

THE FINE PRINT

MURPHY LIBRARY • UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE • SPRING 1988 NO.1

LIBRARY AUTOMATION UPDATE

The library staff continues to prepare for the library's new LS2000 Library Automation System. Library patrons will begin to see changes in library operations due to the new system later this year.

The current schedule for automating the library calls for beginning the catalog record load and indexing in March, completing the load and indexing in the Summer, beginning public use of the online catalog in the Summer, and beginning use of the Circulation system in the 1988/89 year. This is tight, and it may be revised as the library proceeds.

The initial phase of the retrospective conversion project has been completed. This consisted of identifying records in OCLC (a national database of library catalog records) which matched Murphy Library's books. The matching records were edited to make retrieval of the books possible, and coding was added so that a computer tape could be created for installation into our own system. The remaining conversion involves those books which had no matching records in the data base. The Cataloging Department will gradually prepare records for those books to be input into the OCLC database, as well as our new catalog.

The barcoding project currently underway is similar to, but simpler than the retrospective conversion project. Barcodes (resembling the ones Quillins uses to check out your groceries) are being attached to most of the books in the library. They will be used to check books in and out on the new system. This will eliminate the bother of filling out circulation cards which is currently necessary when you want to borrow a book. This project will be completed by June 1989. However, enough progress will be made to enable us to begin using the circulation system in the new automation system by next academic year.

The process of preparing the library's bibliographic profile is essentially completed. The bibliographic profile will be used to index the records so that they can be searched. A committee of librarians has been working on the profile since August. After a few more decisions are made, the profile will be finalized, loaded into the library's computer, and used to begin loading and indexing the library's catalog records.

Another committee of librarians is currently preparing the library's decisions about categories of library users such as students, faculty, and community borrowers; circulation policies such as loan periods, fines; and circulation policies for collections within the library such as reference, government documents, and the main stacks. The profile should be completed in April.



The library automation system will bring many beneficial changes for the library and its patrons. The online catalog will be much easier to use and more effective than the card and microfiche catalogs currently in use. All the library's book will be recorded in one catalog, instead of three or four. Patrons will be able to search by keyword and call number, in addition to the current author, title, and subject searches. The new circulation system will not require patrons to fill out cards for each book which they check out. The library will be able to tell patrons what books they have checked out which is currently not feasible with our circulation card files. We will also be able to send overdue notices and calculate fines and fees much more quickly with less staff time. By this time next year, you may wonder how we ever got along without the LS2000 Library Automation System.

Charles H. Marx, Cataloging/Technical Services

REGIONAL WRITING AND THE ART OF THE BOOK IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

When the new Murphy Library was completed and opened in 1969, it provided for a Special Collections Department on the second floor. This facility was to provide special handling and security for several categories of library materials and for the already existing Area Research Center collection that had been moved from the old Florence Wing Library. It is typical of such facilities that they will reflect, to some extent, the interests and eccentricities of their curators. With the strong support of the library administration and several faculty members, this new department set about to collect regional writing and the representative presses, especially where the resulting collections would be both unique and strong.



Pentagram Press
Minneapolis 1987

Of the approximately 10,500 volumes in the rare book collection, nearly half may be defined as literature. Much of this is of particular Wisconsin or regional interest. There are first editions of such prominent early regional writers as Zona Gale, Hamlin Garland, Bill Nye, and Charles King, and from more contemporary era, the regional poets, editors, and little magazines. The collection includes approximately seventy little magazines with strong state or regional connections, and over two thousand monographic titles by contemporary poets. Many of the latter are signed copies, with binding or covers too fragile for the circulating collection. Some were printed in limited or fine press editions with great attention to the art of the book.

Typical of these fine private press offerings of contemporary design are the books of Walter Hamady's Perishable Press, Ltd., of Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. Emerging in the 1960s, these splendid and often extravagantly designed books are striking examples of a minor renaissance in private printing. Other presses such as Crepuscular Press, Sea Pen Press, Bieler Press, and Meadow Press (some of them clearly influenced by Walter Hamady) began offering their handsome books on a limited basis. Murphy Library holds a nearly complete collection of Perishable Press books and complete runs of a half-dozen others.

Most of these presses have midwestern origins.

These books represent a conspicuous, even radical departure from the formal traditions of typography. Adherents of the latter tradition have not always been pleased with this more recent, florid approach to book-making. There is a world of difference, for example, between the above-mentioned examples and the work of Emerson Wulling and his Sumac Press of La Crosse. Dr. Wulling, Emeritus Professor of English at UW-La Crosse, has produced a meticulous series of books and booklets since 1916.

The library's collection of fine press work does not take sides in the issue of design. It seeks to represent both the tradition and the trend of activity by the best of the regional presses. Along with the books of Sumac Press, good examples of the traditional publishers include the Trovillion Press and the Prairie Press, both of which are well represented here.

There was a similar renaissance among poets and editors. Wisconsin and the Midwest experienced an explosion of new writing and publishing among the "littles" through the decades of the 1960s and 1970s. The Milwaukee area, in particular, demonstrated a prodigious energy. Murphy Library's holdings are comprehensive and increasingly useful in measuring this influence. The mortality rate of "littles" is high; some of these magazines survived for only an issue or two. They are representative, however, of a literary flame of remarkable heat and light. In retrospect, we can observe that these times coincided with the student rights and civil rights movement, and with the intense national debate on the war in Vietnam. A society preoccupied by overshadowing events will often find its literary instincts energized.

In spite of a high failure rate among the "littles" and fine presses, there are important survivors. As a group, these are likely to be in the hands of accomplished writer-editors and unlikely to be influenced by trends or politics. One of the best of the enduring "littles" is *Northeast*. It began in Temple, Maine in 1963 and moved to La Crosse with its editor, John Judson of the UW-La Crosse English Department. *Northeast* is now in its twenty-fifth year. Its well-deserved national reputation is a reflection of a firm and competent

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The **FINE PRINT** is published Fall and Spring Terms for UW-L faculty and students and friends of Murphy Library.

Anita Evans, Editor
Dale Montgomery, Director of
Instructional Services
Edwin Hill, Department Chairperson

Regional Writing, cont.

editorial attitude that places traditional standards of excellence above all else.

It has been the philosophy of collection building in Special Collections that the influence and creativity of Wisconsin and midwest literature should be well represented. These fine and modest presses, these editors and poets can be studied and enjoyed by sampling the resources in Special Collections.

Edwin L. Hill, Special Collections

C-D ROM COMES TO MURPHY LIBRARY

The advent of CD-ROM (compact disc-read only memory) technology promises to revolutionize the storage and retrieval of information. The same laser technology appropriated by the music industry to create compact disc recordings now makes it possible to amass hundreds of thousands of *bibliographic* records on one 4 3/4" disc. The immense storage capacity is vividly made evident by the fact that the storage of one compact disc is equal to that of 1500 floppy disks.

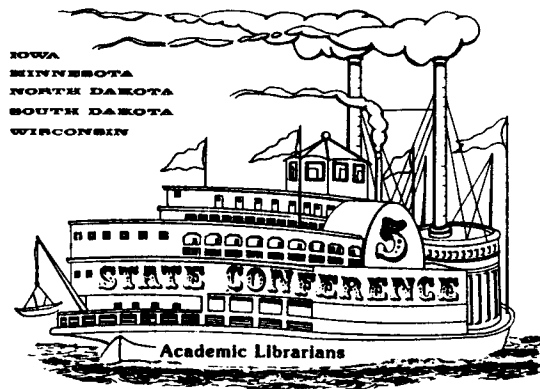
Beyond the large storage capacity, CD-ROMs have the advantage of allowing one to search the data base by combining concepts, previously only possible by utilizing electronic databases. Thus, for example, a researcher can specify that only bibliographic references to articles covering (1) sports programs for (2) disabled students in (3) junior high school be retrieved. Year and language parameters can also be set. Unlike electronic data bases, costs are not incurred each time the file is used since no telecommunication charges, royalty or connect time fees are assessed.

Although library compact disc products have only been commercially available for a few years, more and more vendors are entering the market offering a variety of indexes and abstracts as well as full text files. One of these is SilverPlatter Information Services, Inc. which produces a CD-ROM version of ERIC (corresponding to the paper indexes *Current Index to Journals in Education* and *Resources in Education*). This past December a committee of Anita Evans, Edwin Hill and Sandra Sechrest was successful in a grant application made to the UW-L Foundation to set up a CD-ROM ERIC workstation. The grant of \$3500 will make it possible for a researcher in Education or a related field to conduct searches for references to articles on a topic of study. It is expected that the ERIC CD-ROM station will be functional by late Spring Term. Watch for further developments.

Anita Evans, Online Services/Public Services

LIBRARY HOSTS FIVE-STATE CONFERENCE

More than 400 librarians from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota as well as Wisconsin are expected to converge at the La Crosse Radisson Hotel on April 27th for the first Five-State Conference of Academic Librarians in the Midwest. Organized by the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) in conjunction with representatives from four other states, the three-day conference is partially funded by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).



STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE

Bringing Together Libraries, Faculty, Information and Technology

Radisson La Crosse Hotel April 27-29, 1988
La Crosse, WI

The conference theme is "Strategies for Effective Service: Bringing Together Libraries, Faculty, Information, and Technology." Keynote speakers are: James Billington, Librarian of Congress; Joanne Euster, ACRL President; and Richard L. Van Horn, President, University of Houston. Conference programs will include sessions on computer-assisted instruction, interactive videodisks, microcomputer applications in information services, and academic information systems. CD-ROM exhibits and demonstrations will be offered by a variety of vendors. Visiting librarians will be bussed to Murphy Library on the 27th for a tour featuring library automation systems and Special Collections.

Various social events are planned throughout the conference. A reception in honor of the Librarian of Congress will be held on Wednesday evening in the Hieleman Hospitality Center. A paddleboat ride, also Wednesday evening, will feature lectures on river history by library specialists.

Charles Marx is the conference co-chair, and Cris Berg is local arrangements chair, with assistance from many other library staff members who are actively participating in conference planning and preparations.

Cris Berg, Circulation

