

InULA

Innuendo

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Access, ownership and libraries in transition

by Connie Miller

In meeting after meeting during the last year, debates have sprung up among librarians at I.U. Bloomington over an issue that, for lack of a more accurate name, I will call access versus ownership. The debate, not surprisingly, is related to money, to how the Libraries in an era of decreasing budgets should best allocate funds. The question, put simply, is: are we compromising the quality of our book and journal collections (ownership) by purchasing machine-readable resources (access) from the materials budget?

Although the sides in the debate are not strictly drawn and many librarians, including the author of this article, find themselves wavering back and forth as various

arguments are made, the camps seem most frequently to break into the subject and area librarians on the traditional side and the public service librarians on the reformist side. This split occurs, not because subject specialists tend to be conservative and public service types tend to be radicals, but rather because of the constituencies outside of the libraries with whom the librarians most frequently deal.

Subject and area librarians deal with faculty, mostly in social science and humanities departments. To many of these individuals, the libraries' paper-based collections remain the essential materials for research and teaching. Public service li-

brarians, for more than a decade, have coped with the demand for computerized services and, more and more frequently, serve on committees with representatives from one of the campus computing centers. Both groups of librarians bring into library discussions vastly different perspectives garnered from these different constituencies. The problem is, and the debates come because, both perspectives are valid, both deserve attention, and both deserve funding.

The traditional perspective says that money spent on computerized information (e.g., CD-ROM sources, external databases, databases loaded locally, library auto-

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From the Editor

by Anne McGreer

The InULA-sponsored panel discussion "The Electronic Library: Access vs. Ownership" in Bloomington last October proved to be a spirited one and many of those present wished more time could be devoted to informal discussion of this topic. It goes without saying that the "electronic library" is becoming more and more of a reality to us in our daily work, whether we use a utility for cataloging, answer reference queries with the help of online or CD-ROM da-

tabases, order library materials by electronic means from our vendors, or serve on one of the various NOTIS implementation councils. It is also apparent that as our methods of access to many kinds of print and non-print materials are increasing, we are faced with new decisions about where to spend our money.

In this issue we present several perspectives on how I.U. librarians are feeling -- and anticipating -- the effects of computer access on the

kinds of library services they are able to offer. Connie Miller reflects on both "sides" of what for some librarians has become a polarized issue; Marianne Mason highlights the specialized computer applications required in legal research; and Rich Paustenbaugh makes a plea for librarians to take more of a leadership role in providing access to electronic databases.

Anne McGreer is Manager, Bibliographic Searching and Exchanges, Monographic Processing Services, IUB

Notes from InULA

by Kristine Brancolini, President, 1988-89

I hope that many of you had an opportunity to attend the InULA membership program, "The Electronic Library: Access v. Ownership." Connie Miller led a lively panel discussion featuring Barbara Halporn, Subject and Area Librarian for Classics, History and Philosophy of Science, and Psychology, I.U. Bloomington; Mary Beth Minick, Head, Reference Services, University Library, Indianapolis; and Steven Sowell, Head, Biology Library, I.U. Bloomington. The

discussion stimulated the Publications Committee to devote this issue of the Innuendo to further exploration of the topic.

The committee chairs have been busy planning events and activities for this spring. Jim Baldwin is coordinating activities on all campuses celebrating librarians during National Library Week and Erla Heyns and her committee are already planning details of the annual book sale held in Bloomington during National Library Week.

InULA welcomes donations for the book sale from all campuses. If your library sponsors a book sale, please consider donating unsold items to the InULA book sale. The Continuing Education Committee is planning a program on grantsmanship for librarians; proposed topics include trends in solicitation, grants for individuals and library programs, and writing a grant proposal.

Connie Miller, Head, Information and Document Delivery Services, I.U. Bloomington, has been awarded the first InULA Research Incentive Grant of the academic year. She was

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awarded \$450 for her project "Feminist Research: An Annotated Bibliography." Connie has a contract with Greenwood Press and expects to complete the book by fall 1989. Congratulations, Connie! InULA awards research incentive grants quarterly. The application deadlines for the next two quarters are February 28 and May 31. Please contact me for information about the program and an application form. Although priority is given to untenured librarians, all InULA members are eligible to receive a research incentive grant.

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Media Services, IUB*

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1988-89 Committees underway

The InULA committees for 1988-89 have been formed and anyone who volunteered to serve on a committee should have been appointed to one by now. If you have not been appointed to a committee and would like to be, please contact the appropriate committee chair, listed below:

Rosann Auchstetter
Constitution and Bylaws
Fine Arts Library, Bloomington
GOLD::AUCHSTET 855-3314

James Baldwin
National Library Week Special Events
Acquisitions, University Library B10,
Indianapolis
274-0476

Erla Heyns
Book Sale Committee
Administration, Library C-2, Bloomington
GOLD::BECKE 855-7503

Jackie Byrd
Continuing Education
Cataloging Department, Library E350,
Bloomington
GOLD::BYRD 855-7511

Emily Okada
Program and Social
Undergraduate Library Services,
Library W121, Bloomington
GOLD::OKADA 855-9857

Anne McGreer
Publications Committee
Monographic Processing Services Department,
Library E350, Bloomington
GOLD::LIBACQ 855-1666

Accessing information: A law library perspective

by Marianne Mason

Computer assisted legal research tools such as LEXIS and WESTLAW provide a powerful resource for accessing information which may be difficult or impossible to locate in traditional paper sources. However, the claim that an attorney needs only a computer for all of his/her research is an exaggerated one and should be viewed with a heaping helping of skepticism. Computer resources should be used to supplement other sources required in the legal research process, not eliminate those traditional sources in the library collection. To understand the role computer databases play it is important to understand what is meant by "the legal research process." In this brief paper I will attempt to describe that process, some of the characteristics of legal databases, and how law libraries effectively utilize these tools.

Legal research is unique from other areas of research in the social sciences due to two doctrines upon which the American legal system is based. The doctrine of "precedent" allows a decision of a court to serve as an example for future cases with a simi-

lar fact situation. That of "stare decisis" binds the court to abide by decisions already made by previous judicial opinions. Locating authority provided by these doctrines is the goal of legal research. In examining a legal problem one must analyze the fact situation, identify the issues involved, then determine the research tools to be used. One must find a case with identical or similar facts addressing identical issues decided in the highest court possible and determine if the case has been overruled. Thousands of cases are decided on the federal, state, and local level annually and are published in reporter volumes. These may be accessed by subject, key or descriptive word indexes, case name, or key number, all of which have been carefully analyzed by legal publishers. Equally important is statutory law which is the foundation of case law and provides further avenues for legal research. Although the digests, legal encyclopedias, looseleaf services, etc. do not have controlled vocabularies per se, the terms indexed are well worn and accepted for research in the legal field.

Both LEXIS and WESTLAW are full-text databases which continue to expand their services. They provide hundreds of database files for federal state jurisdictions with access to statutory and case law including administrative opinions and regulations. Subject oriented databases are available for specialized research in areas such as tax, labor, patent, and family law. Both databases contain selected law reviews, attorney general opinions, treatises, citation indexes, and some looseleaf services. Both systems attempt to provide the same search capabilities that traditional research tools offer such as searching by digest, synopsis, case name, and key word with the updating capabilities through the online citator. These systems excel in other types of searching, however. LEXIS and WESTLAW are capable of locating many bits of information of importance regarding a particular case which are not indexed, such as the name of the judge writing the opinion or writing a dissent, attorney names, docket number, or a unique phrase within a case.

Subject searches are more frequent in legal research than known item searches and cause difficulties in computer assisted research. Language ambiguities are particularly troublesome in

these databases which are full-text without the advantage of controlled vocabulary or descriptors that help limit word meaning. The legal vocabulary encompasses the entire human experience, further complicating the search for relevant material. Therefore, a preliminary investigation of a legal problem should not begin with a computer. It is easy for the facts of a case to be confused with the real issues involved which may not actually be mentioned in the text of the case. There are terms which have synonyms to many to effectively link together in a search query. For example, "boy" could be referred to as minor, child, juvenile, youth, seven-year-old, infant, young man. The court could refer to him by using relationships such as son, pupil, defendant, brother, victim, patient, ward, witness, petitioner, etc. There are other possibilities as well. Some terminology is relevant to the issues yet is so common that several thousand cases or statutes could be retrieved. The missing link in the computer's ability to retrieve relevant documents is intelligent human judgment. This is why computer accessible information is only a part of the legal research process and not a replacement for the process.

Use of LEXIS and WESTLAW can be highly cost ef-

fective both in private law firms and in academic law libraries even when one considers that the cost per connect hour exceeds \$200 for private subscribers. Time spent by law clerks for certain types of research can be cut to a fraction. In addition to being a tremendous help to the reference function of a library, academic libraries use these databases as training tools for law students. At the I.U. Law Library training sessions for both LEXIS

and WESTLAW occur at least twice a year with sessions scheduled during a two week period for each service. If one has the understanding of the capabilities and limitations of these databases the whole legal research process can be enhanced by the availability of computer assisted legal research.

Marianne Mason is Documents Librarian, Law Library, IUB

InULA Budget 1988-89

Research Incentive Fund (proceeds from auction)	\$1,347
Scholarship	1,000
Committees	
Constitution & Bylaws	0
Continuing Education	400
Program and Social	500
Publications	1,000
National Library Week	
Book sale	150
Special events	100
Membership	50
Discretionary Funds (for ad hoc committees)	200
Reception for the Dean (one-time event)	125
Stationery (design of a new letterhead)	300
TOTAL	\$5,172

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mation) should not compete with money spent on printed information. When it does compete, when computerized products and access to them is funded from the materials budget, the quality of the research collections is compromised. The fact that computer equipment for CD-ROM products has been purchased from the materials budget is particularly agitating for traditionalists, as is the fact that the external databases fund, which supports reference searching of DIALOG, BRS, RLIN, and other per use charge type of databases receives unlimited funding while book fund managers must live within their budget limitations.

The reformist perspective says that the concept of access is broader than the concept of ownership and, in fact, includes it (I borrowed this idea from Steven Sowell who first raised it at an InULA-sponsored panel recently). Books and journals on library shelves, CD-ROM databases, full text or bibliographic databases available through DIALOG or BRS, data files loaded on local mainframes, and utilities like RLIN are all part of the Libraries' information collection, whether

they are available on library shelves or accessible through phone lines and a computer terminal. The computer equipment that makes compact disks usable is as much a material as binding and paper. While the unpredictability that per use charges insert into the budgeting process can be lamented, and some method of tracking and control might usefully be implemented, cutting off all access to external databases at some arbitrarily determined point is not feasible for an institution whose mission is information provision.

Behind these budgetary debates lurk fundamentally different conceptions of information use and distribution. Reformists envision a distributed model of information access and use in which a scholar or student is connected, through a workstation, to colleagues and to information resources ranging from bibliographies to image files, from statistical compilations to electronic journals. In such a distributed environment, delivery of physical objects like books and journals and of electronic files becomes one of the library's core tasks.

Traditionalists see a more centralized environment in which development of the library's collection is the core task. A devotion to delivery will lead, as one traditional-

ist said, to the image of librarians as "those who photocopy."

It would be simpler for libraries if one of these conceptions of information use were right or even more right. It would put an end to the debates and label the losers as either radical and deluded or outmoded and deluded. No one, however, is deluded. To fulfill their missions and to satisfy their clientele, libraries must support the centralized model of collection building and simultaneously move progressively in the direction of a distributed, delivery model of information provision. The resources to achieve even one of these models the way we would like are not available.

The debates within the I.U. Libraries are essential to keep us on track, which in the current environment means developing in two directions. Investing in machine-readable resources lessens the amount we have to spend on print sources; maintaining traditional collections slows the rate at which we can move toward a distributed model of information delivery. In a time of transition, however, we have no alternative but to try to do both.

Connie Miller is Head, Information & Document Delivery Services Department, IUB

The electronic library: The battle lines are drawn!

by Rich Paustenbaugh

Libraries are facing many opportunities brought about by the benefits of new technologies. Advances in computers and in CD-ROM technology are just some examples of the exciting opportunities of the last five years. For many this enthusiasm has been short lived once price quotes have been received from vendors.

At the risk of repeating some oft heard statements I will attempt to press the case for the continuing access of online databases and CD-ROM products within the Indiana University Libraries collections. For the purpose of this discussion I will lump CD-ROM products and online databases together under the term electronic databases.

There are three reasons for libraries to incorporate new technologies into their collections. These reasons are as follows:

1. Access to information
2. Promotion of the library's image
3. Defense of **our** turf

The most important feature of bibliographic databases is their ability to rapidly access a wide range of

information. In short, databases help to eliminate some of the tedium of the research process. Entirely new relationships can be discovered or formed using electronic databases. Examples are citation indexes, key word in context searching, and full text databases. Much of this bibliographic information is only accessible via electronic databases. Electronic databases mounted locally and available at no charge to the patron might even be the response to the potential problem of a group of "information poor." By paying a flat and easily budgeted fee for electronic resources the library can help all patrons begin to have equal access to information.

How might electronic databases help the library's image? Contrary to popular belief few individuals enjoy casting about for a group of possible sources to use in their research. The traditional research process is inefficient. Our patrons are beginning to recognize this and many are willing to SPEND MONEY to speed up the research process. I receive several calls a semester from both faculty mem-

bers at other Indiana University branch campuses and other schools in the state, requesting an online search. These faculty repeatedly mention the fact that they wish their librarians could do this type of research for them. There seems to be a type of mystique surrounding the electronic database; the speedy results are impressive. These same people mention how wonderful it is that the library brings this service to them. The electronic database in the library generates its own user base of individuals who claim that the database is indispensable to their research.

As I see it, a goal for libraries should be to become the center of learning on campuses across the country. Unfortunately, we have become complacent in reaching this goal. We have been able to rely on a traditional and still widely accepted mission of being the repository for books and journals with a reasonably competent staff acting as intermediaries or curators of this information. Recently, on some campuses, a new force has emerged engaging in some similar functions of information provision as the library. This force is the campus computing center or an organization similar to BACS. Look around and see what area of campus

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seems to have free reign. Which organization appears to some to be more farsighted, aggressive, and (possibly) efficient? The answer is the computing center. If the library does not step into the electronic database void on campus, I suspect that impetus will eventually come from a campus computing center. Now the question that I ask is: who currently can better meet the needs of the campus population in terms of training users and meeting their

information needs? My answer is the library. We must become the aggressor. Let us act on this issue before it is decided for us!

I propose the following scenarios concerning the current funding of electronic databases. Electronic database funds would come from the materials budget of the fund or funds that correspond to the projected user group. In funding the multidisciplinary database, affected fund

managers would be required to reach a consensus regarding purchase and share equally in the costs. Eventually I would like to see a separate budget line established for the purpose of funding electronic database subscriptions.

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