET authority file. Contracts are being drawn up for Blackwell North America to supply authority records for unique headings added to the DALNET database by Oakland University, Wayne County Community College, Detroit Public Library, and WSU's remaining 200,000 MICROCON records.

A test tape-load of MARC records supplied by Blackwell North America to match WSUL's approval book shipments was completed. Specifications were done to subscribe to this weekly tape service.

The loader for Detroit Public Library's first 640,000 bibliographic records was almost finished by the end of March. These records are targeted for loading in the spring.

A test load of Oakland University's entire patron file was done in March. It will be loaded into the shared production patron database by mid-May. Work began on obtaining a test tape of Wayne County Community College's patron file.

Hardware, Software, and Development

The fourth IBM 3380 single density disk drive was installed in early February, bringing the DALNET storage capacity up to 10 gigabytes.

BASE SAS software was installed on the IBM 4381 in March.

A PLI programmer was hired part-time to help temporarily with the development of programs to use carbonized circulation mailer forms. These forms will be for overdue, item needed, and item available notices, eliminating the need to fold notices and stuff them into envelopes.

Modification and testing of batch programs to enable the distribution of files for printing at DALNET libraries was begun. Evaluation of system printers that can be controller-attached also began.

NOTIS Implementation at Wayne State

Work began on several database maintenance tasks that resulted from the MICROCON tape load. Unlinked items that had been created since September 1987 to circulate pre-1975 imprint materials could now begin to be linked. Procedures were developed and tested to enable most of that linking to be done by circulation staff in each library building.

The Acquisitions Department was able to complete the project of creating order/pay/receipt (opr) records for WSUL's standing orders after the MICROCON tape load. A large project to create opr records for current serials subscriptions was over 50% completed by the end of March. The minicomputer-based Nonesuch acquisitions system files were "closed" at the end of March. They will remain online for "look only" access for at least six months.

Sessions to demonstrate NOTIS acquisitions to public services staff were scheduled for the end of March and early April. Reference librarians are being shown how to interpret order information in LUIS and how to search for various acquisitions records in staff mode.

The project to convert an estimated 16,000 to 20,000 manual serial check-in records, from kardexes and shelf lists in each WSU Library, into NOTIS was underway by the end of March. Administrative review of the LUIS displays for current serials holdings was completed. Staff in all libraries were scheduled for intensive training and are being assisted in the conversion project by selected technical services staff. Automated check-in is thus being phased in as the manual records are converted.

LUIS training sessions, including instruction on dial access, continued to be held for new staff in all WSU Libraries. The WSUL keyword/Boolean implementation team tested this module in the WSU-only test region, drafted a keyword/Boolean user searching guide, and reviewed and revised related LUIS screens. The next step is to test keyword/Boolean in the DALNET multi-processing unit test region.

Circulation training sessions were held for new staff, and basic hold/recall training was completed for all WSU Libraries. Bills for non-returned items are being sent to users now, with exact amounts due for replacement costs and fines added manually. All WSU Libraries have been working on a project to clean up the old manual circulation system files of items still charged out. Special overdue letters were developed to send to those with books still charged on the old system. The locally-designed automated overdue notice system that had been used pre-NOTIS was officially disabled.

Preparations for using the NOTIS system to circulate Class Reserve materials continued. Two WSU libraries completed the inputting of their Reserve collections into NOTIS and linking of unlinked Reserve item records created for materials owned by WSUL was given a high priority. The locally-designed automated Course Reserve listing system being used pre-NOTIS was officially disabled.

NOTIS Implementation at Other DALNET Libraries

Oakland University completed their testing of the NOTIS circulation module and accepted it for use beginning in May.

Wayne County Community College staff attended advanced cataloging and LUIS training as well as circulation orientation sessions during February and March. They are testing the cataloging module prior to going "live" with cataloging. Terminals were being installed at all five campuses, with at least one staff-mode terminal operational at each site by the end of March.

During March, Beaumont Hospital tested and accepted the cataloging and online catalog modules prior to going "live" at the end of March. Their IBM pc token ring equipment was installed and is now operational, including barcode readers. Beaumont staff also attended a LUIS training session in March.

Botsford Hospital completed the initial "loading" of their bibliographic database in March, sending items not found on the DALNET database to the WSU Cataloging Department for cataloging. Botsford's IBM pc token ring equipment is also operational.

The Detroit Public Library staff attended a cataloging orientation session in February to show them how to prepare for NOTIS cataloging and to complete their NOTIS cataloging

tables. The DPL is working with WSU's Computing Services Center to design options for the telecommunications network for all their branches, plus the main library.

Children's Hospital staff completed beginning and advanced cataloging training, and tested and accepted the NOTIS cataloging module. Their IBM pc token ring equipment is now installed and operational. They also attended LUIS training the end of March.

DALNET/NOTIS Presentations

Visitors from the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, spent the day February 2 looking at the DALNET/NOTIS installation.

On March 10, a presentation on DALNET and a LUIS demonstration were given to about 50 members of the Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group at a meeting held at Wayne State.

On March 31, DALNET and Library of Michigan representatives made a joint presentation on NOTIS, with a LUIS demo, to the Michigan Database Users Group.

WSUL Retrospective Conversion Progress

OCLC has now been working on the catalog cards sent for conversion on the Kellogg grant project since January. Through March, they had converted over 5,000 bibliographic records into machine readable form, which were received on WSUL's monthly OCLC archive tapes.

Louise Bugg
Assistant Director for Library Systems
Wayne State University
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