



***** BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY *****

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ED-NET: A Case Study in Building Library Networks
Presented by John Webb, Deputy State Librarian, Oregon
State Library at ILA/PNLA Annual Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, August, 1989
Written by Anne Matjeka

Mr. Webb gave a fairly clear explanation of what could be an extremely complicated subject. Here's what filtered down to me.

To begin with an aside: The Oregon State Library has its online catalog and other databases available to the whole state. They use the Oregon State Department of Transportation's old microwave network for this.

Mr. Webb talked about telecommunications a bit. More and more information will be moved about via telecommunications rather than paper. Telecommunication should be viewed as a utility. There will be many different networks, and libraries will have to get involved in local telecommunications systems so as not to be excluded. These networks will transmit information very fast: much faster than fax machines.

Oregon's proposed ED-NET is such a telecommunications system that has possibilities for libraries in Oregon. ED-NET will transmit video, voice, and computer data. The idea was born of educators and business leaders trying to com-

municate with remote areas of the state. They felt that classes could be transmitted to broaden the offerings of Oregon schools; corporate training could be broadcast; databases could be shared, etc. The governor set up a committee in 1987 with a half a million dollar budget to look into setting up such a network. The committee hired a consultant and held meetings. Mr. Webb was on the committee and he introduced the subject of libraries early. The committee eventually issued a report and made an informational videotape which can be borrowed from the Oregon State Library.

The legislature funded the proposal for 8 million dollars. The money came from the Oregon State Lottery whose profits are earmarked for economic development which is how ED-NET is being billed. Nine people will be appointed to a board and they will hire a director. Then they will go out to bid for a system. They already have 40 responses to their Request for Information and will produce an RFP.

ED-NET can be seen for simplicity's sake as three net-

works and they follow:

1. Portland hub and dishes all over Oregon. Voice grade phone communications, one way video and two way radio. The two way audio could be split for data communication for computers. This system is envisioned as a full day scheduled system for classes, eg. 9 AM Japanese, 10 AM Calculus, etc. The cost of this system would be about \$2-3,000 per site.
2. At 39 sites, 39 different dishes providing fully interactive audio and visual communication. Excess capacity on a satellite occurred making this network possible. Could have state wide staff meetings on this network; could have only a few stations on the staff meeting and the rest doing other things, (as opposed to the first system where all the stations would be doing one thing, eg. receiving a Japanese language class). Cost would be \$40,000 per site plus a TV studio. Compressed video would be possible on this network. Twenty-nine of the sites would be satellite and ten in the Willamette Valley would use the

Oregon Public Broadcasting digital microwave link.

3. A yet to be determined number of video codecs (coders-decoders), computer terminals, and personal computers with three configurations.

a. 320-2400 bps low speed statewide access - dial up (network one way audio).

b. Medium speed - 9.6 kbps, 9600 baud (fax machines operate at this rate). Uses a satellite - could be for library OPAC networks.

c. High speed 56 kb to 45 mb per second. Only available in the 100 miles between Portland and Eugene. This system may be able to hook up some of the big mainframe computers to save phone bills. There would be library applications because the system would be very fast. Maybe electronic publishing of journals would be an application. Maybe utilities like WLN and OCLC could use it. This system will be able to transmit lots of information.

Library ED-NET Applications

Inexpensive data communications point to point. A library could subscribe to a network at \$1000/year and that could be all the library would pay for phone communications. This would greatly reduce the cost of using WLN for our library for instance.

Statewide dialup to any library online system or OPAC. Library system could serve wider area. Would stabilize costs. Statewide telefax at a fixed price.

Libraries as remote learning sites (for GED sites, proctoring tests, etc.)

Increased community programming.

Libraries as teleports.

Future Library Opportunities

BIC (Bio Information Center) at Oregon Health Science University.

Information highway for the information age. A telecommunications infra-structure.

Question: Could WLN and OCLC hook in?

Mr. Webb's Answer: Networks could save lots of telecommunications costs using these networks instead of leasing telephone lines but there are still lots of questions. Currently the leased lines are managed all day. If WLN uses another network, such as one of these ED-NET networks, customers might not be able to get repairs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Typically these networks would have only a boss and 1 or 2 technicians.

A WLN employee in the audience said that in Alaska and Montana WLN uses state networks already.

Conclusions

Oregon libraries need to get included in ED-NET to provide and improve services. Certainly Oregon businesses will be taking advantage of it.

AUTOMATION SERVICES

By Janet Strong

The indexing of the data base is progressing at about 6,000 records every 24 hours. We reached the 100,000 mark on March 13 and the 150,000 mark on March 21. If you are interested in the progress of the indexing there is a chart on the bulletin board near the shelf list in Technical Services. It will be filled in each 25,000 mark.

The Automation Task Force is working out procedures for bar coding the collection. Teams have been working in

various sections applying bar codes and trying to anticipate problems that might be encountered in the major project. There are 257,153 bar codes to apply. Of those, 29,731 are "special category" bar codes, i.e. periodicals, reference, oversize, government documents, etc. which leaves approximately 227,422 bar codes to apply in the general collection. No decisions have been made yet about who will do the bar coding or when it will be done.

Shelly Edwards from Geac will be here March 22 and 23 to conduct cataloging training. Jill and Nancy from Acquisitions and Dave, Karen, Susan, and Kathy from Cataloging will be attending as well as two staff from the Idaho State Library. Gloria and Janet will also sit in. Training will be conducted in Room 215B. Training for circulation will be given after the end of Spring Semester but a firm date has not been set.

Notes from Special Collections
By Alan Virta

The New graduate assistant in Special Collections is Barbara Simler. A graduate student in English, Barbara works half-time in the Library processing manuscript collections. The department's former graduate assistant, Deborah Roberts Kennedy, is spending the semester in Hartford, Conn. as an intern in the corporate archives of United Technologies, Inc.

Mary Carter has devised a new format for listing and indexing University archives record groups on the computer. The system is similar to the folder-level indexing system applied to the Frank Church Collection. Conversion of old lists and the addition of previously unlisted record groups will be a two year project.

This winter Special Collections submitted reports of 14 manuscript collections to the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections at the Library of Congress. These reports will appear in the next edition of NUCMC and on the RLIN computerized database. In

September the department published a finding aid and guide to the Clore collection of Vardis Fisher research materials. Written by Alan Virta and Mary Carter, the guide has been distributed to Idaho Libraries and scholars studying Vardis Fisher.

Alan Virta spoke to the Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers on March 12. He gave a slide show of photos from the Library's Robert Limbert Collection. Last Fall he chaired a panel on "The Education of Archives Managers" at the Society of American Archivists annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

In December, Carol MacGregor of Boise donated the papers of the Moore-Cunningham-Bettis family to the BSU Library. Included in the collection are the handwritten autobiography of C.W. Moore, founder of Idaho First National Bank; fifty years' worth of correspondence of his daughter, Laura Moore Cunningham; and other papers documenting the business and social interests of

four generations of this prominent Boise family. The collection should be ready for researchers by summer.

Governor Andrus, Mrs. Bethine Church and other members of the Church family visited the Library last Fall for a ceremony dedicating the new signs that will mark the entrances to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The dedication was held in the third floor exhibit area and was attended by representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and friends of the late Senator Church. Special Collections prepared an exhibit for the ceremony entitled "The Idaho Wilderness: Natures Gift to Man." The exhibit is still on display on the third floor.

There has been a baby boom on the second floor of the library. In February Raeann Herker, a student assistant in Special Collections gave birth to a baby boy (Andrew Douglas), and in March, Scott Gropp, student assistant in Government Documents, became a father for the first time (a son, Tyler Scott).

Congratulations!



"...and the library's operating budget will have to be trimmed by ten thousand dollars. Would the director like to comment on that?"

Notes from All Over

BSU Library Videotapes By Anne Matjeka

The BSU Library videotapes are now shelved in the CRC and LC Nonbook stacks with the other materials in those collections, instead of behind the CRC Counter which was our practice in the past. The videotapes have been sensitized with a new kind of tattle tape which we hope will prevent their theft. We are using new, specially designed 3M machines for sensitizing and desensitizing the tapes for circulation.

Carole maintains a regularly updated list of the Libraries videotapes arranged alphabetically by title. There is a copy of this videotape list at the CRC front desk, near the videotape machines in the CRC, and at one of the Reference Department desks.

Greetings...

Hi! My name is Laura Allen. I am the new clerical specialist in acquisitions. I am majoring in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Counseling and Corrections. (For those of you who know me, I really am going to stay with this major). My hobbies include acting, cooking, walking, and latch hook. I am very excited about being back in the Library. If anyone has a reserve parking permit they want to sell, or if you know of someone who does, I would be interested in buying it.

Hi! My name is Cindy Wood and I'm a new library assistant in the acquisitions department. I live in Mountain

Home with my husband, Kevin, who is in the U.S. Air Force. We don't have any children as of yet, but our cat, Nikki and our two dogs, Smokey & the Bandit, keep me busy. I'm originally from Texas, but my permanent home of residence is Brownville Junction, Maine. Even though I haven't lived in Idaho very long (less than a year); I like it very much. My hobbies are reading; doing latchhook rugs; and watching TV. I'm very happy to be employed here at BSU.

Overdue Stories Heard in the CRC By Carole Clemens

Did you hear the one about the farmer... A patron had been notified about overdue materials; swore up and down they had been returned. Approximately 3-6 months later we received a package. The package contained the missing books and a note. This note explained that somebody had left the enclosed books on top of the tool box in his pick-up truck. He didn't have any idea who had done that but felt that the books should be returned to us since no one else had claimed them.

Or, did you hear about the tall husband and the short wife? Said wife is a student. She checked out some necessary books for a thesis. Said husband found the bag containing the books, didn't look inside, but put the bag in the cupboard above the refrigerator where said bags belonged. Said wife had to climb on a stool to look for something else and discovered the bag with the books she owed the library.

Then there was the guy who found his overdue books in

a bag in his barn. And on, and on, and on. Isn't it nice that some of our patrons can provide us with a giggle occasionally?

Claudia Scott is again this year directing a production for Women's History Month. The play, entitled Journey's of the Heart was written by Boise author Kathy Scott Kuehl (Claudia's sister) and is a look at women who came to Idaho in the 1800's. Production dates are March 22-24 at 8:00 pm and March 25 at 2:00 pm in Stage II of the Morrison Center. Tickets are \$1.00 for students, \$3.00 for faculty and staff, and \$5.00 general admission. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling the History department at 1255. Sponsors of the event are Phi Alpha Theta and the Student Programs Board.

The Women portrayed in the play are Narcissa Prentiss Whitman and Eliza Hart Spalding, missionaries and the first white women in the Far West; Sarah Bonner Slater, homesteader; Josephine Monaghan, cowhand and bronc buster; Kitty Wilkins, horse breeder; May Day Arkwright Hutton, mining cook and suffragist; and Annie McIntyre Morrow, mining town madame. Other library staff involved in the production are Susan Watkins as Annie and Terri Gregory as stage manager.

CROSSFIRE is published by the Boise State University Library. Contributors to this issue are Laura Allen, Carole Clemens, Anne Matjeka, Claudia Scott, Janet Strong, Alan Virta, and Cindy Wood. Comments should be sent to Julie Stubbers, editor.