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MINITEX MESSENGER

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Minnesota Interlibrary Telecommunications Exchange 30 Wilson Library,
309 19th Avenue S., University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

A Program of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board

MINITEX: A STATUS REPORT, NOVEMBER 1980

(The following report was presented to the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board Nov. 25, 1980 by Clyde R. Ingle, Executive Director, as part of the Board's ongoing review and evaluation of its activities. In his cover memorandum, Ingle said, "Participants from a variety of academic and public library sectors have indicated that MINITEX has been pivotal in creating and maintaining a productive environment for library cooperation. In practical terms, MINITEX has made more library materials available and made them available more quickly to residents in all regions of the state. It has done this with one of the lowest costs of any resource sharing program in the country. The attached status report describes the background, programs, and administration of MINITEX.")

I. INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Interlibrary Telecommunications Exchange, MINITEX, is a network of academic, public, governmental and medical libraries working together to share existing resources to better provide information to Minnesota residents. The program, which began in 1969 as a two-year pilot project in resource sharing among 11 Minnesota libraries, has become a library network involving 158 libraries in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin with five programs: (1) document delivery, (2) a common union list of serials, (3) a telephone reference service, (4) on-line union catalog and cataloging, and (5) serials exchange. This report describes the background and programs of MINITEX.

II. BACKGROUND

In 1969 MINITEX was jointly funded by the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation and state and federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title III monies as a project using Trans World Exchange (TWX) communication network, United Parcel and first class U.S. Mail delivery system to test sharing University of Minnesota library resources with 10 representative Minnesota libraries. The project sought answers to three questions:

1. Could needed material be provided to out-state users in a useful format and in the needed time span?
2. What would be the comparative cost between sharing and duplicating resources?
3. What would be the degree of conflict of interest with primary users at the host library?

By 1971, the resource sharing concept seemed educational and economically viable, and the project became a program of the Minnesota Higher Education (Commission) Board, funded by the legislature.

Since 1971, several milestones have been achieved: production of the six Minnesota Union Lists of Serials (MULS), participation in the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC) on-line cataloging system in 1976, and negotiation of contracts or reciprocal agreements with the Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation (OPLIC), Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service, North Dakota State Library, and South Dakota libraries to extend resource sharing beyond Minnesota's borders. All these develop-

ments have helped to make information more available to Minnesota residents.

Throughout the last decade, several principles have guided the administration of MINITEX:

1. The local library is the most appropriate user service level. MINITEX is an interlibrary network, and therefore, does not service patrons directly. It is a facilitating agency.
2. The local library is responsible for its own collections, bibliographic records and personnel. It is the responsibility of an academic library to provide the collection to support its educational and research programs and the responsibility of other libraries to provide the collection to support the needs of their clientele. There is no substitute for having needed items available locally; in fact, 95% of library needs should be met at the local level and only exceptional needs (5%) should be referred to MINITEX.
3. Local libraries are responsible for determining their clientele and selecting appropriate services. Screening of requests is done locally by the librarian, not by MINITEX.
4. Participation in MINITEX should improve or provide additional service to the user. In no cases should participation lead to deterioration of service to the user.
5. MINITEX participation should aid in cost effectiveness in individual libraries and allow for improved use of available funding.
6. National standards and protocols (bibliographic, telecommunication, formats, etc.) should be uniformly adopted in the development of any programs or systems. Programs should be developed with flexibility so they can be expanded to integrate with regional or national programs, or support local cooperative activity.
7. To the degree that it is economically feasible, it is appropriate for the network to support access to the communication, delivery, and bibliographic systems, but local use of the system and the accompanying costs are the responsibility of the individual library.
8. All functions should support sharing resources.

9. All procedures and functions should be service producing.

In the early years, the program experienced a rapid growth in the number of requests for materials as the number of member libraries increased (attached is a current list of participating libraries) and as libraries (and library users) became aware of the MINITEX services. In 1969, the first year of operation, the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus provided 100% of the delivered items. More recently, document requests have leveled off, and almost 29% of the delivered items are provided from outside the University Twin Cities campus. However, the University shares more materials with other libraries than any other university library in the country. A brief outline of MINITEX participation, funding, costs, and programs since 1969 is attached to this report.

III. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Coordinating Board contracts with the University of Minnesota for MINITEX services. A staff of 20 plus the equivalent of 20 full-time students work at the MINITEX office in Wilson Library. MHECB staff formulate policy working with a representative advisory committee appointed by the MHECB executive director.

IV. MINITEX PROGRAMS

MINITEX services are delivered to 158 participating libraries through its five component programs. These services complement one another and together provide an example of efficient library cooperation. Following is a description of each program's status.

Document Delivery

MINITEX participants transmit loan and photocopy requests to the MINITEX central office located at the University of Minnesota Wilson Library. The central staff locate and retrieve needed materials from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus libraries, State Law Library, Minnesota State Board of Health, Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center, and Minnesota Historical Society. Requests not filled at these libraries are referred to other participants known to hold the needed material.

Requests which cannot be filled in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, or South Dakota are referred to the Center for Research Libraries, the Midwest Health Science Library Network, the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, National Agricultural Library, or the British Library Lending Division. For libraries wanting to pursue requests that cannot be filled from resources available to the network, MINITEX serves as the Minnesota state agency for obtaining locations of needed materials in other states from the National Union Catalog at the Library of Congress.

Rapid delivery gets the needed material to the patron when it is wanted. Commercial buses, parcel service, first class mail, and local couriers provide efficient delivery. Couriers, supported by MINITEX as part of delivery service to areas with concentrations of libraries, also make it easier for libraries to share resources in local arrangements. Seventy-five percent of the material sought through MINITEX is provided to the local library on the second working day.

During 1979-80, 160,609 document requests were transmitted to MINITEX. 142,137 (88.5%) were delivered to libraries for their patrons; of the 18,472 items that could not be provided:

- 43.8% are not known to be owned*
- 41.5% are owned but unavailable (in use or restricted use)*
- 9.6% title cannot be verified (citation problem)*
- 3.4% missing or lost*
- 1.7% not yet received*

Each request costs MINITEX \$2.97 to process.

Reference and Information

The back-up reference service helps the librarian provide needed information to patrons--a name, address, statistic, formula, etc. Sometimes this information is available in libraries, sometimes in computer data bases, and sometimes through individuals knowledgeable in the subject area. A toll free WATS telephone line enables librarians to discuss each request directly with MINITEX reference staff. MINITEX staff use all available resources, including the telephone and computer-assisted literature searching of subject data bases to find the answers to a variety of reference questions.

During 1979-80, 3,026 questions were answered by the reference staff.

Serials Exchange

In this cooperative program with the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Gifts and Exchange, libraries send duplicate and withdrawn issues of periodicals to MINITEX so that other libraries needing back issues or replacement copies may place requests and receive copies needed for their collections. Since 1974, librarians have sent 1.5 million items, and over 128,000 of these were provided to other libraries.

During 1979-80, librarians sent in 223,676 items which produced 25,403 needed items for participating libraries at a unit cost of \$1.06 per item.

MULS

MULS is a machine-readable data base which contains over 110,000 entries and other periodical holdings of 350 academic, public, governmental, medical, seminary, and other libraries in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. MULS supports cataloging, resource sharing, and collection development. It is a major contributor to CONSER (Conversion of Serials), a national on-line data base. Accurate, standardized description of items owned, and knowledge of where each item is held are essential characteristics of the MINITEX bibliographic data bases.

A five-state third edition, which will include 120,000 titles with more than 500,000 holding locations, is currently in production.

OCLC

The Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board has a contract with OCLC, Inc., the nation's largest system for computer assisted cataloging, to broker these services in Minnesota and its contiguous states.

In 1975, the Minnesota Council of Academic Library Directors (MCALD) identified two urgent concerns which need to be addressed to insure effective and efficient delivery of library resources within their institutions and the network: (1) the development of a machine-readable bibliographic data base for library materials

use; and (2) the implementation of a systematic cataloging process to reduce costs and improve processing time. The Council formally requested that the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board (MHECB) and MINITEX negotiate an agreement with OCLC, Inc. for services to MINITEX libraries and seek foundation funding to assist in the implementation. The Coordinating Board submitted a grant proposal and negotiated a contract with OCLC.

The funds provided by the Bush Foundation, \$216,066 in July 1976 and \$134,980 in October 1977, together with \$88,000 of institutional grants from the Kellogg Foundation have assisted in making an on-line cataloging system available to many MINITEX participants for the purpose of building a MINITEX Minnesota/North Dakota/South Dakota data base of library holdings. Today 86 libraries using 91 terminals participate in the OCLC system. The MHECB/OCLC contract was renewed in 1979. In addition, many participants are adding their retrospective holdings to the data base which will facilitate increased resource sharing among libraries in MINITEX and provide local libraries with additional alternatives to the costly card catalog.

More than 2.8 million holdings records have been entered into the on-line data file and their information is immediately available on all OCLC terminals. A continuing growth of about one million additional records annually for the next four years is projected.

Computer assisted cataloging by MINITEX libraries improves access to local library resources. At the same time it builds a union catalog of books held in MINITEX libraries. This union catalog of books, like the MULS union list of periodicals, newspapers, and serials, allows efficient identification and location of material needed by MINITEX library patrons.

During 1979-80, the staff of 18 new libraries were trained, 19 terminals were installed, and MINITEX librarians created over a million on-line records of their holdings.

Related Services

MINITEX workshops, seminars, and training sessions provide librarians with opportunities to learn from each other and to find new ways to realize the benefits of cooper-

ation in providing service to library patrons. MINITEX has had workshops on automation, work flow, reference resources, computer assisted cataloging, serials management, library instruction, and computer assisted literature searching.

During 1979-80, MINITEX provided the following:

- 5 OCLC Cataloging Users Groups sessions*
- 5 OCLC Interlibrary Loan Subsystems workshops*
- 1 Reference Resources workshop*
- 1 Bibliographic Instruction workshop*
- 3 Regional Reference meetings*
- 13 Data Base training sessions*
- 3 "Everyone's Guide to the Library" courses in cooperation with University Extension*
- 241 site visits*

Resources beyond Minnesota are accessible to MINITEX. A reciprocal system-to-system arrangement with the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service (WILS) provides access to Wisconsin resources. A contract with the North Dakota State Library shares Minnesota and North Dakota resources, and a contract with the South Dakota State Library similarly permits access to South Dakota library resources.

V. CONCLUSION

Resource sharing is an efficient and important way of supplementing local resources and improving service to library patrons, but it is not intended to replace local collections. Individual collections are the heart of all libraries and all resource sharing activity. The local library is the patron's first choice and the most appropriate place for library service. Every library needs a basic collection to support its mission and recurring local needs. Support of individual libraries will enable them to develop the collections which best serve their communities.

The collection development capability of individual libraries is enhanced by the MINITEX program of resource sharing for lesser-used items, cooperative processing, and statistical documentation of use. MINITEX facilitates resource sharing among Minnesota libraries, supplements local collections, and enables libraries to provide service which they could not offer independently.

MINITEX
Participating Libraries

Minnesota Academic Libraries

Anoka Area Voc-Tech Institute
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Augsburg College
Austin Area Voc-Tech Institute
Austin Community College
Bemidji State University
Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary
Bethel College
Bethel Theological Seminary
Brainerd Community College
Carleton College
College of St. Benedict
College of St. Catherine
College of St. Scholastica
College of St. Teresa
College of St. Thomas
Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia College, St. Paul
Dakota County Area Voc-Tech Institute
Fergus Falls Community College
Freshwater Biological Institute
Golden Valley Lutheran College
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
 Bush Memorial Library
 Law Library
Hennepin Technical Center, North
Hennepin Technical Center, South
Hibbing Community College
Hormel Institute, Univ of Minn.
Inver Hills Community College
Iron Range Regional Center
Itasca Community College
Lakewood Community College
Luther-Northwestern Seminary Libraries
Macalester College
Mankato Area Voc-Tech Institute
Mankato State University
Dr. Martin Luther College
Mesabi Community College
Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Minneapolis Community College
William Mitchell College of Law
Moorhead State University
Normandale Community College
North Central Bible College
North Hennepin Community College
Northland Community College
Rainy River Community College
Red Wing Area Voc-Tech Institute
Rochester Community College
Rochester Regional Center

Minnesota Academic Libraries

St. Cloud Area Voc-Tech Institute
St. Cloud State University
St. John's University
St. Mary's College
St. Mary's Junior College
St. Olaf College
St. Paul Seminary
Southwest State University
United Theological Seminary of the
 Twin Cities Library
University of Minnesota-Biomedical Library
University of Minnesota-Law Library
University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus Library
University of Minnesota-Wilson Library
University of Minnesota-Crookston Technical
 College
University of Minnesota-Duluth Campus Library
University of Minnesota-Duluth Health
 Sciences Library
University of Minnesota-Morris
University of Minnesota-Waseca Technical
 College
Vermilion Community College
Wadena Regional Center
Willmar Community College
Winona State University
Worthington Community College
916 Area Voc-Tech Institute

Minnesota State Agency Libraries

Crime Control Planning Board
Legislative Reference Library
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Department of Public Welfare
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Minnesota Office of Economic Opportunity
Minnesota Energy Agency
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Minnesota State Board of Health
Minnesota State Law Library
Minnesota Zoological Garden
Office of Attorney General
Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary
 Cooperation

Minnesota Public Libraries

Anoka County Library
Austin Public Library
Carver County Library System
Crow River Regional Library
Dakota County Library System

Minnesota Public Libraries

Duluth Public Library
East Central Regional Library
Great River Regional Library
Hennepin County Library
Kitchigami Regional Library
Lake Agassiz Regional Library
Marshall-Lyon County Library
Minneapolis Public Library and
Information Center
Nobles County Library and Information
Center
Northwest Regional Library
Ramsey County Public Library
Rochester Public Library
St. Paul Public Library
Scott County Library System
Traverse des Sioux Library System
Viking Library System
Virginia Public Library
Washington County Library
Western Plains Library System
Winona Public Library

Other Minnesota Libraries

Abbott-Northwestern Hospital Library
Bethesda Lutheran Hospital Library
Children's Hospital Library
Fairview Hospital Library
Golden Valley Health Center Library
Hennepin County Medical Center
James J. Hill Reference Library
Lutheran Deaconess Hospital Library
Mayo Clinic Library
Mercy Medical Center Library
Methodist Hospital Library
Mounds-Midway School of Nursing
Mount Sinai Hospital Library
National Water Quality Laboratory
North Central Forest Experiment Station
North Memorial Medical Center Library
Ramsey County Medical Society/United Hosp.
St. John's Hospital Library
St. Joseph's Hospital Library
St. Louis Park Medical Center Library
St. Mary's Hospital Library
St. Paul Ramsey Hospital
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Unity Hospital Library
Veteran's Administration Hospital
Walker Public School

North Dakota Libraries

North Dakota State Library
North Dakota State University
University of North Dakota-Chester Fritz Lib
University of North Dakota-Harley E. French
Medical Library

South Dakota Libraries

Alexander-Mitchell Public Library
Black Hills State College
Dakota State College
Northern State College
Rapid City Public Library
Sioux Falls College
Sioux Falls Public Library
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
South Dakota State Library
South Dakota State University
University of South Dakota, Springfield
University of South Dakota-
I.D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota-
Lommen Health Sciences Library

Wisconsin Library

Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service-
University of Wisconsin

Canadian Library

Lakehead University Library

MINITEX Financial Statement

July 1, 1979 through June 30, 1980

INCOME

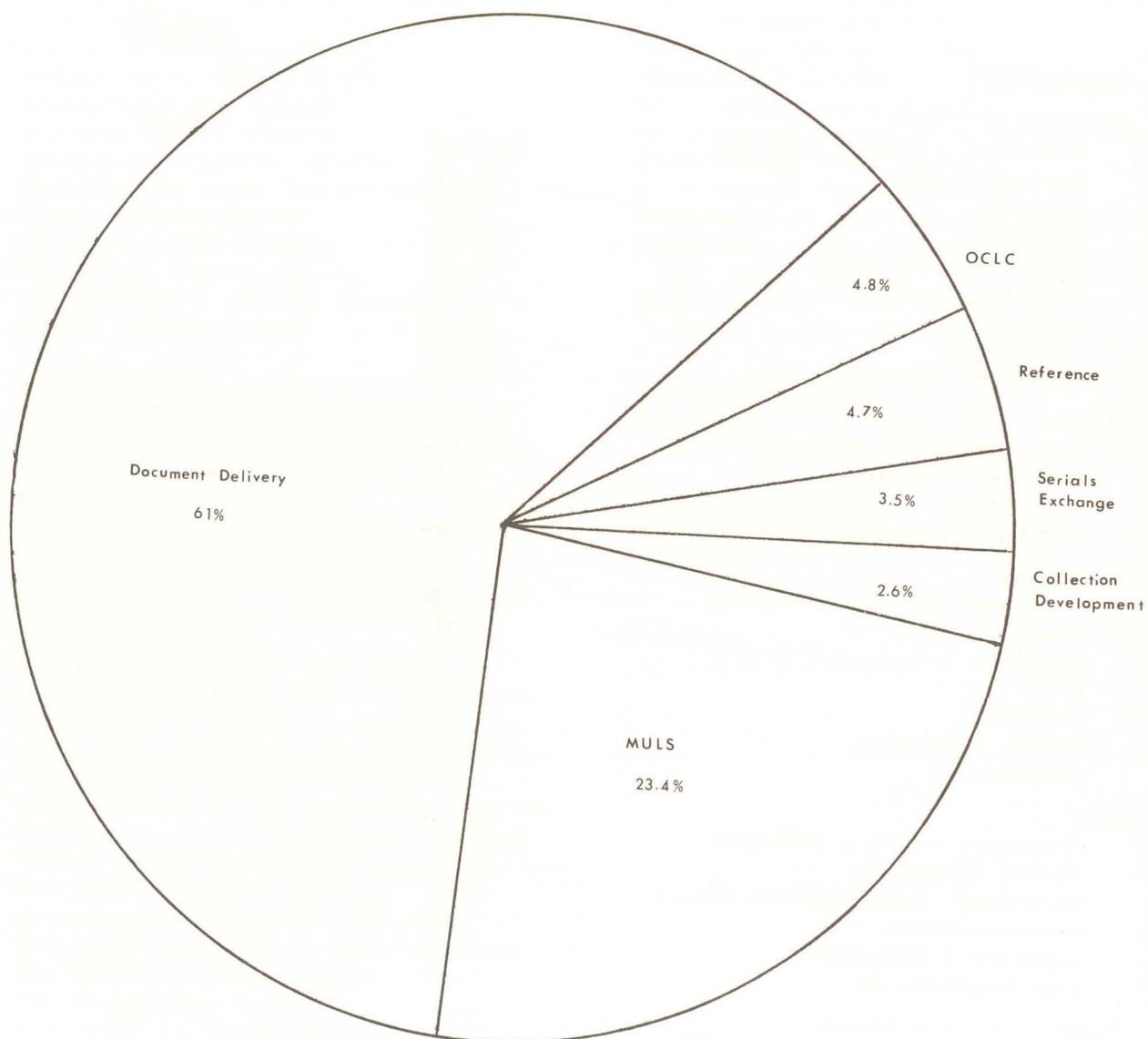
MN Higher Education Coordinating Board		\$475,000
Office of Public Libraries in Cooperation		95,786
Office of Public Libraries in Cooperation		48,214*
North Dakota		40,000*
South Dakota		20,000
South Dakota		20,000*
Wisconsin Union List of Serials		13,750
Wisconsin Union List of Serials		35,750*
Iowa Union List of Serials		35,750*
MULS		<u>1,485</u>
		<u>\$785,735</u>

EXPENDITURES

DOCUMENT DELIVERY		\$476,641
Personnel & Fringe Benefits	\$267,088	
Communications	89,480	
Delivery	50,886	
Photocopy	36,468	
Supplies & Equipment	24,757	
Travel & Meetings	3,586	
Memberships	1,600	
Lost Books	1,279	
Messenger & Publications	1,497	
MULS		182,823
Personnel & Fringe Benefits	\$149,400	
Supplies & Equipment	9,583	
Production	23,716	
Communications	124	
REFERENCE		36,876
Personnel & Fringe Benefits	\$ 29,848	
Communications	4,049	
Supplies & Equipment	1,966	
Mail	200	
Photocopy	403	
Travel & Meetings	285	
Searches	125	
OCLC		37,876
Personnel & Fringe Benefits	\$ 26,785	
Travel & Meetings	6,230	
Photocopy, Documentation & Mail	3,427	
Communications	940	
Supplies & Equipment	434	
Participation Fee	60	
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT		20,000
SERIALS EXCHANGE PROGRAM		<u>27,000</u>
		<u>\$781,216</u>

*funds not yet received based on yearly legislative appropriation and contracts.

INCOME ALLOCATION BY PROGRAM



MINITEX DOCUMENT DELIVERY STATISTICS 1979/80

	Items Requested	%	Items Provided	%
University of Minnesota (27,751)				
Twin Cities	9,210	5.7	99,432*	70.0
Coordinate Campus	18,541	11.5	2,224	1.6
AVTI's	944	.6		
Community Colleges	10,650	6.6	292	.2
Federal Agencies (1,003)				
No Central Forest Exp Station			37*	-
Other	1,003	.6	99	.1
High School	184	.1		
Hospitals	4,708	2.9	659	.5
J.J. Hill Reference Library	2,967	1.9	1,051	.7
Mayo Clinic	682	.4	860	.6
Post-Secondary Regional Ctrs	90	.1		
Private Colleges	28,210	17.6	8,932	6.3
Public Libraries (21,647)				
Minneapolis Public Lib & Info Ctr	646	.4	7,782*	5.5
Other	21,001	13.1	1,329	.9
Seminaries	332	.2	135	.1
State Agencies (10,738)				
MN Historical Society	184	.1	622*	.4
State Board of Health	598	.4	299*	.2
State Law Library	23	-	8*	-
Other	9,933	6.2		
State Universities	25,001	15.6	6,337	4.5
Wm Mitchell School of Law	157	.1	78	-
**Canada	76	-	32	-
**North Dakota	11,280	7.0	2,028	1.4
**South Dakota	6,845	4.3	1,138	.8
**Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service	7,344	4.6	6,913	4.9
**Berkley			31	-
***Center for Research Libraries			299	.2
National Libraries			123	.1
****British Library, Lending Division			1,397	1.0
Total	160,609		142,137	

MINITEX Serials Exchange Program received 223,676 items; provided 25,403.

% of requests filled	88.5	142,137
% of requests for copy	75.4	107,169
% of requests for loan	24.6	34,968
% filled at U of M, Twin Cities Campus	70.0	99,432
% processed by MINITEX staff	76.1	108,180
% processed by Minnesota participants	15.5	21,996
% processed by contract and reciprocal agrmt	7.1	10,110
% processed by purchase/membership	1.2	1,696

*retrieved and processed by MINITEX staff

**contract or reciprocal agreements

***memberships

****purchase/membership

note: Veterans Administration Hospital with 1,225 requests is both a medical and a federal library.

MINITEX PROGRAM HISTORY JANUARY 1969 to JUNE 30, 1980

Dates	Participants	Funding	Communications	Delivery	Biblio/MULS	Biblio/OCLC	Doc. Delivery	Serials Exchange	Training/Skills Development	Governance	Reciprocal Arr/Contracts/Memberships	Access to Resources	Grants
Ja-Del1969	11		11 TWX				19,993						
Ja-Del1970	15		11 TWX				31,359						\$25,800 Hill \$25,800 OPLIC \$25,800 Hill \$25,800 OPLIC
Ja71-Je71	16	\$25,000 U of M State Coll Bd	12 TWX				23,576						
J171-Je72	43	\$150,000 HECB \$ 95,731 OPLIC	34 TWX		MULS prelim.ed 3 mols 38,000 titles		71,353			5 elected) Advi- 4 ex of) sory Annual Meeting	WILS (Wisconsin- reciprocal)	Participants agree to share re- sources Wisconsin	
J172-Je73	66	\$150,000 HECB \$ 95,246 OPLIC	42 TWX 15 MERITTS				79,254		Reference Workshop	Annual Meeting			
J173-Je74	90	\$248,600 HECB \$135,246 OPLIC	50 TWX 15 MERITTS WATS phone Messenger	5 couriers			100,111		3 Reference Weeks 2 Online subj. search workshops	7 elected) Advi- 4 ex of) sory Annual meeting		CRL ACM expt. (6 mos)	\$20,000 OPLIC
J174-Je75	136	\$248,600 HECB \$ 72,000 OPLIC \$ 21,500 NoDak	52 TWX 15 MECC	7 couriers	ACK* MULS 1st ed. 5 vols 71,000 titles 120 libraries		129,118	145,000 rec'd 10,068 provided	5 Reference weeks 7 Reference days	Annual meeting	North Dakota (contract) MIDLNET, CCLN (memberships) CONSER(participant)	No Dakota	
J175-Je76	146	\$350,000 HECB \$120,000 OPLIC \$ 21,500	52 TWX 15 MECC	7 couriers	NDULS MULS fiche ed.		144,436	216,623 rec'd 25,259 pro'd	4 Everyman's Guide to the Whole Library (U of M Extension course)			B:LD	
J176-Je77	146	\$350,000 HECB \$120,000 OPLIC \$ 32,500 NoDak \$ 28,500 Mont.	52 TWX 15 MECC	7 couriers	ULMS (Mont.) MULS Fiche ed.	31 libraries 34 terminals 100,000 holdings	149,104	226,820 rec'd 25,259 pro'd	6 OCLC training Wkshps 2 OCLC cat user groups OCLC auto/stats wkshp 6 Everyman's Guide...	10 elected Advi- 4 ex of) sory* 7 Advisory mtgs Annual meeting		National Libraries; LC,NLM,NAL	\$216,000 Bush \$ 88,000 Kel- logg
J177-Je78	150	\$400,000 HECB \$135,000 OPLIC \$ 30,000 NoDak	50 TWX 15 MECC 1 UCC 1 TI	7 couriers	MULS 2nd ed. 7 vols 90,000 titles 200 libraries SDULS	56 libraries 53 terminals 1 million holdings	151,299	236,868 rec'd 24,135 pro'd	8 OCLC training wkshps 12 regional copyright 3 Cat. Users Group mtg OCLC Workflow workshop 3 Ref. Users Group mtg 6 Everyman's Guide...	6 Advisory mtgs Annual meeting	South Dakota (contract)	So Dakota	\$139,980 Bush (including \$25,000 for SD Union List of Serials
J178-Je79	154	\$425,000 HECB \$135,000 OPLIC \$ 30,000 NoDak \$ 33,325 SoDak \$ 48,750 Wisc	44 TWX 15 MECC 3 UCC 4 TFR	8 couriers	MULS 2nd ed. rev-fiche 101,007 titles 318 libraries	66 libraries 72 terminals 1,800,000 hodlings	152,007	216,963 rec'd 21,538 pro'd	6 OCLC training wkshps 3 cat users groups 3 regional mtgs 1 SD training mtg 2 ref users support 2 data base trng mtgs 6 Everyman's Guide...	5 Advisory mtgs Annual Meeting		Colleges of Mid America	\$ 32,469 NSF
J179-Je80	158	\$475,000 HECB \$144,000 OPLIC \$ 40,000 NoDak \$ 40,000 SoDak \$ 49,500 WULS \$ 35,750 IULS	35 TWX 15 MECC 3 UCC 12 300/1200 terms. 2 OCLC	8 couriers	Adding Iowa & Wisc holdings 3rd ed. in 1980 375 libraries 110,000 titles MULS Manual	84 libraries 91 terminals 2,800,000 holdings	160,609	223,676 rec'd 25,403 pro'd	5 OCLC Cat Users Group 3 OCLC Ill Wkshps 1 Ref Resources Wkshp 1 Bib Instruction Wkshp 3 Regional Ref mtgs 13 database training 3 Everymon's Guide... 241 site visits	5 Advisory mtgs			

By Kathy Schneider

Library networking in Wisconsin is a mix of formal and informal resource sharing agreements which are arranged by kind of library, by region, and by type of information to be shared. There are public library system "networks" and school district and academic "networks" as well as local inter-type library "networks" and the more formalized Health Science Network. At the state level they all come together as direct or indirect participants in the WILS/WLC network. WILS/WLC is a facilitator/coordinator of cooperative activities in Wisconsin, in addition to providing access to the resources of the University of Wisconsin Madison campus and to the MINITEX network. WILS/WLC is both a state level resource provider and technology broker, as well as a linking agent for statewide reference and referral.

WILS/WLC is a program of the Council of Wisconsin Librarians, Inc. (COWL), a not-for-profit corporation established in the early seventies. Although physically housed on the UW-Madison campus, WILS/WLC is not actually a part of the UW System. It is a service program supported and governed by its member libraries.

COWL was established for the purpose of coordinating library activities, especially cooperative efforts. Previously several advisory groups and committees had been involved in a variety of studies to identify library needs and recommend plans for increased resource sharing among Wisconsin libraries. Although the needs and problems facing libraries were clear, the responsibility for implementation of the recommended solutions was not. It was at this point that COWL was formed to assure continuation of the study and planning process and, most importantly, to assume the initiative in putting such plans into action.

COWL is proud of its stature as an "action organization" and has been responsible for the development of many networking activities in Wisconsin. In 1972 COWL established the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service (WILS) to coordinate interloan among the state's academic libraries and to provide access to the resources of the UW Madison campus libraries. The following year COWL extended its services to public, school, state agency and institution libraries through a resource sharing contract

with the Division for Library Services, the state library agency in Wisconsin. In 1976 COWL assumed sponsorship of the Wisconsin Library Consortium (WLC) which provides access to OCLC's on-line system. Through COWL's sponsorship OCLC access has extended from the UW libraries to all Wisconsin libraries. The natural and appropriate operating relationship between statewide sharing of library resources and the statewide sharing of library technology was firmly established. The most recent program enhancement came last year with the introduction of a reference service as a component of full network service.

The goal of WILS/WLC continues to be to facilitate resource sharing and the research, design, and development of new and innovative programs of resource sharing that will further assist libraries in making the resources of Wisconsin available to the library user. To this end, the organization, its members and staff have initiated and participated in a wide variety of state level planning and review efforts and have consistently maintained a high visibility in the state in the area of library networking and general cooperative activities. The organization has also maintained an open and flexible structure and attitude toward evolving interests and priorities. As a result, COWL has developed from an academic-oriented organization to a multi-type organization which includes all types of libraries as both participants and decision makers in governing the basic operation as well as planning future projects and programs.

WILS/WLC begins the 1980-81 fiscal year with a combined membership of 79 individual libraries and educational institutions. Direct participation by type of library is as follows:

	WILS	WLC
Public	*	16
Academic	47**	22
School	*	
Government agency	2	3
Library schools		2
Processing centers (serving 44 libraries)		3
Special***		6

*Over 700 public, school, state agency and state institution libraries are participants through a resource contract with the Division for Library Services; however, they are not counted as direct WILS members.

**Includes:	<u>WILS</u>	<u>WLC</u>
UW System 4-year campuses	13	13
UW System 2-year campuses	14	
Private colleges and univ.	18	9
Technical schools	2	

***Includes academic professional school libraries, medical libraries, etc.

Current staff includes five librarians, six classified employees, and, during most of the year, approximately 400 hours per week of student assistants. The Wisconsin Library Consortium has 89 terminals up and running with 11 new members coming on line in the last year. This steady growth to the Consortium membership and the fact that WLC and WILS function together as the two primary components of library networking in Wisconsin has proven very beneficial for interlibrary loan services in the state. Access to OCLC enables WILS participating libraries and WILS office staff to verify citations and secure location information with greater speed and accuracy than is possible manually. It has also led to a tremendous increase in the referral of requests beyond the Madison campus, thus improving the overall service available to patrons.

In the last five years the total number of requests received by WILS has increased by 10.3%. While the overall fill rate has remained constant, the number of requests filled through referral has risen 49%, with total referrals increasing 54%. WILS refers requests to the Midwest Health Science Network, to the Division for Library Services Reference and Loan Library, to its participating libraries, and through a reciprocal agreement, to MINITEX. It is in referrals to participating libraries where the greatest increase has occurred. All WILS referrals are made on the basis of known locations. Every attempt is made to balance the referrals among the various resources available and to limit the level of multiple referrals. At the present time the average is 1.3 referrals for every request filled. As more and more libraries unput their holdings into the OCLC data base, a continuing increase in referrals should be combined with an increase in the total number of interlibrary loan requests filled.

One major problem for WILS as well as for other Wisconsin libraries has been the lack of a statewide union list of serials. This weakness is being resolved through a contract with MINITEX to enter Wisconsin

serials on the MULS data base and provide WILS with camera-ready copy of the serials data. The Wisconsin union list of serials should be completed and available to libraries by the middle of 1981.

The WILS reference service, which is just completing its first year of operation, has handled 1,261 requests with a fill rate of 84% and an average turn-around time of 48 hours. Reference questions are received through a WATS telephone line and researched in the many resources of the Madison campus libraries. In addition to answering requests for information, the WILS reference librarian has assumed the responsibility for reviewing all unfilled interloan requests and for identifying bibliographic problems before returning the request to the originating library. This often includes providing information as to other possible sources which could be suggested to the patron.

The reference service has been supported through federal LSCA funds as a demonstration project. It is clear from the response of the WILS participating libraries, both in the number of libraries who have submitted requests and the number of requests received, as well as the patron evaluation forms attached to each filled request, that the reference demonstration is providing a much needed service. Federal support continues through June 1981. The cost of continuing reference service is being included in the 1981-82 budget proposal as an integral part of the WILS program.

As the new year begins WILS/WLC faces several major challenges. Like most other states, Wisconsin is in the midst of serious financial crisis. Funds for the resource sharing contract between WILS and the state Division for Library Services have been cut for the current year and the biennial budget being developed for 1981-83 does not look encouraging. At the present time the UW Madison campus has a freeze on new book purchases which may have a devastating impact on library services in Wisconsin for many years to come.

And yet there are many positive things in the future as well. New library legislation which passed just prior to the close of the last session of the state legislature calls for the appointment by the governor of a Council on Library and Network Development. This Council is charged with

studying a variety of critical library issues, particularly the distribution and level of state aid for library services.

Another bright spot in the coming year is the implementation of new interlibrary loan guidelines for Wisconsin. The Guidelines, developed by the Committee on State-wide Interlibrary Loan and Reference Referral patterns sponsored by the Division for Library Services, COWL, and the Council on Library Development, went into effect on a trial basis on September 1st. These Guidelines allow for direct access to state level resource providers on the basis of known availability of materials. Items verified on OCLC by a public library or a WILS participating library can be directed to the state level resource provider--WILS, Reference and Loan Library, or Milwaukee Public Library--identified as owning the item, rather than following the traditional referral patterns of public libraries referring only to Reference and Loan and academic libraries referring only to WILS. The objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of interlibrary loan for all library users. This is the first step in the development of local area plans for resource sharing among all types of libraries which is the basic component of a fully developed statewide library network.

Also on the WILS/WLC agenda is active involvement in a major long range planning effort being initiated by COWL. The thrust of this effort is to review and reassess the structure and representation within the organization and to study the current financial situation and investigate alternative funding options.

Kathy Schneider is the Director of WILS/WLC.

SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY
CONSORTIUM: MULTI-TYPE RESOURCE SHARING

By Ed Garten

In recent years concern has arisen for more effective health science related library resource sharing in north central South Dakota. While a number of medical and health-related institutions serve the region, medical libraries auxiliary to these institutions have varied widely in terms of their collection emphasis,

strengths, and overall service capabilities. The need for more effective resource sharing, collection utilization, and user assistance became apparent as individual institutions began to realize the disadvantages of independence in their attempts to develop "stand alone" collections.

Out of this environment grew the North-central South Dakota Health Sciences Library Consortium (NESDHSLC), consisting of Northern State College, Presentation College, St. Luke's Hospital and Northeastern Medical Center, all in Aberdeen, and Mobridge Community Hospital in Mobridge. The Consortium recently developed a formal organizational structure and was awarded its second Medical Library Resource Grant, on a 4:1 matching basis, from the National Library of Medicine. This second grant was for the purpose of purchasing books and journals, and for payment of other expenses necessary to maintain the life of the Consortium in its initial period of growth and development. The Consortium has many traditional library consortium objectives, including resource sharing, joint acquisitions policies, avoidance of duplication of materials, and the establishment of an interlibrary messenger service. The Consortium may also adopt less common functions such as duplicate exchange, library development consultation services, audiovisual materials development and coordination, and cooperative educational projects.

Opportunities exist for the inclusion of additional members in the Consortium, with membership open to health-related institutions who agree to participate in the preparation and continuous updating of a union list of serials, cooperative library services, and the attainment of Consortium goals. The Consortium Board includes librarians from the participating hospitals and academic institutions, and physicians from the participating hospitals.

NESDHSLC is fairly unique as a medical consortium in that it includes along with hospital libraries, two academic institutions who possess health science-related holdings and curricula. Northern State has strong biology and medical technology programs, while Presentation College, a two-year institution, has strong associate

degree nursing programs. The Consortium is also unusual because few largely rural and isolated communities have developed effective means of library resource sharing in the health science-related fields.

The impending installation of a MEDLINE terminal at Northern State will further enhance the capabilities of the Consortium. Cooperative cataloging via OCLC is also under consideration, as are workshops which will raise issues and concerns peculiar to medical librarianship. Formation of reference, serials, and continuing education task forces are also under consideration at this time. Such a consortium holds many possibilities for the creative nurturance of innovative medical resource sharing in north central South Dakota.

Ed Garten is Director of Libraries at Northern State College and Administrative Coordinator of NESDHS LC.

OCLC NAMES NEW PRESIDENT

Rowland C. W. Brown has been named President of OCLC, Inc. He will become the second president in OCLC's 13-year history in December, when he succeeds founder and first president, Frederick G. Kilgour. Kilgour announced his plans earlier to retire from active management of OCLC by the end of this year. He will remain on the OCLC Board of Trustees as Permanent Founder Trustee and will continue devoting most of his efforts to innovation.

Brown was President and Chief Executive Officer of Buckeye International, Inc., Columbus, Ohio, from 1970 until its recent acquisition by Worthington Industries. Buckeye International manufactures plastic products, steel castings and precision machine parts primarily for the railroad and automotive industries.

Brown will become president of OCLC as it prepares to move to its new \$25 million facility in Dublin, Ohio, in February 1981.

OCLC USERS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

By Sharon Walbridge, Coordinator

The 1979/80 OCLC Users Council was composed of 69 delegates, an increase of nine

from the previous year. The Council met three times during the year: October in Columbus, February in Columbus, and June in St. Louis.

The Users Council, as a representative body in OCLC governance, has two major responsibilities relative to the governance process. The first is to elect delegates to the Board of Trustees. In June of 1980, Kaye Gapen and Joseph Boykin were elected to full six-year Board terms. The Council also had its first opportunity to consider ratification of revisions to the OCLC Code of Regulations at its June meeting, when it approved all but one of the proposed revisions.

In addition to standing committees, the Council organizes into task forces to accomplish its work. This method not only facilitates investigation of topics, but affords nearly all delegates participation in the actual work of the Council. Task forces operating during 1979-80 considered such topics as the impact of AACR2 and authority control on OCLC participants, uniform telecommunication charging, use of OCLC subsystems, enforcement of standards, use of OCLC MARC subscription tapes, effects of migration of ARL libraries, system priorities and needs, and workability of delegate calculation algorithm.

OCLC DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

The latest revision of the OCLC Development Schedule appears below. With the exception of Acquisitions, all projects are on schedule.

Serials Redesign Union List: (installed)
This system will support consolidated local data record representing holdings of union list members. These union list local data records will be cross-linked to the individual local data records. Also included in this project are internal improvements to the software to make the system more reliable, more maintainable, and more expandable for additional users. Also, some user apparent improvements will be made.

RCP/LCP: (installed) Development of a remote communication processor (RCP) and a local communication processor (LCP) will provide a device capable of concentrating up to 350 OCLC terminals

and will be compatible with the existing OCLC communication network. The first unit is to be installed at SOLINET.

Search/Retrieval Enhancements: (installed)
(Editor's note: See report on this in the last issue of the *Messenger*.)

AACR2 Support: (fourth quarter, 1980)
(Editor's note: See report on this in the last issue of the *Messenger*.)

Serials Claims: (first quarter, 1981)
This function for claims will support on-line notification and claiming of overdue material, manual claim generation for overdue material, and on-line tracking of claims. Claiming functions for other sub-systems (Acquisitions, ILL) are included in those development projects. The ILL portion is not yet scheduled for installation.

Acquisitions Subsystem: (first quarter, 1981) This version of the Subsystem will provide pre-order searching and ordering of single titles, subscriptions and continuations. In addition, fund accounting and reporting services will be provided as well as off-line reports including monthly or quarterly status of funds and summary status of outstanding orders.

OCLC USERS AND AACR2 QUESTIONS

At its November 1979 meeting, the AACR2 Task Force of OCLC's Internetwork Quality Control Council made the following recommendation:

"We recommend that OCLC, in conjunction with the networks, state its policy on directing questions of interpretation and decisions on AACR2 to the Library of Congress. It seems essential that such a policy be stated to expedite questions regarding standards of 'LC practice'."

The Library of Congress has publicly agreed to answer questions concerning its interpretation and use of AACR2. Because of the large number of OCLC users who want LC's interpretations and decisions, it is preferable to centralized the questions and answers, thereby facilitating the flow of communication to all OCLC participants.

Because OCLC is the single agency which can effectively communicate with all of its participants via the network offices, OCLC will establish procedures whereby network offices and/or individual participants address questions on LC and OCLC use of AACR2. OCLC will establish a mechanism whereby answers from LC are used to formulate instructions and guidelines for OCLC members.

Questions pertaining to OCLC use of AACR2 and inputting instructions for AACR2 cataloging should be directed to the MINITEX network office. The questions will be forwarded to OCLC's Cataloging Services Department to obtain an appropriate response.

Questions pertaining to flaws (i.e., conflicting rules or absence of a rule) in AACR2 should be addressed to:

Committee on Cataloging: Description
and Access
Mr. William Bunnell
Resources and Technical Services
Division
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

This committee of ALA Resources and Technical Services Division will address changes and additions to AACR2. (JCB)

OCLC SYSTEM DOWN WHILE CONVERTING TO AACR2

The OCLC system will be unavailable Dec. 12-16 as OCLC converts headings in the on-line union catalog to AACR2 form. When the system is brought back up on Dec. 17, headings should be converted and members should then begin inputting original records using AACR2 and the new Formats documents.

If the conversion is unsuccessful that weekend, the system will be brought up in unconverted pre-AACR2 form on the 17th. Other attempts will then be made during weekends in December.

Libraries are urged to watch screen messages carefully for possible changes in this information and the scheduled attempts. OCLC users should remember that whenever the conversion is completed, new records should be entered into the on-line catalog as AACR2 cataloging.

Details of the conversion are found in OCLC's *Technical Bulletin 97: AACR2 Implementation and Data Base Conversion*. OCLC libraries who did not receive this in the September mailing should contact the MINITEX/OCLC Office. (JCB)

OCLC PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1980

College and University libraries:	
General	1202
Law	70
Medical	94
Total	(57.27%) 1366
Public libraries:	
City and County (including processing centers)	323
State libraries	38
State processing centers	9
Total	(15.51%) 370
Special Libraries:	
General	103
Law	3
Medical	63
Total	(7.09%) 169
For-profit libraries:	
General	95
Law	11
Medical	1
Total	(4.49%) 107
State government libraries:	
General	14
Law	6
Medical	4
Total	(1.01%) 24
Federal government libraries:	
General	263
Law	1
Medical	20
Total	(11.91%) 284
Secondary school systems and school libraries:	(1.05%) 25
Library schools:	(1.68%) 40
Grand total	<u>2385</u>
Total medical libraries (all classifications):	182
Total law libraries (all classifications):	91

CRL RECEIVES TWO FORD GRANTS

The Board of Directors of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) in Chicago announced at their September 18th meeting that the Center has been awarded two Ford Foundation grants. One grant, of \$1 million, will augment CRL's building program fund. In April 1980, the Center's membership voted to establish a building program of at least \$3 million to expand its current facilities located in the Hyde Park neighborhood adjacent to the University of Chicago campus. In recent years, CRL programs for new acquisitions of research materials and storage of infrequently used materials donated by its members have been limited due to crowded facilities. The expanded building program will enable the Center to nearly double its present compact storage facilities. Financing of the project will be completed by the end of 1980, and construction is slated to begin in early 1981.

The second grant, of \$250,000, is to be used in connection with an expanded program aimed at strengthening resources in East Asian research materials. The new funds will be concentrated on acquiring Chinese, Japanese and Korean research materials in a variety of disciplines.

CRL is a membership organization comprised of over 180 academic and research libraries in North America. Its objectives are to acquire, store, and make accessible for its members, scholars, and researchers materials not usually available locally.

MPLIC DESIGNATED AS PATENT DEPOSITORY

The Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center has been designated as a US patent depository. Sidney A. Diamond, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, said the Minneapolis library is the 34th library to be designated to maintain a collection of US patents and offer services to the public in the use of the collection. MPLIC will be the only such library between Madison/Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Denver, Colorado.

MPLIC has received a \$100,000 grant from the Bush Foundation which will be used to begin acquiring back files of patents in microform. They hope to find enough addi-

tional funding to enable them to acquire the complete collection of patents from 1790. The microform back files include reader-printer equipment which will be available for the public's use. MPLIC staff will also be trained to assist patrons in searching and using the collection.

Meanwhile, the Business/Science Department at the main library is receiving weekly shipments of paper copies of current patents. Leonard Pignatello, head of the department, says the patents are received within a week to ten days after they are listed in the weekly Patent Gazette. Patents issued from Oct. 6, 1980 to date are now available for in-library use and photocopying.

COMCAT EDUCATION PROJECT

Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center (MPLIC) has recently been involved in an effort to educate Minneapolis high school students in the use of the new MPLIC Computer Catalog (ComCat). Patricia Kaiser Smith, District IV Librarian and Normakay Marthinson of Roosevelt Community Library designed the project and with the cooperation of Eileen Baker, librarian at Roosevelt High School, initiated the experiment at Roosevelt in April.

Smith and Marthinson made 50 presentations of 40 minutes each to classes at the school, reaching over 1000 students. Each session began with a short history of the MPLIC catalog, including the Dewey Decimal System, the card catalog, LC classification, book catalogs and the ComCat. Using enlargements from the ComCat film, the difference between title, author, and subject cards was explained. A demonstration of the mechanics of the machine ended the presentation and the students were encouraged to participate in "hands on" experience. A ComCat was placed in the school library for their use during the three and a half weeks of the project. The response from students and teachers was enthusiastic.

In October a second project was conducted at South High School, where school librarians Jackie Cronin and Corrine Robinson helped to set up the schedule of presentations to all the English classes,

involving 638 students. Again a ComCat was placed in the school library for the students to play with during the three weeks of the project. Mary Hanft, librarian at East Lake Community Library, assisted Smith in the South High School project.

This innovative program has resulted in excellent public relations for the new catalog system and improved good will between the libraries and the schools. It is hoped that the project can be repeated in the remaining high schools, thereby converting a whole generation of Minneapolis high school students from card catalogs to Com Cat.

LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES COMMITTEE FORMED

The Minnesota Association of Law Libraries has established a Public Services Liaison Committee to address the issues involved in providing legal reference service to the public. The committee is composed of at least one staff member from the public law libraries and law school libraries in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area. Committee members are available to answer questions concerning legal reference service, selection and use of legal materials and are open to other suggestions concerning how they can be of service to public libraries.

The committee has available *Guidelines for Legal Reference Service* which includes guidelines for both telephone and in-house reference service, sample responses and a list of referral sources and agencies which may better answer the patron's questions. Also available is the newly revised edition of the *Union List of Law Related Loose-leaf Services*. Both publications may be obtained by sending \$1.00 plus a self-addressed 8 1/2 by 11" envelope stamped with 28¢ postage. Address requests for the publications, inquiries, and suggestions to Barbara Golden, MALL Public Services Liaison Committee, Hennepin County Law Library, C-2451 Government Center, Minneapolis, MN, 55487. Phone (612) 348-3022.

MINITEX REFERENCE SERVICE NOTES

By M.J. Dustin

Telephone hours: Beginning Jan. 2, 1981, the times during which a member of the MINITEX reference staff will be available to receive a reference request will change to 9:00-9:30 AM and 3:30-4:00 PM. This will allow us to work for longer periods of time at the various libraries we use and will avoid lunch time which is inconvenient for many of you.

Remember, however, that you may call any time between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, for one of us may be in the office or could return your call if you leave a message.

Regional meetings: I have enjoyed getting acquainted with many of you at the reference meetings in different regions of the MINITEX network. The purpose has been to discuss and become familiar with reference service in your libraries and at MINITEX.

Meetings have been held at Southwest State University (Sept. 24), Mankato State University (Oct. 2), Duluth Public Library (Oct. 8), North Dakota State University (Oct. 16), Bemidji State University (Oct. 28), South Dakota State Library (Nov. 5), and the libraries in Winona (Nov. 17-18). Mary Martin held similar sessions on document delivery service at the last two locations. I am now scheduling meetings in the areas that have not yet been visited and am looking forward to meeting more of you.

Toll free numbers: Here are some toll free numbers we have become aware of and which may be of interest to you. Please let me know of other useful ones and I will put them in subsequent issues of the *Messenger*. You can call 800/555-1212 to find out if an organization has a toll free number.

Association and federal government information:

- Basic Education Opportunity Grants - 800/638-6700
- Cancer Information Service
 - Minnesota - 800/582-5262
 - North & South Dakota - 800/328-5188
- Consumer Product Safety Commission - 800/638-8326
- National Solar Heating and Cooling Information - 800/523-2929

Minnesota state government: The following state agencies can be called toll free at 800/652-9747

- Arts Board
- Commerce - Engineering
 - Land Survey
 - Landscape Architecture
- Crime Victims Reparations Board
- Economic Development - Tourism Division
- Economic Security - Fuel Assistance
- Energy Agency - Energy Information Ctr.
 - Fuel Allocation
- Ethical Practices Board
- Governor's Office of Volunteer Services
- Handicapped Council
- Health - Health Systems Division
 - Immunization
 - Services to Children with Handicaps
 - VD Information
- Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Human Rights
- Minnesota Public University Information Center
- Natural Resources
- Personnel
- Planning Agency
- Revenue - Inheritance & Gift Tax
 - Sales Tax
 - Tax Compliance
 - Local Government Aids and Analysis
 - Income Tax
- Treasurer's Office - Unclaimed Property
- Waste Management Board
- Welfare - Aging Division
 - Food Stamp Allocation
 - Indo-Chinese Resettlement Office
 - Refugee Health Line
 - Medical Assistance Providers

Database searching assistance:

- ABI/Inform - 800/626-2823
- Biosis - 800/523-4806
- ComprehensiveDissertation Abstracts - 800/521-0600, est. 331
- Legal Resource Index - 800/227-8431
- Magazine Index - 800/227-8431
- National Newspaper Index - 800/227-8431
- Oceanic Abstracts - 800/626-2823
- Pharmaceutical News Index - 800/626-2823
- Pollution Abstracts - 800/626-2823
- Scisearch - 800/523-1850
- Social Scisearch - 800/523-1850
- Special Education Materials (NICSEM) - 800/421-8711

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CHANGE FOR MINITEX

By Mark Eckes

For over a decade MINITEX has used Bell Telephone and Western Union TWX machines as its major telecommunications system for transmitting interlibrary requests for loans and photocopies. In the beginning all the participants were provided TWX access with the network paying the rental and service charges and the local libraries assuming the line charges. At one time, MINITEX supported 50 TWX installations, with an additional 20 locally supported installations in contiguous states. As new libraries were added, unique situations suggested utilizing other communication systems including MECC (Minnesota Education Computing Consortium), UCC (University Computer Center), couriers, and mail.

Telecommunications technology continued to develop faster, cheaper, easier to operate, and multi-purpose equipment, while inflation led to increased TWX line and service costs. At the same time, reference librarians were becoming increasingly interested in providing on-line literature searching, either to enhance their reference capability or to provide new services for their patrons. It was time to consider changes.

The process of studying new alternatives to the existing systems began in mid-1979. Meetings were held with library users, Northwestern Bell, State Telecommunications Office, MECC, and other communication specialists in order to develop the specifications for a new system. The library community wanted equipment that was faster, quieter, less costly to operate, and more reliable. They also wanted equipment that was capable of performing several functions: sending and receiving interlibrary loan messages, searching data bases, interacting with institution or municipal computers, and printing records from the OCLC system.

Having established five minimum requirements: 1) automatic answer, 2) forms control, 3) answerback, 4) data storage, and 5) send/receive at 300/1200 baud, vendors were contacted and available equipment was examined and tested. No single piece of equipment met all the requirements and it

became apparent that a system was needed with several parts--a printer, a data storage unit, and a modem.

Discussions began with vendors regarding terminal printers that had answerback and forms control and that could handle 300/1200 baud automatically. After making a tentative choice in equipment, a software program was developed which would arrange the request data in a standard interlibrary request format and would also automatically type the repetitive portions of the request. The program developed retains the date, destination and originating library information from the initial input and sequentially numbers the requests as they are generated. It also allows single key stroking "L" for loan and "C" for copy, and requires appropriate copyright designation when a copy is desired.

Further testing of the proposed equipment and program went on until the first installation was made in April, 1980--St. Olaf College began using the Texas Instrument 820KSR terminal, the Teledisk 2020 Series memory unit, the General DataCom modem, and the Library Requests Program. Since April 1980, over 45 TWX terminals have been replaced in state universities, private colleges, a U of M coordinate campus, and public libraries.

MINITEX and OPLIC (Office of Public Libraries in Cooperation) joined in a cooperative effort to train each of the public libraries in the shortest possible time after installation. Between Sept. 4 and Oct. 11, Mark Eckes of the MINITEX staff and Cheryl Anderson-Laid of the PLANET staff conducted 26 on-site training sessions. The three-hour session covered the basics of the system: setting communication and format parameters, use of the Teledisk with the Library Requests Program, use of the Teledisk as a simple recording device, and the actual transmitting of interlibrary loan messages. An instruction manual and a procedure sequence chart were provided for easy step-by-step reference.

OPLIC, the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board contracting agent for public library participation in MINITEX, provided funds to replace all the equipment in the 26 public libraries.

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"EVERYONE'S GUIDE..." FOR WINTER QUARTER

"Everyone's Guide to the Whole Library," a library orientation course offered three times a year by MINITEX and the University of Minnesota Extension Service, will be presented Jan. 7th and 14th, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM in Room 340 Blegen Hall on the West Bank. The course consists of both sessions, but one or the other may be attended alone also. For more information call Marcia Pankake at 376-2550.

PEOPLE

JOAN S. SEGAL has been appointed Interim Executive Director of the Bibliographic Center for Research, Denver, Colorado. Segal has been Acting Executive Director since June. No permanent appointment to the position of BCR Executive Director will be made at this time.

KEVIN C. FLAHERTY is the new Director of the Michigan Library Consortium.

NEW MINITEX PARTICIPANT

MINITEX welcomes St. Paul Bible College to its list of participating libraries. Their code is STPBC. Marcelyn Smid is Director of the library.

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