LIBRIS Upgrade Planned for Summer

Access to Fondren Library's online catalog LIBRIS will be better than ever starting this summer.

NOTIS, Inc., the creator of our current online catalog system, has developed a new system that will have many more benefits for the Rice community. The new system is called Horizon and it builds upon the best features of the current system. Fondren Library plans to install the new software this summer and have it functioning for the fall semester.

Fondren Library's current online catalog software has served us well for nine years. Computing developments and increasing user expectations, however, mean that "old" LIBRIS can't do everything we would like. We anticipate the new system will have the ability to respond more individually to your preferences for various library activities.

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The Complete Information Management System

Graphic courtesy of NOTIS, Inc.

In addition, the Rice community will profit from Fondren Library's ability to integrate the new LIBRIS into developing information networks. As your information needs grow, we will be better able to grow to satisfy them.

The new system will have several features that will benefit Fondren Library's users and staff immediately. A key feature for many users will be the two new user interfaces: ProPAC and TermPAC.

ProPAC: Graphical User Interface

One of the most visible improvements for users will be the graphical user interface or GUI.

The new GUI, called ProPAC, incorporates several features that will make it easier for faculty and students to search the online catalog. Pull-down menus, icons, and graphic buttons allow you to point-and-click through your search.

The point-and-click method of searching is fast, and requires minimal training. Remembering how to move through a search on ProPAC is easy no matter how infrequently a user searches the online catalog. Faculty and students will be better able to fully explore the resources and materials available at Fondren Library.

Some key features of ProPAC include:

* Pull-down menus
* Windowing for multiple simultaneous tasks
* Full Boolean capabilities
* Retention of entered search keys
* Auto-executed repeat of search of last term entered
* Personalized tailoring of options (e.g. sorting of results)
* Browse function
* Related terms search option
* Brief and long record display options
* Help screens

(Cont'd p.2)
ProPAC offers all types of searching: keyword (with Boolean limiters), subject, author, and title. Browsing is available for any of these search types.

Using the icons displayed across the top of the screen, a user clicks on the type of search to be entered or pulls down the search menu, and types the search term(s) on the new screen. You may then add new terms, or combine previous search terms. All expanded searching can be accomplished using a pull-down menu or a button on the screen.

In addition, the windowing capability of ProPAC will allow you to check a reference or open a text file while LIBRIS is searching. This makes verification of the right resources easy and quick, while you further refine search strategies. Bibliographies can be easily created through downloading information to a word processor.

**TermPAC: Terminal-based User Interface**

For those users accessing the online catalog via telnet or dial-in modem connection, Fondren Library will be using TermPAC, a terminal-based approach to LIBRIS. TermPAC has the advantage of being accessible to any networked computer that will emulate a VT100 terminal. TermPAC is menu-driven and an improvement over the current, command-driven LIBRIS.

Some features included in the TermPAC interface are:

- Menu-based searching for novice searchers
- Fast path searching option for experienced users
- Full Boolean capabilities
- Browse function for headings list
- Retention of entered search keys
- Brief and long record display options
- Context-sensitive help screens
- Printing/downloading

ProPAC will be available from terminals in Fondren Library. Implementation for Ownet workstations is under development at this time. TermPAC will be accessible through any campus networked computer or to users dialing into the campus via modems.

**Client/Server Architecture**

The user interfaces are the most obvious change for the user of the new system. Horizon takes advantage of many other new innovations in computer technology. One of Horizon's other strengths is that it is a client/server system.

The client/server approach to computing divides the work between a client, which processes data locally and maintains a user interface, and a server, which handles database processing. The client typically runs on a relatively small computer, such as a microcomputer or workstation. The server computer is a more powerful machine which provides services to a large number of clients.

Because it is based on client/server architecture, the new system is consistent with the computing direction at Rice University and most other campus computing centers. Horizon supports distributed processing, and the server component of the software runs on Sun Microsystems file servers like those currently used for Ownet. The client software will run on a variety of microcomputers.

The system uses the Z39.50 Internet search protocol which will allow future integration with other campus and Internet-wide information resources.

**Our Schedule**

Testing of the Horizon software will take place during the summer of 1994. Conversion of the information in LIBRIS will occur after the testing has been completed. Once the new system has proved to be reliable and stable, it will replace the old LIBRIS. The new system should be available by the beginning of the fall semester. Orientation sessions and tutorials will be offered by Fondren Library staff at that time.

The staff of Fondren Library looks forward to the arrival of the Horizon system as it will provide Rice University with an excellent online library catalog system for the 1990's and beyond.

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Perspectives of Student Workers at Fondren Library

Like other places on campus, Fondren Library employs students to help the staff accomplish their many tasks. Fondren Library employs 85 students in a variety of jobs with most students working 6 to 10 hours a week per semester.

To convey what it’s like to work as a student assistant, we asked three students to write their thoughts on working in Fondren Library. The following are the students’ accounts of their experience at Fondren Library.

***

John Martin, Senior, Sid Richardson College, Reference Department

“I’ve worked on and off at Fondren Library for all four years that I’ve been at Rice. In that time, I’ve been in Government Publications and Special Resources, Circulation, and currently in the Reference Department.

Although I began working here just as a way of earning extra money, the experience that I’ve gained has proven extremely useful to me. Last summer, for example, I landed a paid internship at the Museum of Fine Arts Hirsch Library, which gave me exposure not only to library work but to the museum and the arts community as a whole. Besides this work experience, I’ve also grown very familiar with research techniques and a variety of information systems — something that is extremely important to me both as a student and as a part of my future career (in academics).

I’ve sometimes joked that Fate seems to insist on my being in a library whether I like it or not, but I do feel like my experience has been rewarding and practical.”

***

Dejan Kuzmanovic, PhD English Candidate, Grad House, Government Publications and Special Resources

“When I came to Fondren for the first time to check out some books, I expected the procedure to be the same as it is in all big libraries in my country: You look up the call numbers, fill and turn in the forms, and then you have to spend a dull half hour or so waiting for the books to be found and brought to you. Surprise, Surprise!

Before I knew it, I found myself walking through a maze of narrow passages between high and wide shelves overflowing with books of varied size, color, and accumulation of dust. I was supposed to do the quest all on my own, and trying to keep my wits about me, I braved it out successfully.

I had the good luck to be spared having to find the mysterious sixth floor on that first visit, for that would have overpowered my shaky spirit of adventure. Even without that, though, I felt tipsy and, books being my profession, I was in two minds whether the sight of thousands of them before me was from my sweetest dreams or my worst nightmares.

Eventually, I decided I liked Fondren’s open shelf policy. It enables you to glance through a book before checking it out, to make sure if you really need it. You can also browse the shelves and maybe find something useful that the computer failed to offer. Finally, you are humbled by realizing that you will never be able to read all the books there are, even in your very narrow field.

When you go to the microforms section, the awe you feel increases as you are confronted with millions of documents in only one room the size of a tennis court. And if that is not enough for you (God bless you!) computers will give you access to catalogues of many other libraries and to indexes of various journals, and the interlibrary loan service will give you access to materials catalogued there.”

Thanks to these students for their candid comments!

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Dejan Kuzmanovic, Graduate House
Rice Publishing and Citation Patterns Examined

Does Fondren Library have the journals and books needed to support research on campus? We've done a comparison recently of our holdings with the titles used by the Rice community when publishing, and the preliminary results are interesting.

How we analyzed the collection

Fondren Library approached the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and requested lists of a) the journals used as publishing vehicles by the Rice community and b) the journals, books and proceedings cited by members of the Rice community in their articles. ISI provides indexing for journals in the humanities as well as in the sciences and social sciences. They are the publishers of Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Arts and Humanities Citation Index.

ISI provided us with the requested data for journal articles published between 1981 and 1992 (inclusive). The lists are lengthy and employ abbreviated titles for the journals, books and proceedings. The cited-titles list includes a significant number of titles with non-unique abbreviations for which multiple candidates exist in the LIBRIS database.

Since receiving the lists, we have been comparing the published-titles and cited-titles lists with Fondren Library holdings. We have been conservative: for example, since the ISI list doesn't distinguish the date of cited-article, we did not count the cited-title as "owned" unless our holdings of it are complete.

What we've discovered so far

Fondren Library's collection contains a significant percentage of the journals used as publishing vehicles for Rice faculty (see Table 1).

Category 1 journals are those where a Rice article appears at least once a year — we own 91% of these journals. Category 2 journals include those where a Rice article appears at least twice (during the 11 years) — we own 79% of these journals. Category 3 journals are all journals in which Rice articles have appeared during the 11 years — we own 76% of these journals.

Perhaps the more significant data is the analysis of what Rice faculty and students cite in their published research (see Table 2 next page). The percentage of cited-articles is significant here: the higher figure for cited-article than for cited-title availability reflects the fact that the more frequently cited journal titles are more likely to be available.

Category 1 cited-titles are those which a Rice article cites at least once per year — we own 90% of these titles, representing 96% of citations. Category 2 cited-titles are those which a Rice article cites at least twice during the 11 years — we own 79% of these titles, representing 87% of citations.

Category 3 cited-titles are all titles cited by members of the Rice community. Analysis of those titles cited only once is not complete due to volume (8605 titles or 67% of the cited-title list) and due to the difficulty in identifying the abbreviated titles.

Uses for the data

The most obvious use for the study is to identify books and journals which need to be added to the Fondren Library collection. Also, we are using the study to identify expensive research journals to which access can be provided in a more cost-effective manner via document delivery (see article p. 6 for additional information).

We will be continuing with our analysis of the ISI study data as we further refine the Fondren Library collection. If you would like additional information about our results, please call ext. 2926.

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Table 1 - ownership of publishing vehicles
Electronic Publishing at Rice University

Don Johnson of Electrical and Computer Engineering tries to convince a colleague to submit a report before publication; Religious Studies professor Anne Klein joins other Buddhist scholars on the advisory board of a new journal; Fondren Library's Barbara Halbert posts News From Fondren onto the Internet.

These members of the Rice community are taking part in electronic publishing — the use of computer technology to share information.

Some electronic publishing duplicates traditional publishing in the production of electronic books and journals.

Dual formats

RiceInfo has made it easy for Rice faculty, staff, and students to make publications available electronically which have traditionally been published in print. Rice documents now released in dual versions include the Graduate Student Association Yellow Pages, the Faculty/Student/Staff Directory, the Course Schedules, Rice Computing News and News From Fondren.

While these are still available in good old paper format, the electronic versions have the advantage of being searchable by keyword.

Only in electronic form

Gasho: Electronic Journal of DharmaNet International and the Global Online Gangha (ISSN 1072-2971), published from Berkeley, includes editorials, letters to the editor, and articles, much like any print journal. Anne Klein anticipates her role as an advisory board member will be much the same as if the newsletter were published in print.

The AIChE newsgroup for chemical engineering undergraduates and the GALOR (Gays And Lesbians Of Rice) newsgroup are examples of newsgroups started by campus organizations as a way for members to communicate. While newsgroups may not seem like electronic publications, they may be seen as a new kind of publishing. Messages are often archived so that they can be searched; in some cases, newsgroups have spawned electronic newsletters and journals.

In addition to these online resources, we have seen a burgeoning of publications on diskette and compact disc. Ira Gruber's book on the history of warfare will be published simultaneously in print and CD hypertext versions. Material in the History professor's text will be augmented in the CD, and he predicts that the CD will be used to supplement traditional assigned readings.

Databases

Several groups on campus are building databases which will provide information to colleagues around the world. With the Signal Processing Information Base (SPIB), Don Johnson's goal is to provide for dissemination of data, technical reports and software. Johnson observes that a discipline's culture is tied to the way it responds to electronic publishing. He says physics and economics have adapted easily to electronic publishing because of their tradition of disseminating technical reports.

Meanwhile, staff at the Rice University Computer and Information Technology Institute (CITI) have compiled a database of prototype software codes for researchers called Soflib.

No one expects electronic publishing to replace print anytime soon. Print is a highly evolved information dissemination device: portable and reliable. But electronic publications also have many advantages. And at Rice — and in schools, companies, and homes around the world — people are using their computers to become editors and publishers.

Table 2 - ownership of citations made in articles of Rice faculty and students (total = 69,230)

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Did You Know...

Fondren Library's ranking in the survey of Association of Research Libraries (ARL) moved from 107 to 103 for 1993 (out of 108 libraries).

*Anthropological Literature*, an index to journals and books in anthropology, is being added to *RicelInfo*. *Anthropological Literature* also provides reviews of books, journals and media.

*The Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)* is being added to *RicelInfo*. *HAPI* provides coverage for all areas of the humanities and social sciences, and indexes books, journals and research reports.

A typographic error in the last issue of *NFF* went undetected. The sentence, in the article "Gift Honors Pioneer Educator" should have read: "with a 'genius' award, formally known as a MacArthur Fellowship..." not "formerly known" as appeared. We regret the error—kaa.

Vivian Gussin Paley, kindergarten teacher and MacArthur fellow, visited the Rice University campus on April 10 and 11. Ms. Paley's visit inaugurated the Hazel G. Creekmore Memorial Curriculum Collection, which is supported by a gift of the Houston Endowment Inc. to the Center for Education. Books and other materials are being added to the Fondren Library with funding support from the Hazel Creekmore Collection (chaired by Bernie Mathes of the Rice Center for Education).

New Services From Community Services

Fondren Library's Community Services department has added a number of services recently which increase your access to needed information. These services decrease the time needed to obtain specialized resources not found in Fondren Library's collections.

**What is Community Services?**

Fondren Library's Community Services department includes the Interlibrary Loan group, an on-campus document delivery service known as Fondren Express, and the Regional Information and Communication Exchange (RICE) which provides information services to the non-Rice community.

**Interlibrary Loan**

Interlibrary Loan (ILL) supports the research and teaching efforts of the Rice University community by obtaining materials which are not in the Fondren Library collection for faculty, staff, graduate students, and, in special circumstances, undergraduate students.

ILL received supplemental funding this year to ensure that copies of recent journal articles would be obtained expeditiously. This funding reflects Fondren Library's commitment to providing you needed information in a timely manner. ILL chooses the most efficient document supplier, whether or not there is a charge.

We receive requested articles routinely in three or four days, and for special requests, within 24 hours. They come by overnight delivery, by fax, or as electronic images delivered over Internet to a workstation in our office.

ILL users can request materials by completing an electronic request form on *RicelInfo*. In addition, some databases on *RicelInfo's FirstSearch* have a procedure to send a request for items found in the database. Of course, we recommend that the user first check to see if the item is in the Fondren Library collection.

**Sources**

We are also utilizing commercial document suppliers who provide fax or overnight delivery in addition to standard delivery. These suppliers are useful, however, only for post-1988 articles. For books and other materials, we are still dependent on traditional reciprocal borrowing agreements with other libraries.

The ILL group uses a variety of services and resources to obtain needed materials. Along with many other academic libraries, we have implemented the ARIEL software which allows for electronic image transmission.

In addition, Fondren Library is a member of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), an organization that collects research materials which are rarely held in North American libraries. As a member, we can borrow and obtain copies from a collection of over 3.6 million volumes and 1.1 million microforms. Strengths includes materials from the National Archives, state documents, foreign documents, dissertations and newspapers. The most complete listing of CRL's collection is in their Handbook (copies are kept at the Reference Desk and at Interlibrary Loan) but part of the collection now is available for browsing in their online catalog on *RicelInfo*.

**Delivery to Your Desk**

Fondren Express assists Rice faculty and administrators by providing a campus document delivery service of materials from Fondren Library. Services include checkout and delivery of books, photocopies of (cont'd p.8)
Patent Collection a Valuable Technical Resource

Are you curious whether the family stories about your grandfather's patents are true? Are you interested in new technologies or processes in engineering or chemistry? Would you like to see all the "better mousetraps" that have been patented?

You should explore the Patent Collection in Fondren Library. Fondren Library is one of 78 U.S. Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries. Our collection includes a number of important patent research tools. We have the Official Gazette beginning with the first issue in 1872 and the full text of patents since 1960. A CD-ROM index for patents, CASSIS, may be searched by inventor, assignee, keyword in title, or by the Patent Office's subject classification.

The patent collection is a wealth of information on technological advances. It is estimated that 90 percent of the information in patents is not available any other place. You don't have to be interested in getting a patent yourself to benefit from patent research. Patent research can be used to uncover new developments and to get inspiration for further improvements in technology.

History of Patents in the U.S.

The primary purpose of the patent system (set out in the United States Constitution) is to "promote the progress of science and the useful arts." The patent system encourages the exchange of ideas by granting specific rights to inventors who agree to reveal their inventions. A patent allows the holder to exclude others from making, using, or selling the invention for a finite period.

The U.S. Government grants three types of patents: utility, design, and plant. Utility patents are granted in chemical, electrical, and mechanical fields. Design patents protect the ornamental appearance of an object. Plant patents are issued for the invention or discovery and asexual reproduction of a new, distinct variety of plant.

Since the first patent was granted in 1790, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has issued over five million patents. Abraham Lincoln was issued a patent for an "Improved method of lifting Vessels over Shoals." Mark Twain patented an "Adjustable and Detachable Strap for Garments." The first woman to receive a patent was Mary Kies of Connecticut for a device for weaving straw with silk or thread.

Rice Patents

Many Rice faculty, students, and alumni also have been granted patents. Herbert Allen (Class of 1929 and former Chairman of the Board of Trustees) was awarded patents related to the oil industry and one for the "Screwpull" corkscrew. Sam Worden (Class of 1935) patented the Worden Gravity Meter. Dr. Norman H. Ricker (Class of 1916 and former faculty member) was granted several patents for inventions related to electromagnetic exploration. Just last year, Chemistry professor Richard Smalley and Robert E. Hamarker patented "Electric Arc Process for Making Fullerenes."

Many new search tools are being developed to aid patent researchers. The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) recently made available an electronic bulletin board which provides Official Gazette notices and patent lists. The PTO bulletin board has a dial up number and is accessible through the Internet using FedWorld (available on RiceInfo).

In addition, the Patent Office has plans to offer an online patent database, APS, to Patent Depository Libraries later this year. Of particular interest to the university community is APS's ability to search for references to published articles in the patent applications of issued patents.

The Patent collection is located in the basement of Fondren Library in the Government Publications and Special Resources department. For further information please call ext. 2587.

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(New Services cont’d)

materials in the collection, and a table-of-contents service for journals. A user may elect the option of having a request filled automatically by ILL if the material is not in Fondren Library.

Fondren Express users also can request materials by completing a form on RiceInfo. The Table-of-Contents service, which has been available to date in paper form, is now expanding to an electronic version with 10,000 titles deliverable to the user’s electronic mail address. We will continue to provide the paper version from the Fondren Library collection.

With the electronic version, a table-of-contents subscription cost for one copy of one title is $5.00 per year. The subscription agreement states that the copy cannot be redistributed in paper or electronic form.

Subscription cost for multiple use or redistribution of one title is $15.00 per year. This might be appropriate for a department to send copies by e-mail to its members. A new user should consult the list of titles at the Fondren Express desk, then complete a table-of-contents request form.

For information about any of these services, contact Community Services at ext. 2284.

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Exhibit detail commemorating Yevgeny Yevtushenko’s poetry reading, part of the Cherry Poetry Reading Series sponsored by Fondren Library.

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