

Cataloguing system at Kuring-gai

ONLINE TEACHING

THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY and Information Studies, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, together with software firm Landseer, have developed an online MARC cataloguing system for use by students in the information methods units of the Bachelor of Arts (Library Science), Graduate Diploma in Library Science and Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship courses.

Landseer, a software company with a number of years' experience in the commercial programming field, has written the package for the Kuring-gai Prime minicomputer system. The programming language used is standard ANSI Cobol.

To date, programs have been developed for online creation of MARC records and the production of printed catalogues from a file of MARC records. These programs have been tested in class teaching over two semesters. During this time the system has used the Australian MARC specifications but any of the existing national MARC formats could be used. Bibliographic entries in the catalogues produced have used the

standard punctuation of AACR2, but other punctuation could be used if required. Such flexibility has been an integral part of system design.

Central to the system are two specification files; one contains details of allowable MARC tag numbers, indicators and subfield codes and indicates the medium for which the tag is valid. The second specification file specifies the punctuation to be generated by the subfield codes of each field of a MARC record during the production of catalogue entries. The information in both of these files can be changed by teaching staff without affecting any of the program of the package. This gives teaching staff complete control of the structure of both the input and output data.

MARCMaint

To create a file of MARC records the student uses a keyboard and VDU to interact with a program called MARCMaint.

MARCMaint is designed as a fully interactive teaching program, which uses a system of prompting to lead the student

through the various steps of entering MARC coded data, field by field. The program checks for the incorrect use of indicators and subfield codes within a particular field and, if an error is detected, an appropriate message is displayed on the VDU.

MARCMaint supports the entry of the full range of MARC fields including cross references. A local field has been added to allow the entry of subject cross reference data.

The program also allows the student to call up and have displayed on the VDU any MARC record in the student's file. To do this the program carries out a search on the record control number field (001) of the MARC record. Once a MARC record has been retrieved and displayed, the student is able to (a) amend existing fields in the record, (b) delete existing fields in the record, (c) add fields to the record, (d) delete the entire record. Once again, in carrying out any of these four activities, the student is fully prompted by messages displayed on the VDU. In general, the program MARCMaint is self-supporting; once the student has entered it, very little teacher assistance is needed.

Once a MARC file has been created, the student can initiate the production and printing of a number of different catalogues.

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User education conference

NANCY FJALLBRANT, Deputy Librarian at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden, will be spending a month in Australia during November/December as Caulfield Institute of Technology Library's Visiting Fellow.

Nancy is very well known internationally for her contribution to the development of user education theories and practices. She qualified originally as a physiologist, and has published articles in that field, from which she also developed her interest in information provision and librarianship.

In the past 10 years, Nancy has concentrated on user education. Since 1974, she has given papers at some 30 national and international meetings, and her topics have ranged widely over the user education field. She has a particular interest in the use of media in user education programs, in evaluation in user education, and in online user education.

During her month in Australia, Nancy will be working with the library staff at CIT, visiting libraries in Melbourne, and giving a number of papers at the Conference on User Education - 'Issues and projects' to be held at CIT Library, 30 November to 2 December, 1981.

With Nancy, at the Conference, will be Ian Malley, British Library Information Officer for User Education, and Director of IMB, the British equivalent of *USER*, who is well known to Australian librarians



Nancy Fjallbrant

through his contribution to the LAA Conference in Canberra in 1979. Editor of the periodical *Infuse*, Ian is also the author of many articles and pamphlets on user education. He edits the periodical *Library and information research news* and is currently researching on secrecy and censorship in science and the communication of science to the public via the press.

Children's literature specialist for LAA 22

CONFERENCE DELEGATES who have an interest in children's literature will be pleased to hear that Dr Patricia Cianciolo, Professor of Children's Literature in the Department of Elementary and Special Education, College of Education, Michigan State University, will speak about 'Challenges in children's books' at LAA 22.

Her paper will be an exploration of trends and issues in contemporary publishing and uses of children's literature.

Patricia Cianciolo will be known to many Australian librarians as a critic and commentator on children's literature who has made a special study of the picture book. Writing in an editorial in *Language Arts*, April 1980, she recognises that children live in a 'civilization of images' and that the material produced for the younger reader reflect the many art styles in vogue in our society. She suggests that we must be discriminating in our selection for younger readers.

To assist librarians to develop the skills of evaluating the graphic and literary qualities

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of picture books she has written *Illustrations in children's books* (William C. Brown) and compiled an annotated bibliography *Picture books for children* (American Library Association) which has been updated this year.

Her subject matter has not been confined to the picture book genre, as Professor Cianciolo has contributed numerous chapters and articles to publications including *Michigan Reading Journal*, *Elementary English*, now known as *Language Arts*, and *Review*, the journal of the South Australian School Libraries Branch.



Patricia Cianciolo

Currently, she is a team leader for the Mid Western States for a national American study on children's reading interests, sponsored by the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council. Although this is not due for completion until 1983, Australian librarians may be interested to discuss the methodological problems encountered in such a project and to discover whether there appear to be any findings which parallel those of the Whitehead study made in England in the early 70s.

Over the last decade, Patricia Cianciolo has collaborated in the production of several films and sound film strips on using children's literature in the classroom. With this background, we look forward to wide-ranging and provocative sessions with our Children's Literature specialist.

Another speaker at LAA 22 will be Brian Abbey, a non-librarian, who will speak on the special impact of new technologies.

Brian completed an Arts degree specialising in Politics at Monash University in the mid 1960s. He was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Adelaide in 1969. In 1979 he became Chief Projects Officer with the Public Service Association of SA Incorporated, a position he is relinquishing at the end of 1981 to return to the University of Adelaide.

He has lectured widely on various aspects of technological change and is concerned about the deterioration of public sector services, which include libraries. He maintains that once services are allowed to run down, interest in them declines and they can then be very difficult to upgrade. Any such services turned over to private enterprise will be improved only if they are profit-producing.

Julie Dow and Jennifer Redding

TEACHING ONLINE CATALOGUING

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These steps are also fully supported by displayed prompts. When actual catalogue production is begun, the student is offered, as a VDU display, a menu of the following types of catalogue:

- Dictionary catalogue;
- Author/title catalogue;
- Subject catalogue;
- Classified catalogue (Dewey);
- Shelflist;
- Reference authority report;
- Verbal subject versus Dewey number listing;
- KWOC listing.

The student is free to choose any or all of these catalogues.

Dictionary catalogue

The dictionary catalogue is an alphabetical listing of authors, titles (both uniform and publisher's titles), series titles, subject headings and cross references of all types. Both the layout of data and upper and lower case usage are specified by program.

The rules governing the generation of this catalogue are quite regular — each heading (with the exception of cross references) is followed by a unit of bibliographic data beginning with title and ending with ISBN. For example the type of bibliographic record specified by AACR2, part 1. The 'main author' heading does not appear in each entry. Each entry displays call number but tracing notes are not shown.

The filing sequences in this catalogue have been kept as simple as possible — entries are filed letter by letter, ignoring punctuation and spacing, with numbers filing before letters and upper case before lower case. The differences in filing between this catalogue and a traditional library catalogue have been very valuable in tutorial discussions about computerised filing and library filing in general. This catalogue can also be produced in divided form as an author/title catalogue and a separate subject catalogue.

Classified catalogue

This catalogue is arranged by Dewey number. The Dewey number is followed by the standard unit of bibliographic information, beginning with title and ending with ISBN. In an alphabetical index to this catalogue, a subject heading versus Dewey number listing, can be generated.

Shelflist

The shelflist is arranged by the Dewey call number. The call number is followed by title, publication information and ISBN.

Reference authority report

In generating this report the program takes the author, title and subject cross references (both 'See' and 'See Also') and automatically generates the reverse references (ie x and xx). Both the forward the reverse references are then arranged alphabetically to produce a single standard reference authority list. Those references in the list which are derived from author or title cross references are annotated with 'A/T' for the benefit of the student.

KWOC listing

An unusual feature of the package is its ability to generate a KWOC listing. The context of each KWOC entry is generated from MARC fields 245, 100, 110, 700, 710 and all keywords are generated from the same fields. Consequently, significant words

from titles as well as personal surnames and elements of corporate names appear as keywords. The alphabetical listing by keyword displays keyword, context and call number. The format allows a considerable amount of information to be presented in a small space.

As already indicated the present online search capability of the package is limited to retrieving a MARC record on the primary search key of the Record Control Number field. It is intended that the next step in the package development will be the provision of a full online retrieval capability for bibliographic records. A specification for this is presently being prepared.

The student will be able to search online, using elements of personal names, corporate names, titles and subject headings, utilising Boolean logic to combine these elements if a compound search expression is required, eg a search for works by Jenkins on the subject of Optics. The result of such a search will be a VDU display of the appropriate bibliographic record(s).

The package is at present unable to accept MARC records on magnetic tape from outside agencies, for example magnetic tapes from the National Library of Australia cannot be run against the package. An ability to interface with data from outside agencies is seen as desirable from the viewpoint on teaching and this ability will be built into the package following the provision of the online search capability. The basic design of the system is such that the external interface and online search capabilities can be easily added to the package as it now exists.

Enquiries concerning the package and its teaching use are welcome and should be addressed to John Kerrisk, Department of Library and Information Studies, Kuring-gai CAE, PO Box 222, Lindfield, NSW 2070. Telephone (02) 467 9270.

WORKSHOP

Teaching skills for librarians and others involved in education and training

Thursday, 3 December to
Friday, 4 December 1981

PROGRAM

Thursday

Overview of teaching methods
Motivating students
The effective lecture
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Discover learning

Friday

Audiovisual aids and equipment
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Further information and enrolment forms are available from:

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