



February 9, 1984

Dr. Peter Spyers-Duran
Director of University Libraries
130 Purdy Library
CAMPUS

Dear Peter:

I have been hearing very good things about your display of the Northwestern library automation system and your plan to display other systems. People at the Public Library, at the hospitals, and elsewhere are pleased that they are being consulted.

Obviously, with so many potential participants, the task is larger and more difficult. It also creates additional barriers to timely completion. I hope we will not get too bogged down with collaborative efforts that we can't get the University libraries into a modern condition. There ought to be clear time lines by which the others will commit funds and agree to plans. If not, we shouldn't be held back by them. All that I hear, however, is positive; and the likelihood of their cooperation seems reasonably high.

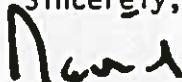
As a collaborative automation program gets under way, I do want to emphasize that we have an obligation to carefully follow University procedures. As you know, I have a special administrative systems committee, and you should clear all automation plans with them. Their role is to assure that shared resources (e.g., the Computing Services Center) are not overloaded by too many separate projects being independently conducted and also to assure necessary compatibility. In the case of the Library there are three major compatibility issues that I can think of and perhaps more--full compatibility with the University's financial systems is essential for budget, management, and audit; compatibility with the main computing system will be essential if we are to have remote search (catalogue access, etc.) capabilities in academic departments; and compatibility on purchasing must be achieved because of our competitive bidding, minority purchase, and other policies. In addition, to the extent that you expect to maintain a personnel and payroll record system and a donor system, those must duplicate and be compatible with University-wide systems.

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I realize that Wayne is just beginning to do a good job with systems development and implementation. Therefore it is somewhat more difficult here than elsewhere to move as quickly as you and I would like. But I have told Ria Frijters that I want her and the committee to give you every bit of assistance and to move your requests right along, when you have prepared specs, cost estimates, budgets, etc., that assure that library systems will be compatible and will also meet standards. I have also indicated to her that it is my understanding of practice in the country that a distributed computing system--which would provide the library with a separate piece of equipment but which was fully integrated into the main^{frame} CSC--was preferable; and I know she will give your presentation on this point very full consideration.

I wanted to talk to you about all of these things on the phone, but you are away for the remainder of this week and I will be gone all of next week. When I get back, let's talk about these issues. And in the meantime, congratulations again on building up so much enthusiasm for a collaborative system among librarians in other institutions.

Sincerely,



David Adamany
President

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