

New computer cataloger eases library life

By ANN PORTAL
Of the Emerald

In less than three weeks, the University library no longer will catalog books the "old way."

The library is shelving its manual system of cataloging books in favor of a computerized cataloging system called Online Computer Library Center. The new system was purchased this year for \$20,000.

University librarian George Shipman says he is unsure what the annual cost to use the service will be, but based on the number of books cataloged last year, the cost would be \$100,000.

Community colleges, private colleges and public libraries around the state already have adopted the national service. Oregon State University selected OCLC soon after the University made its choice.

With the new service, catalog classifications already are entered in the computer — so librarians no longer have to make up shelf numbers for each new book.

Shipman estimates that 93 to 96 percent of the titles the University library purchases already will have been en-

tered. The University receives reductions on its bill for entering titles that have not been entered previously.

For students, the bibliographic service means new books will be on the shelf sooner, Shipman says.

For the library staff, the system means cataloging will be faster and easier, eventually providing the time to begin a time-consuming process of recataloging nearly one-third of the library's collection currently shelved under the outdated Dewey Decimal system, Shipman says.

Using the new system, all 400,000 Dewey-classified volumes will be converted to the newer Library of Congress classifications and the two collections will be combined on the shelves, he says. But the reclassification will take years, he adds.

"(On-line cataloging) is a panacea, but we're also talking about undoing decades of problems."

Before tackling the Dewey collection, the cataloging department must process a 10,000 to 12,000 volume backlog of new books. However, Shipman says he considers a backlog of several thousand books a normal workload.



Using a new cataloging system, the University library hopes to soon process a 10,000 to 12,000 backlog of new books.

The OCLC service, which is located in Columbus, Ohio, sends catalog cards the day after a book is cataloged.

Discussing the library's financial outlook, Shipman says he still has no idea just what the library's funding level will be next year, but that book acquisition should remain a priority, as it has this year.

"My impression is that no matter what

happens to higher education, acquisition of library material will be of top priority," he says.

The library has more than achieved stability in the last year, Shipman says.

"With a positive — not foolish — attitude and innovativeness we can do a great deal to support the research mission of Oregon residents."

GTF talks on contract continue

University Graduate Teaching Fellows are working under a contract with the University that expired June 30, but the old contract will continue to be observed until disputes between GTFs and the University can be resolved.

According to a joint release issued by the negotiating teams, 13 of 35 contract items still are being disputed, although 12 items already have been agreed upon.

Prior to a June 30 meeting of the two bargaining teams, it had appeared that talks might come to a standstill.

However, the University brought a number of revised proposals to the meeting, and GTFs now are considering the offers, says Jim Morgan, bargaining team member and co-secretary-treasurer of the union.

Both sides now feel that the current package proposal of the University represents progress toward a possible settlement, negotiators say.

The next bargaining session is scheduled for Tuesday.

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