ADVANTAGES TO AUTOMATING COOPERATIVELY

Goals identified for a computerized library network in the Detroit area include:

1. To save money, or at least contain costs by:

   a. Sharing the costs for central site hardware and software;

   b. reducing the costs for equipment and supplies with group purchases;

   c. reducing storage and maintenance costs for mutually used data bases;

   d. reducing data conversion costs by using a shared data base;

   e. sharing the costs for central site preparation, system personnel, and system operation.

2. To improve service in each library and resource sharing among libraries by:

   a. sharing an online union catalog that identifies the resources of all libraries;

   b. sharing circulation and serial control systems to enable the users at each library to know the availability of all materials in the online public catalog;

   c. providing increased capability for cooperative acquisitions and collection development;

   d. sharing a borrower's file to facilitate the borrowing agreements made;

   e. providing automated inter-library loan capabilities among the participating libraries;

   f. providing management information to better analyze and control the use of the Detroit area's information resources.

All these Detroit area libraries depend on each other's resources to supplement their own. They all serve the information and learning needs of many of the same residents of the community. There are already agreements among them all to share resources.