Connections

Issue No 5
Autumn   1993

IN THIS ISSUE

This year Connections will continue to address issues related to technology in libraries.

In this issue, we feature an article on ASCISRECON as well as an overview of the ONline/ONdisc conference held in Sydney during January 1993.

In addition, Connections commences a regular column addressing cataloguing issues and introduces a new current awareness service.

Your contributions are invited, either in the form of an article sharing your experience in using technology in your library, or as a letter to the editor, expressing an opinion or inviting comment.

Dianne Lewis

MY ASCISRECON EXPERIENCE

by Angie Barillaro, Teacher-Librarian

In 1991, whilst I was Head of Library at Catholic Regional College, North Keilor, I organised the automation of the school library, mostly using the ASCISRECON program. I found the program simple to use (even for a computerphobe like myself), and would like to discuss how I used it at CRC. No doubt every school using ASCISRECON will have come up with its own variation and process as the program is flexible.

After term one was spent imputing data from shelf list cards for the fiction collection, the thought of such a tedious process for 13,000 plus non fiction books seemed too daunting to contemplate. With a library staff of only myself and a .8 library technician (plus a full-time AV technician)

I doubted if staff time could be spared on so much data entry. There had to be an easier way, and there was... ASCISRECON!

I ordered the package and received it immediately. There was a detailed but simple handbook to go with it and I found Lance Deveson patient and helpful with my questions. So the program was loaded on and there it was - ASCISRECON at a touch.

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Because staff was minimal, I did not see the point of looking up ASCIS order numbers on microfiche - so ASCIS by ISBN's it was! Bravely we pushed on despite horror stories about low success rates etc... The program allows you to set your own standards. For example, you can keep your own call numbers, subject headings and much more. I chose the minimalist approach thorough and through. A trolley was loaded up with books that had been barcoded by a volunteer mum. At the computer, each book was picked up, the ISBN keyed in from the back, and the barcode was wanded in via the barcode reader. That's it! Books without ISBN's (about 4%) were put aside to be manually inputted or tossed.

Daily backups were essential to protect data being lost and when one file was ready, (1600 to 1700 records), the file was loaded onto a floppy and sent off for processing. Much to my delight,

the success rate was high; the lowest rate was 75%, but one file was 91%! Considering the speed at which books were entered, this is outstanding. The next process involved going through the collection again. The barcode was wanded in to see which records did not exist, and these needed to be put aside to be manually imputed.

As well, circulation statistics (ie class set, teacher reference etc...) had to be added.

I was impressed by the program and in two terms had seen the complete automation of the nonfiction section. It is also great to see that the ASCISRECON program can now be used for a minimum of 100 titles, and processing dates are very frequent. If I were still at CRC I would use the program for all my new stock. After all. a teacher -librarian is most appreciated when she is team-teaching, not cataloguing in the backroom!

ASCISRECON:

ASCISRECON is Curriculum Corporation's software program to assist schools with the conversion of their Card catalogues to an Automated system via Machine Readable Records. the program is designed to run on IBM or IBM compatible computers.

The program is available for $140.00 as a once only purchase. The cost per record is 15 cents per record, and the minimum order is 100 records. Records can be supplied on either 5.25" or 3.5" disks in IBM format.

Schools requiring more information about ASCISRECON should contact Curriculum Corporation and an information brochure on the program will be sent out.

ASCIS RECON orders are processed by Ferntree Computer Corporation using the following timeline for 1993.

These dates are the Fridays the orders have been received at Ferntree Computer Corporation. Processing begins on the following Monday.

Month	Dates
January	15 (one processing only)
February	12 and 26
March	12 and 26
April	9 and 23
May	7 and 21
June	11 and 25
July	9 and 23
August	6 and 20
September	10 and 24
October	8 and 22
November	12 and 26
December	10 (one processing only)

INFORMATION ONLINE AND ONDISC 93

Being one of over 800 Information specialists in Sydney for the 6th Australian OnLine and On Disc Conference in Sydney was a privilege that my position as Senior Information Officer at Curriculum Corporation afforded me in January this year. The Conference, held bi-annually in Sydney has become the showcase for new products in the realms of CD-Rom and now CD ROM networking, On Line databases and this year the trend towards Electronic Publishing. The conference is a mixture of keynote sessions, workshop sessions on a variety of topics and a trade fair.

As the Conference has become bigger so has the organisers' ability increased to attract overseas presenters and keynote speakers. This year was no exception. The three day conference began this year with a brilliant keynote address by the "laid back" Dr Clifford Lynch, Director, Library Automation, University of California, USA. Dr Lynch in a very relaxed way took the assembled body through Global Networking and the networked information explosion. His ability to communicate the most detailed concepts of networking globally for the common person was well received by all. Alas his is the only keynote address not included in the conference papers. Dr Lynch is also one of a group of Library educators who are working together to develop standards for uniform access to databases using the Z 39.50 interface.

Day two had Dr Donald Hawkins, AT and T Bell Laboratories, present the address on "The Information Professional in the Electronic Information Age". Dr Hawkins illustrated his talk with his own slide show detailing his own progression through the industry. Once again as with Dr Lynch, this session was a stimulating way to begin another day of the conference.

One of the best features of the Conference is the trade fair which this year was host to over 40 Companies involved in the database and disc industry. The range of stands included Library software suppliers to CD ROM distributors, a large DIALOG stand of interest to teacher librarians, to those promoting the new area of electronic publishing. An addition to the area was the CD ROM showcase where, without the company representative breathing down your neck, you were able to try out some of the CD ROM products. Here I was able to try the different databases on disc offered by DIALOG and experience the searching techniques needed to retrieve the information, although to get access to the products meant forfeiting a workshop session such was the demand to try the products.

As with all Conferences, there is the added attraction of attending workshops either before or after the Conference proper. The week ended for me by attending a full day workshop on using the Aarnet and Internet networks. This was my first extended use of

the Internet and I came away with a much greater understanding of the uses of the network for schools i.e for electronic mail with schools around the world, but also the realisation that the Internet now needs some uniform control before it becomes too big and easy to get "lost" within. However, I did enjoy looking online at the NASA, Geology, database in Houston, and reading the various Library bulletin boards from around USA and Europe.

On Line OnDisc Conference 93 was a credit to the organisers and further confirmed my opinion that the development path that Curriculum Corporation has set down for the re-development of the SCIS database in 1993-94 is the way to go. Our intention of not only offering increased access online to our users, but also offering the database on CD ROM was confirmed by my participation in the Conference.

SCIS users wanting more information on the Conference and topics covered are only too welcome to contact me at Curriculum Corporation, and I will forward the information to them.

Lance Deveson
Senior Information Officer.

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Lance Deveson
Senior Information Officer.

Have you not been able to find some recent resources on the SCIS Database?

The March Update (see calendar below for the date it should be at your school) will include an additional 7000 new titles added to the SCIS database through the efforts of the Western Australian Agency. The resource you were searching for but unable to locate may be included in the March Updates for Full and Abbreviated Microfiche. Happy Searching!

Microfiche Dates for 1993

The following is the Calendar of Dates that both FULL and Abbreviated Microfiche Updates will be delivered to Schools.

April Full and Abbreviated:	6 May
Subject Authority (2):	9 May
May Full and Abbreviated:	4 June
June Full and Abbreviated:	5 July
July Full and Abbreviated:	6 August
Subject Authority (3):	13 August
August Full and Abbreviated:	3 September
September Full and Abbreviated:	4 October
October Full and Abbreviated:	1 November
Subject Authority (4):	4 November
November Full and Abbreviated:	29 November

New Software Survey
'CONNECTIONS' No: 3 1992

Thankyou to all the 344 schools who spent the time to reply to the Survey for Curriculum Corporation's New System to replace the Dobis/Libis system. We have taken notice of all the responses and they have confirmed the development path that Curriculum Corporation has in mind for the new system.

Curriculum Corporation has recently received the replies to our Tender for new software and is currently beginning the evaluation of the Proposals.

HELPLINE: 008 337 405

Curriculum Corporation has an 008 number to assist Schools with access for assistance/advice on using SCIS products. The service is a free call for schools.

The Helpline is usually manned by 2 people but Users must be prepared to be rung back by either Nicole England or Lance Deveson as often the demand will exceed the supply.

The assistance that the Information Staff can give over the Helpline will be improved if Users requesting assistance will leave a message concerning the request/problem and then Nicole of Lance will ring you back.

Have you read this?

Information Searcher is a newsletter for CD-ROM and on-line searching in (American) schools. It is full of practical articles about ways of using this technology. The latest issue (vol 5 no 1), which arrived at the end of last year has a fascinating article by editor Pam Berger giving a brief and illuminating history of CD-ROM from its entry into the US school market in 1986 with the introduction of the Grolier Electronic Encyclopaedia through the current and future developments (p 17) and reviews of some excellent educational CD-ROMS (p8-13).

In future issues Connections will also provide current awareness information from the newsletters published throughout Australia by the various State Education Departments or Cataloguing Agencies.

Photocopies of articles mentioned will be available on request from Curriculum Corporation. (See proforma)

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Connections Journal Photocopy Request

Pleas forward photocopies of the following Journal articles reviewed in the ....
edition of CONNECTIONS journal.

Requested by:

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School:...

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I, (Name: ....of School: ....)
declare that this is the only copy I have requested of this material which is required solely for research/study purposes.

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THE "BLUE" (SUBJECT AUTHORITY) MICROFICHE

Included with each January cumulation of microfiche is a set of microfiche with a blue header. This is the SUBJECT AUTHORITY MICROFICHE and is produced 4 times each year. It seems that many librarians do not fully understand the purpose of this microfiche and are therefore not gaining maximum benefit from its use.

What does it do?

The Subject Authority microfiche performs 3 vital tasks.

1 Firstly the microfiche provides a list of those subject headings which have been created and added to the database since the publication of the *ASCIS Subject Headings List* 2nd. edition. (1988).

2 The *ASCIS Subject Headings List* book is obviously not a complete list of all appropriate headings. It does try to compensate for this by providing scope notes (guidelines) on, if, how and when to create other headings.

The subject authority Microfiche provided a list of those headings which have been created by cataloguing agencies based upon these scope notes.

For example:

A search for the terms "Anorexia" or "Anorexia Nervosa" in the *ASCIS Subject Headings List* book will draw a blank, however, under the heading "DISEASES" there is a scope note which reads "See also names of diseases, e.g. CANCER; etc.

This instruction suggests that Anorexia or Anorexia Nervosa (which are allowable terms as defined by the Macquarie Dictionary) may well be valid headings but there still remains the question as to which is the preferred term.

The subject Authority Microfiche provides the answer. A search for the term "Anorexia" in the fiche reveals:

Anorexia   (X874-5)
   see ANOREXIA NERVOSA

which indicates that although "Anorexia" is a tern a librarian might consider using. it is not the preferred term and therefore should not be used. Rather the librarian is referred to "Anorexia Nervosa" which is the SCIS authorised term.

Similarly, a search for the term "Anorexia Nervosa" in the Subject authority Microfiche will reveal:

ANOREXIA NERVOSA
        (X875-3)

  x Anorexia

  XX DISEASES

which indicates that "Anorexia Nervosa" is a preferred term sine it is shown capitalized. This entry also suggests that an entry be placed in the catalogue to lead users from the non-preferred term "Anorexia" to the preferred term "Anorexia Nervosa". It also indicates that if the term "Diseases" appeared in the catalogue a cross reference could be created linking "Anorexia Nervosa" and "Diseases".

e.g.

DISEASES   (X4745-7)
  see also ANOREXIA NERVOSA

In other words, the Subject Authority Microfiche also serves to expand the scope note in the *ASCIS Subject Headings List* which suggests the librarian should "See also names of diseases".

Remember you will need to record the fact that you have used the above terms. This may be done either by marking your copy of the *ASCIS Subject Headings List* or by keeping a separate subject authority file on the cards etc.

3. The **SCIS Subject Authority Microfiche** also serves a third purpose. SCIS has anticipated the need for librarians to create cross-reference cards. The microfiche enable schools to obtain pre-printed set of cross-reference cards to place in their subject catalogue. These cards guide users from non-preferred terms to the SCIS preferred term.

For example, if you wanted a card which read:

Anorexia   (X874-5)
   see ANOREXIA NERVOSA

you would simply write down, on the appropriate black and white "Subject Reference Order Form", the alpha-numeric code which you will notice is to the right of the word "Anorexia" in the subject Authority Microfiche. (ie X847-5)

New Subject Headings

Similarly, if you wanted the card set to link other terms with "anorexia Nervosa":

ANOREXIA NERVOSA

   x Anorexia

   XX DISEASES

you would quote the alpha-numeric code, (X875-3), which appears to the right of "Anorexia Nervosa" in the Subject Authority Microfiche.

It is most important that you only quote numbers from the most recent issue of the Subject Authority Microfiche when ordering cross-reference cards as these numbers change with each issue of the microfiche.

This information will now be regularly provided to Connections readers in this column.

Below are a sample of some of the new subject headings which can be found in the latest *SUBJECT HEADING AUTHORITY MICROFICHE* or if you are using the SCIS Database on-line.

Scope notes that will appear in the next edition of the *SCIS SUBJECT HEADINGS LIST* have been included for clarification.

ACID RAIN

   x Rain. Acid

   XX air pollution;rain and rainfall; water pollution

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

For general works on the States of the Commonwealth of Independent States which were part of the Soviet union prior to 1991, see SOVIET UNION. For works on the specific States of the Commonwealth of Independent States , see the name of the State, e.g. RUSSIA

   x C.I.S; CIS

   XX RUSSIA; SOVIET UNION

DEMENTIA

   See also SENILE DEMENTIA

   XX PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

   See also OZONE LAYER

   XX OZONE LAYER

OZONE LAYER

   See also GREENHOUSE EFFECT

   XX AIR POLLUTION; ATMOSPHERE; GREENHOUSE EFFECT

PEER SUPPORT OF STUDENTS

   x Peer counselling of students; Peer group counselling of students; Peer group tutoring of students; Student-to student counselling; Student-to Student tutoring

   XX PERSONNEL SERVICE IN EDUCATION; TEACHING

SENILE DEMENTIA

   XX DEMENTIA

VIRTUAL REALITY

use for works about computer generated, 3 dimensional. multi-sensory illusion that uses interactive computer graphics.

   See also COMPUTER SIMULATION; SIMULATION GAMES

   x Games, simulation

   XX COMPUTER SIMULATION

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW SUBJECT HEADINGS

SCIS is particularly concerned with providing schools with up to date relevant headings. We rely on your input and feedback. If you have suggestions for new subject headings contact your state SCIS cataloguing agency.

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Head Librarian

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