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Recent Work in Automation and Rare Books

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THOSE INVOLVED IN AUTOMATION have grown fond of the phrase "state of the art" to describe their brightest and shiniest new electronic wonders. The present state of the art in U.S. libraries may soon include such innovations as optical disk jukeboxes, page-image-transfer capability, multiple-font optical character recognition equipment, and local area networks. And while it is not impossible that these new technologies will play a role in rare book libraries of the future, for the moment such libraries remain comfortably behind the cutting— and what some have pointed out is often the bleeding— edge of technology.

During the past few years rare book librarians have, at a slow but steady pace, made substantial progress in developing appropriate national standards so that computer-assisted cataloguing will meet the special needs of their collections. These standards have allowed a large number of special collections to begin to use the automated support of the national bibliographic utilities, OCLC, RLIN, and WLN (the Online Computer Library Center, the Research Libraries Information Network, and the Washington Library Network; for definitions of these and other terms, see Glossary at the end of this chapter) with the knowledge that essential specialized bibliographic information can be accommodated in their automated catalogue records, even if not yet retrievable online. During 1982 and 1983, two important new standards were published, and work proceeded on a third. In addition, many more institutions began exploring the use of in-house or local computer capabilities and vendors of library computer services to help provide direct support for patron use of their collections. Two large-scale computer-assisted bibliographic projects, the *Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue* and the United States Newspaper Project, passed major milestones, and at least one began to demonstrate the solid contributions to research and scholarship that may be had from the well-planned use of computer capabilities.

ADVANCES IN STANDARDS

Genre Terms

During 1983, the Standards Committee of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) completed and published its long-anticipated standard for recording genres of rare printed materials in catalogue records.* A standard for genre terms had first been proposed in 1979 by an ad hoc committee of the Independent Research Libraries Association (IRLA),† and the draft published by IRLA as part of its final report contained about 140 terms, with only a few cross-references and no real principles of application. The RBMS thesaurus, building on the earlier list, contains nearly 350 terms and has an extensive cross-reference structure. A set of guidelines for application has also been provided.

Genre Terms should provide a major new tool for rare book libraries using either automated or manual bibliographic tools. The concept of "genre" in this list encompasses the intellectual and physical types of publications for which libraries often maintain special files. The thesaurus is predicated on the principle that genre access should be kept distinct from subject access, though traditional library cataloguing has tended to combine the two.

The new list was constructed according to the thesaurus-building principles of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) (hence the UF for "Used For," RT for "Related Term," BT for "Broader Term," etc.) and, when implemented, will allow individual special collections to increase direct access to categories of materials held. The following selected entries from *Genre Terms* will serve to clarify what is being standardized here:

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| Acting editions [Use for plays with extensive printed production information.] | Dime novels RT Penny dreadfuls |
| UF Acting versions | Library catalogues |
| RT Promptbooks | UF Catalogues, Library |
| Broadsides [Use for types of texts normally printed in broadside form.] | BT Catalogues |
| UF Handbills | Science fiction |
| NT Broadside poems | BT Fiction |
| RT Playbills | RT Fantasy literature |
| Confessions | Imaginary voyages |
| RT Autobiographies | Yellowbacks |
| Diaries | UF Railway novels |
| Memoirs | BT Fiction |

*Association of College and Research Libraries. Rare Books and Manuscripts Section. Standards Committee. *Genre Terms: A Thesaurus for Use in Rare Book and Special Collections Cataloguing* (Chicago, 1983).

†*Proposals for Establishing Standards for the Cataloguing of Rare Books and Specialized Research Materials in Machine-Readable Form: Final Report* (Worcester, Mass.: Independent Research Libraries Association, December 1979), pp. 30-33.

Major literary genres are included, and the list encompasses modern genres as well as genres appropriate to older materials. The authors of this standard make clear in the introduction that not all libraries will want to use all the terms in the list; each institution will need to determine which aspects of its collections it would like to emphasize.

A field in the MARC format (the *M*Achine *R*eadable *C*ataloguing format—the data format for machine-readable bibliographic data most widely used in library automation) has already been defined for this kind of heading, and those libraries that are members of bibliographic utilities should be able to use it in the near future for producing overprinted headings on cards. Users of RLIN will be able to search their own records and those of other institutions online by using this new kind of access point.

A lengthy supplementary genre thesaurus solely for liturgical genres, prepared in draft form by Patrick Russell (Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley) for the Standards Committee, has been tabled until additional expert help can be found to complete it.

Standard Citation Forms

Toward the end of 1982, the Library of Congress published a new standard for recording citations to bibliographies and catalogues used in rare materials cataloguing.* This work, too, was based on that of the IRLA ad hoc committee and subsequently sponsored by the RBMS Standards Committee, and grew out of the desire both to clarify and simplify practice in this area. Users of both libraries' and dealers' catalogues can sometimes have difficulty in identifying cryptic citations to bibliographies, leading to uncertainty in identifying the work being described. *Standard Citation Forms* lists and provides recommended citations for some 400 bibliographies and catalogues commonly used in rare book cataloguing at the Library of Congress and elsewhere and, in addition, sets out a few basic guidelines for citing works not appearing in the list. No longer will librarians, book dealers, and collectors need to guess which of Claus Nissen's bibliographies on zoological illustration is intended by the terse "Nissen." Instead, the following standard forms should clarify the situation:

- Nissen, C. Illustrierte Vogelbücher
- Nissen, C. Schöne Fischbücher
- Nissen, C. Schöne Vogelbücher
- Nissen, C. Zoologische Buchillustration

Besides helping the uninitiated to interpret unfamiliar references, a further benefit from introducing a little more explicitness and consistency into such citations will be granted those libraries with access to flexible automated systems. An online or "batch" computerized request for catalogue records containing a particular citation should be a powerful new kind of search capability, providing subject, geographical, or chronological access corresponding to the nature of the bibliography or catalogue referenced. The MARC format also contains a special tag for this kind of standard

*Peter VanWingen and Stephen Paul Davis, *Standard Citation Forms for Published Bibliographies and Catalogs Used in Rare Book Cataloging* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1982).

citation form, and the three major bibliographic utilities (RLIN, OCLC, and WLN) support the input of this field, though not online access to it. Because the effectiveness of this kind of search is contingent on the presence of the standard citation in all applicable records—also the case with regard to the genre terms discussed above—libraries having the resources may wish to plan a program of upgrading existing MARC records to include this information against the day when it will be searchable.

Thesaurus of Terms for Publishing/Physical Aspects of Printed Works and for Provenance

Yet another thesaurus, or more likely a set of thesauri, is currently under development by the RBMS Standards Committee in order to standardize access terminology for aspects of publishing and bookselling, paper and papermaking, printing processes, type, typefaces and ornaments, illustration methods, binding, and provenance. This thesaurus parallels *Genre Terms* and will contain terms such as the following:

- Counterfeits
- Made-up copies
- Watermarks—Goat
- Press proofs
- Type ornaments—Fleurons
- Drypoint
- Stereoscopic view
- Binders—Stamps—Sangorski & Sutcliffe
- Bookplates—Memorials—Spaulding, Stephen

This thesaurus will probably not be finished for a year or two, both because of the difficulties inherent in such a task as well as the inefficiencies of preparing standards long distance. The Standards Committee welcomes expert help in reviewing drafts of its standards, and with these thesauri in particular will seek widespread comment during their preparation.

Even in advance of the availability of this standard, a special field has been defined in the MARC formats for this kind of information, though it has not yet been implemented by the bibliographic utilities.

Rare Serials

A program of the ACRL RBMS group called MASC—"MARC for Special Collections"—at the 1983 annual meeting of the American Library Association in Los Angeles focused on questions of cataloguing and achieving automated access to rare serials. This program may have been the first ever on these subjects, and it brought out some genuinely new perspectives. Joseph E. Macmanus, American Antiquarian Society, in a perceptive paper on the topic, expressed the view that rare serials may actually require individual, issue by issue cataloguing to bring out both their unique bibliographical aspects and subject content. By contrast, most rare materials collections now provide only "collected set" cataloguing for serials, with occasional notes to bring out special features of particular issues. Stephen Davis, Library of Congress, discussed how such a requirement might be accommodated in an automated system,

particularly within the context of the MARC Holdings Format, which the bibliographic utilities are now making plans to implement; and the provisions of the new MARC record-linking technique (via field 773), which will allow for what traditionally has been called "analytic cataloguing"—something that until now has been impossible to do in most automated library systems.

Leaving aside the problem of the resources that would be required for such detailed description, it is worth considering whether this approach might not be appropriate for selected rare serials—those meriting such attention either by virtue of their bibliographical nature or subject content. The bibliographic utilities may be able to support the input of such information, but it is uncertain how readily they will allow online access to it. A more flexible retrieval system, however, would be able to access records for individual issues, perhaps by the name of the contributor or by special subjects emphasized in the issue.

The ACRL RBMS Standards Committee, working in a similar vein, established a Rare Serials Subcommittee that, during 1983, drafted a proposal to the Library of Congress and the CONSER (Conversion of Serials) Coordinating Committee requesting that certain, more detailed descriptive conventions—paralleling those now available for rare books*—also be allowed for rare serials cataloguing.

COMPUTER-ASSISTED BIBLIOGRAPHICAL PROJECTS

A fair number of individual institutions have undertaken computer-assisted bibliographic projects over the last several years to support research and publication in the area of old and rare materials. Because it would be impossible to describe them all in this kind of essay, only the two largest such projects will be mentioned here.

Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue

As has been the case almost from its inception, the *Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue* (ESTC) project continues to lead the way in showing how the computer can benefit bibliographical and historical research. During 1983 the online ESTC file remained available in the United States via RLIN; in Great Britain, it is available through the British Library's BLAISE system. In addition, the British Library passed a major project milestone this year when it used the ESTC database to produce a first edition of the catalogue in microfiche. The microfiche edition, which may be purchased directly from the British Library, will provide many libraries with their first look at the file and should prove to be a major new research tool in its own right, even though it still reflects largely the British Library's own eighteenth-century holdings. (A later edition will include unique holdings and locations from other libraries in Great Britain and around the world.)

However useful the microfiche edition, the online version of the ESTC provides still more exciting opportunities for exploring the potential of automated access to a large retrospective database. Many U.S. libraries are not aware that they can open "dial-up" accounts to search the ESTC and other RLIN files even if they are not RLIN members. All that is required is a standard terminal with a telephone modem. Users

*As exemplified in *Bibliographic Description of Rare Books* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1981).

of the database will find that, despite the lack of subject headings in ESTC records, RLIN retrieval software will allow kinds of searches that were previously impossible or immensely more difficult in traditional bibliographies or card catalogues. Some of the kinds of research that a file like the ESTC can support are described in the new publication *Searching the Eighteenth Century* (London: British Library, 1983). This excellent collection of essays, edited by Michael Crump and Michael Harris, is based on papers originally presented at the Symposium on the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue, held in 1982, and should help convert those who still doubt the value of computer-assisted bibliography.

In the fall of 1983, the Library of Congress made plans to include the American Antiquarian Society (which is responsible for cataloguing U.S. imprints for the ESTC project) and the ESTC/North America office at Louisiana State University in the first group of libraries selected to participate in the Linked Systems Project (LSP), scheduled to begin in 1984-1985. This project will allow RLIN, WLN, and the Library of Congress to share information among their three systems through an advanced telecommunications facility. Initially, this link will be exploited chiefly for the exchange of name authority records, allowing AAS and ESTC/NA to contribute name headings for eighteenth-century works to the nationwide authorities database. Staff from AAS and ESTC/NA have already received special training at the Library of Congress in the creation of standard MARC authority records.

United States Newspaper Project

In a major effort to inventory U.S. newspapers from 1690 to the present, the National Endowment for the Humanities has given nearly \$1 million to a number of institutions that will enter bibliographic records for old and rare newspapers into the CONSER/OCLC database. Participating institutions include the American Antiquarian Society, the Center for Research Libraries, Western Reserve Historical Society, New York State Library, the Virgin Islands Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, the Library of Congress, and the state historical societies of Kansas, Montana, New York, and Wisconsin; the Library of Congress will also provide technical support.

This project will eventually result in the creation of some 300,000 records for U.S. newspapers; it will also involve the preservation microfilming of selected newspapers that are found to be in advanced states of deterioration. As with other CONSER records, the Library of Congress will make tapes of them available through its Cataloging Distribution Service so that the data may be accessed through RLIN, WLN, and other automated systems.

USE OF COMPUTERS TO SUPPORT DIRECT SERVICE TO READERS

The use of the computer to support direct patron access continues to lag behind its use for cataloguing and other technical services applications. In certain areas, such as in the production of offline printed products, the use of automated support is already routine in many institutions; in many other areas, such as online public access, use of the computer is still in its infancy.

Bibliographic Utilities

At present, none of the major bibliographic utilities is well suited to providing online public access to patrons of special collections, and this seems unlikely to change in the near future. OCLC lacks the capability to perform subject searches, not to speak of more esoteric kinds of access, such as access by date of publication or by genre. OCLC also reflects only a master record for each item, omitting copy-specific information, such as call number, physical characteristics, or provenance, except that of the first institution to catalogue the item.

RLIN, on the other hand, does provide many important features for special collections, such as retrieval by subject and by certain special fields, and retention of copy-specific information for each institution's copy. However, many librarians feel that RLIN is not well suited for public access; the system is seen as a little too complicated for the average user, requiring continuous staff guidance for efficient use. Further, neither OCLC nor RLIN was designed to support the heavy demand on computer resources that would accompany their widespread use for direct patron access.

Many libraries do put OCLC or RLIN terminals in the public service area, but have reference staff mediate searches. This amounts to using the RLIN or OCLC terminal as a backup or enhancement to other bibliographic tools—chiefly the card catalogue—but in no way as a replacement.

Local Online Catalogues

Online public-access catalogues are a reality in only a few institutions, though they are under development in many more. Generally, only the largest institutions, such as university systems, can support the development or purchase of such a capability. The systems that exist at present are nearly all mainframe or mini-based—that is, they require relatively large and expensive computer facilities to run on and systems staff to maintain them. Further, they are normally oriented to the needs of general collections and tend not to support the particular requirements of special collections, such as access by genre, place of publication, date of publication, name of collection, physical features, and the like. In short, most existing online public access catalogues are not particularly suited to rare book collections.

OCLC did announce in 1983 that it would be adapting Integrated Library System software (originally developed by the National Library of Medicine) as the basis for its local library system project, whereby the database of a consortium or library system would be maintained locally on a minicomputer for such applications as online patron access; RLIN is also planning to move in the same direction. These new developments may ultimately be of benefit to rare book and special collections, but it will be important in the interim for individual libraries and the special collections community as a whole to articulate their needs to those who are planning and implementing these systems at the local level.

Microcomputers

Increasingly, special collections are turning their attention to the microcomputer and its possible use as a new bibliographic tool. It is already feasible, for example, to store specialized information using a microcomputer and then retrieve it in ways that

are not possible through the bibliographic utilities. For example, it is possible to create brief catalogue records for a collection of books and to index them by the date of publication, genre, illustration technique, name of donor, and so on. Retrieval could be done by a single access point (for example, a name) or by combinations of access points (for example, a name and a date), and the results used to form additional files or to print out a mini-bibliography. Microcomputer systems hold out the prospect of enhancing—though not yet replacing, the retrieval capabilities available through the bibliographic utilities. It should be emphasized that there are storage limitations in using microcomputers and that online retrieval is not always fast. Still, microcomputers continue to decrease in price and increase in storage capability, and—most significantly for special collections—they allow for a customized approach to the creation of bibliographic tools.

At least two of the systems developed for general library applications may prove of value in special collections. The first is Golden Retriever, available from CLASS (1415 Koll Circle, Suite 101, San Jose, Calif. 95112). It runs on a standard microcomputer supporting CP/M or TRSDOS (such as HP125 or Radio Shack Model II), with 64K of memory, and provides flexible indexing, storage, and retrieval of data. Golden Retriever also supports the downloading of MARC records for further manipulation. The STAR System, available from Cuadra Associates (1523 Sixth St., Suite 12, Santa Monica, Calif. 90401) runs only on the Alpha MICRO, a 16-bit micro with 96K of memory and a hard disk drive. It is somewhat more powerful, but also more expensive than Golden Retriever. Both of these systems could be used to index types of information to which the bibliographic utilities do not provide access.

An interesting software package designed strictly for the production of bibliographies, called The Personal Bibliographic System, has been developed under grants from the Council on Library Resources, OCLC, Inc., and other agencies, and is available from Personal Bibliographic Software, Inc. (PO Box 4250, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106) for about \$250. This software runs on Apple II, Apple IIe, and the IBM-PC; future plans call for versions to run on the Radio Shack TRS-80 model II, the IBM Displaywriter, and others. This kind of software seems particularly useful for institutions producing bibliographies and finding lists on a regular basis. It allows the copying (downloading) of MARC records from OCLC, RLIN, or WLN, and automatically formats them into "bibliography style" citations according to the ANSI standard for bibliographic references. It also allows for the addition of annotations to records, modification of data, and input of additional records, such as those for analytics.

One can imagine using a system like this to support the production of scholarly bibliographies, perhaps even by visiting scholars or researchers who are willing to learn the system. It may also be possible to find a vendor who can use the output from such a system to drive automated photocomposition equipment to produce a high-quality printed bibliography.

Many similar systems suitable for use in special collections will doubtless be available in the future, including software developed in-house by enterprising librarians. A principal consideration for those developing such systems should be their capability to download MARC records from a bibliographic utility for use either in an online patron-access catalogue, or a bibliography system such as the one described above. Libraries should probably avoid systems that require the original creation of catalogue records in a format other than MARC. The MARC format is the basis for the

exchange of machine-readable records nationally and internationally, and the use of a format other than MARC makes it nearly impossible to collaborate with other institutions bibliographically, to change vendors, or even to use the same database for a variety of applications. The ideal system model for the time being would seem to involve (1) the creation of full MARC catalogue records for all of an institution's materials through a bibliographic utility or other MARC-based system; (2) permanent maintenance of an institution's MARC records by a regional network, such as SOLINET, or by a vendor of library computer services (compare the list of such vendors given below under "Offline Products"); and (3) the transfer or downloading of full or partial MARC records into local systems for various applications.

The extent to which microcomputers are now on the minds of those working in rare book and special collections libraries may be seen in the welcome course to be offered by the Columbia University School of Library Service's Rare Book School during the summer of 1984 entitled "Microcomputers for Rare Book Libraries" (John Bidwell, UCLA, instructor). Those who are able will certainly want to take advantage of such opportunities for gathering current information in this fast-changing area.

Offline Products

Because of the special access requirements of rare materials collections in general and of individual special collections in particular, some institutions have decided that certain of their needs can best be met by offline, or batch, processing. This approach involves creating MARC records, with special access fields and the like through one of the bibliographic utilities, and then providing a copy of the MARC records in tape form to a vendor of computer services to maintain as a database. The vendor can then produce special printed products for the library, such as photocomposed catalogues or bibliographies, microfiche catalogues, finding lists, or statistics. Some vendors will also allow the institution to request occasional or routine special searches of their database. As an example of the last possibility, an institution might request that the vendor produce a monthly cumulative finding list of all of its illustrated books, arranged by type of illustration and subarranged by the name of the illustrator.

This use of a vendor of library computer services may, in the short- to medium-range future, be the solution to the problem of the lack of searching flexibility of the larger bibliographic systems and their inability to provide the kinds of special access needed in rare materials collections. And, because this approach usually results in printed products, it has the advantage of being more acceptable to many of the users of such collections. Until the flexibility of online systems has substantially increased and the cost decreased, the use of offline computer support may be the wiser and more cost-effective, if less glamorous, means of using an institution's expensive, detailed MARC records for research purposes, particularly for those institutions that do not wish to be on the absolute cutting edge of technology.

There are a number of vendors that can perform various kinds of database maintenance services, including Autographics (751 Monterey Pass Rd., Monterey Park, Calif. 91754), Computer Company (1905 Westmoreland St., Richmond, Va. 23230), General Research Corporation (P.O. Box 6770, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93111), Inforonics, Inc. (550 Newtown Rd., Littleton, Mass. 01460), MARCIVE, Inc. (P.O. Box 12408, San Antonio, Tex. 78212), Science Press (P.O. Box 378, Ster-

ling, Va. 22170), and Library Systems and Services (General Motors Bldg., 1395 Piccarel Dr., Suite 100, Rockville, Md. 20850). This is not a complete list, and additional vendors may be located by asking colleagues or visiting exhibits at library association conventions. Libraries may not get the performance they want and need from university computing centers and local data processing firms, particularly if these organizations do not support the MARC format or the American Library Association character set (containing diacritics, special characters, and so on). It is impossible to overemphasize the long-term importance of creating and maintaining a special collection's master database in the MARC format.

In conclusion, one is justified in saying that rare book and special collections libraries continue to make progress in rendering computers more hospitable to their needs, but that the battle is not yet won. The best strategy for further gains is to continue to work for national standards in the area of computerized rare book information and to lobby for on- and offline systems that are more suited to the needs of rare materials collections. In some cases it may be useful to approach vendors of library computer services in informal consortia of like-minded institutions to help reduce costs and provide an incentive for vendors to develop more hospitable systems.

For the time being, however, most rare materials librarians will want to concentrate on putting as many of their new and retrospective catalogue records into machine-readable form as possible, following appropriate new standards—such as the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*,* *Bibliographic Description of Rare Books*, and the MARC format—and wait until the technology of online catalogues and library microcomputer systems has advanced a bit further before spending too much time or money on what is still, after all, a relatively new technology.

GLOSSARY

This short glossary lists a few of the terms used in this chapter that may be unfamiliar to some readers.

AACR2—Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition. AACR2 is the set of cataloguing rules that, since 1981, has been used by most major libraries in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, and Australia, as well as by many other libraries worldwide. To provide further guidance for the cataloguing of rare books under AACR2, the Library of Congress prepared *Bibliographic Description of Rare Books* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1981; available from the LC Cataloging Distribution Service).

ACRL RBMS Standards Committee. The Standards Committee of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association. The Standards Committee has so far focused chiefly on bibliographic and computer standards relating to special collections.

ANSI—American National Standards Institute. A U.S. standards organization engaged in developing voluntary standards in all fields. American National Standards Committee Z39 is the part of ANSI dealing with standards in library and information sciences and related publishing practices.

*2nd ed. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1978).

Bibliographic utility. A generic term used to refer to the three largest library computer networks, OCLC, RLIN, and WLN (qq.v.). The bibliographic utilities variously provide support for online cataloguing, online retrieval, production of catalogue cards, production of computer output microform catalogues, acquisitions and ordering (for current materials), serials check-in, and other library functions. Cf. Network.

BLAISE—British Library Automated Information Service. The general name for the automated information services offered by the British Library. In many ways, BLAISE is similar to a U.S. bibliographic utility.

CONSER—Conversion of Serials. A cooperative effort by the North American library community to build a computerized database of consistent serials cataloguing information. The master CONSER file resides on OCLC, but is distributed in tape form by the Library of Congress.

Download. To transfer or copy a record from one system to another, usually from a larger external database to a smaller local system. OCLC, RLIN, and WLN allow downloading of records for local library use.

ESTC—Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue. A worldwide effort to create a bibliographic database of all eighteenth-century books published in English or in an English-speaking country, catalogued in the MARC format according to AACR2. ESTC has its headquarters in the Reference Division of the British Library; in the United States, ESTC is based at the ESTC/NA office at Louisiana State University. The American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass., is cataloguing U.S. imprints for the ESTC.

LSP—Linked Systems Project. A cooperative project of the Library of Congress, RLIN, and WLN that will allow bibliographic information to be transmitted online between dissimilar computer systems. LSP has involved the implementation of a new telecommunications protocol that will eventually be usable by any computerized library system. LSP has been supported by funds from the Council on Library Resources under its Bibliographic Services Development Program.

MARC format—MACHINE READABLE Cataloging format. A data format designed to communicate bibliographic information in machine-readable form. It is the basis for the processing and communication of nearly all library-related computerized bibliographic information in the United States. The basic MARC structure is also used internationally for the exchange of bibliographic records. The authoritative description of the U.S. MARC format is *MARC Formats for Bibliographic Data* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service, 1980-).

MASC—MARC for Special Collections. An ACRL RBMS information exchange committee that meets at the annual American Library Association conventions.

Network. Two or more entities engaged in organized, computer-supported information exchange through telecommunications links.

OCLC, Inc.—Online Computer Library Center. Formerly known as the Ohio College Library Center, OCLC, Inc., is the largest bibliographic utility, maintaining a database of over nine million records (as of the end of 1983). OCLC supports online cataloguing and retrieval, the production of catalogue cards and computer transaction tapes, interlibrary loan, acquisitions/ordering, and other library-related func-

tions. Many special collections and research libraries are members of OCLC. Address: 6565 Frantz Rd., Dublin, Ohio 43017. Cf. RLIN, WLN.

Offline. Offline, or "batch," retrieval is the capability of searching a computerized file indirectly, by placing a request first and receiving a response at a later time; it may not involve interacting directly with the computer. Offline retrieval can be considerably less expensive than online retrieval and can make possible searches and kinds of output that would be prohibitively expensive if performed online. Many vendors of computer services offer offline retrieval to their customers. Cf. Online.

Online. In the context of this chapter, "online" generally refers to "online retrieval," which is the capability of searching a computerized file or database and receiving an immediate response. Online retrieval involves direct interaction with the computer. Cf. Offline.

RLIN—Research Libraries Information Network. RLIN is the bibliographic utility used as the information system of the Research Libraries Group (RLG), a consortium of major U.S. research libraries. RLIN attempts to aim its services and programs at the special needs of research libraries. It supports most of the same library functions as OCLC, but also allows libraries to view their own local records online and perform searches by specialized access points. Address: Research Libraries Group, Inc., Jordan Quadrangle, Stanford, Calif. 94305. Cf. OCLC, WLN.

SOLINET. Formerly called the Southeast Library Network. One of a number of regional library networks that serve as middlemen between individual libraries and OCLC (q.v.). Other regional networks include AMIGOS, CAPCON, FEDLINK, NELINET, and SUNY/OCLC, among others.

Telephone modem. An electronic device that enables computerized information to be reliably transmitted over ordinary telephone lines.

WLN—Washington Library Network. WLN is a bibliographic utility administered by the Washington State Library, but having members in many northwestern states. WLN offers the same kinds of automated support to libraries provided by OCLC and RLIN and, in addition, can provide automated authority control, microfiche catalogues, and other enhanced services. WLN prefers to provide direct access to the Northwest region only and to sell its software to libraries in other parts of the country for use in internal automation or regional networking. Address: Washington State Library, AJ-11, Olympia, Wash. 98504. Cf. OCLC, RLIN.