

AUTOMATED SYSTEMS - MAKING A CHOICE

OASIS

Judith Goodwin, St Columban's College, Turrumurra, NSW

The initiative for the computerisation came from the Columban Regional Director in Melbourne. As the Rector of St Columban's College had decided, with the arrival of the first word processing package, that computers would be his hobby, he readily started enquiries into library systems. A system was sought which would cater for the needs of two centres: - National Missionary Research Council Resource Centre, Librarian Rev Cyril Hally, and St Columban's College Library, Librarian Mrs Judith Goodwin.

Although housed in St Columban's College, the Resource Centre was set up and administered by the Catholic Bishops of Australia until 1990, when the Columbans took over ownership and maintenance. It is estimated that there are about one hundred thousand handwritten analytical entries using subject headings devised by the Pro Mundi Vita Centre in Brussels. It was these periodicals that the Columbans sought to make more accessible by entering the records on a computerised database.

The collection of monographs and periodicals in St Columban's College Library was built up to support and serve the staff and students of St Columban's Foreign Mission Society. With the establishment of the Union Theological Institute, the Pacific Mission Institute and the formation of the Sydney College of Divinity, the library has widened its clientele. Nevertheless, the primary clientele of the library are persons preparing for mission work in various forms in the Catholic Church.

Because it is the system supported by Catholic Dioceses in NSW for use in their OASIS was always the likely choice for St Columban's College. The Rector when asked his reasons for selecting OASIS, answered "Price". My New South Wales colleagues, who have chosen OASIS, have also given price, and the over one thousand library sites using it, as their reasons.

I visited one of the schools with the Rector. My husband Frank and I were asked our opinion after viewing a promotional video. We agreed that OASIS software seemed to perform all the automated functions required in school libraries, for which the system was specifically designed.

The automation of the Resource Centre's holdings was the priority, and even in the latter half of 1991 I was told that they would be completed before the library's holdings would be entered, possibly as long as 18 months later. Instead, probably because the Library Management module was purchased first, work began on the library's holdings at the end of November. Fifteen different persons were employed for data entry during the summer vacation, and up to 4 or 5 terminals were operating at a time.

As well as using OASIS software for cataloguing, records have been transferred from Library of Congress holdings on CD ROM, and then edited. The hit rate has been 40-50%. About 16,500 monographs are now on the data base, with up to 1,000 still to be added. About half the Resource Centre's periodical articles have been entered.

The cataloguing module for monographs is running quite well, presumably because it has many users, and most of its bugs have already been removed. However, the periodical module has caused problems. Little information was given in brochures and the promotional video. My guess is that St Columban's College may be among its early users, so problems are having to be solved as they show up. Discs which were sent to Brisbane for corrections were returned a week later, and immediately showed up the same errors.

It might sound dismissive to quote the sales talk that "a 3rd form child can access information." But I would say that being very user-friendly is the best feature of OASIS. Just as we hear stories of intelligent people who get their small children to programme their VCRs, there are students in our libraries who are wary of computers. If library staff are not always available, instructions need to be as brief and simple as possible. So it is encouraging to see the first screen appear with just "Enter search word/s".

There are certainly disadvantages from a cataloguer's point of view. Our software does not provide for MARC records; but Ken Elder of Tahlee Bible College tells me that Softlink has said they can make it available. In transferring from CD ROM, records have been lost and callnumbers confused, because the programme recognises only 20 characters of title. The same limitation also means that subject headings in authority files beyond 20 characters appear in order of entry. I am not satisfied with the programme for printing cards. Titles and publishing information are truncated, and no notes are included. We are committed to continuing to contribute to the SCD union catalogue held at St Patrick's College, Manly, and I want to maintain a shelf list on cards, so additional information will have to be added manually.

My Sydney colleagues know that I didn't have their enthusiasm for computerisation. I've had a family relationship with computers since the early 1960's, and in recent years I've heard so many stories about lost data and other disasters, that I'd rather hoped to retire before computers replaced card catalogues. For various reasons, it's not been an easy six months, but I'm almost converted to computers now!

Judith Goodwin.

INMAGIC

Glenis Dalziel, Mount St Mary's Seminary, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.

The Colin Library is the working and research library of Mount St Mary's Seminary and the main reference library for the Society of Mary in New Zealand situated at Greenmeadows, a suburb of Napier on the east coast of the north island. The Library holds over 70,000 books, of which about 60% fit within the subject areas taught at the Seminary, i.e. Theology, Church History, Scripture, Philosophy, Canon Law. The rest covers a wide range of subjects from ancient history through to foreign language texts, art and music appreciation to New Zealand and Pacific history, etc.

In the 1950's a member of the Seminary staff organized the collection into a working library. It was an enormous undertaking and I inherited this when I took over in 1979 as the first qualified librarian on the staff.

Immediately I could see problem areas within the library structure i.e. very inadequate catalogue card details, no subject headings and so on. Around this time in New Zealand there was a lot of talk about automation in libraries and I felt the Colin Library should move in this direction. I tried to keep up-to-date with what was happening within the library scene. I also kept the faculty and members of the Advisory Board aware of the advantages of library automation. By the early 1980's automation costs had dropped considerably, particularly the hardware side. In 1985 the Seminary started using word processing programmes on IBM compatible computers. The time had arrived for me to really press for the automation of the library.

In early 1987 I was able to attend a workshop in Wellington - the theme "Microcomputers in the Library environment" and evaluate 4 software packages. Inmagic was one of the four demonstrated and I felt it would really suit the Colin Library as it was designed for compatible hardware and basically an information retrieval database system which would fill a real gap in the Colin Library. I was a little hesitant in choosing Inmagic as I realised I would be the only user of the system locally. But with the help of two Marist priests (real computer buffs) I had no problems getting it running. Inmagic is a standalone product and allows the development of as many different databases as required for a variety of applications. I chose the single user Inmagic package, there is also a more expensive multiuser/network version available.

When creating a new database I have to decide which fields within it will be searchable - it is a very flexible programme with no limitation to the length of any field entry. As the library card catalogue had only author/title entry with no subject indexing, the main advantage of creating databases was the availability to word search any author/title entry. My main databases are books, periodicals, serials management and patron records.

When I order a book it is entered as a new identity onto the book database listing the firm I have ordered from - this enables me to print out an order to the dealer. If anyone is searching on the database the entry shows up that it is "on order". Accessioning a book and cataloguing it then completes the entry. From that stage, catalogue cards can be printed, budgetting details given, accession lists made, etc. Print outs of monthly book orders are given to the appropriate faculty

member keeping them informed of new material coming into the library.

The library caters primarily for the faculty and students. Now that they have moved to Auckland and the library is still at Greenmeadows (400 k away) being automated has made a big difference. The College has a computer with a backtrax tape unit fitted (the same as the library) and I send an updated tape to Auckland once a fortnight - this then gives them onscreen access to the library computer and any material required can be sent up overnight. By using this method the only cost was converting the computer to take the "tape system" (approx. \$300, plus purchase of the tapes at \$59 each). Most other methods we looked at i.e. modems, had ongoing costs attached to them. Another added advantage: using the tapes I could do away with my floppy disk back-up system which was becoming very time-consuming.

All in all I am very happy with the software I chose. Certainly I am using it in areas that I never thought possible. Overall I found it very easy to use - one small problem area I did find difficult to follow in the instruction book was creating a report format for a database. One dash or column line could change the format completely. But once I had some working in the correct layout it became easier to follow. I feel Inmagic is a simple information retrieval package very suitable to the needs of a small to medium size library and an easy system for a computer novice to cope with.

The latest cost of a single user packet of Inmagic is NZ\$3,150. This system can have a MARC adaptor which converts MARC records to Inmagic format - cost NZ\$250.

Glenis Dalziel.

OCELOT

Irene Mills, Vianney College, Wagga Wagga, NSW

Vianney College was established in 1991 to train priests for the Wagga Diocese. I was appointed in December 1991 to establish the Library to provide for the resource and information needs of the seminarians and

teaching staff. The Library is also seen as a community resource of theological and philosophical materials.

The seminarians at present number only nine, and five staff members use the library. Naturally the number of seminarians will grow over the next few years but will never be very large. There has already been a surprising amount of use of the library from within the community.

When I started as Librarian I was told there would be some use of the library by the new intake of students in February, with heavier use expected in the second semester. I had only a few months to make selected areas of the collection usable, and make all the right decisions in selecting a computer and computer system. Things such as ordering shelving, which classification scheme and subject headings to use, etc., had to be considered at this time also.

Fortunately Dr Gorman, who acted as library consultant to the Bishop at the planning stages of the seminary, had firmly advocated the need for a computerised library system from the outset, so I was spared the job of convincing the Vice-Rector of this.

Initially I ordered a microcomputer that had the capacity to run a reasonable library system and also could be incorporated into the Dynix system if necessary. Dynix was one system that had been recommended to me. The computer I bought is an Osborne SX-16 with dual 40MB hard disks and an internal modem.

I soon established that what I needed was a library management system that would give me good cataloguing and circulation control, and an OPAC that could be used easily when I was not here. As my position is half-time and the seminarians have access to the library 24 hours a day, a user-friendly system was important. I finally selected OCELOT from the following systems:

Dynix - very responsive to my enquiries, reputed to be very good, used by our local public library system: quote for what I required was \$14,394 for hardware and \$18,000 for software plus annual maintenance fees.

Inmagic - difficult to contact and information they sent did not give a clear picture of their system.

Oasis - very responsive: sent a video and documentation that gave a good picture of the system.

Ocelot - very responsive, sent good documentation.

I found that the packages offered by Inmagic, Oasis, and Ocelot were fairly similar and the costs of these three systems were also very close (about \$4,000). All have authority control systems which allow for the validation of subject headings and names while cataloguing. Oasis and Ocelot both have keyword searching and items can be found by using Boolean logic and searching a mixture of terms, such as author and subject heading, etc. Bibliographies can be printed or downloaded onto disk from all systems and they all keep some statistics.

Now the choice had to be made. I really didn't feel I could justify the extra cost of the Dynix system. I discounted Inmagic because they seemed harder to deal with and because I was working alone with limited knowledge of computers. I would need to know there was constant backup available. Oasis is a great package but I feel it looks too much like a school system, especially the OPAC, for a seminar. I was able to visit the Wodonga Institute of Tertiary Education to look at their Ocelot system in action and talk to the staff there about their experience with the system and customer support. I was satisfied after this that OCELOT could offer what I required. The system I use is the schools system. They have another one for special libraries and I believe the difference is in size.

I purchased their Essential Modules package which includes an OPAC, cataloguing (including authority and thesaurus control, and a MARC loader - (I purchase records from ABN using their search and products system), circulation and stock-taking, and a report writer. Accessions, union catalogue and serials modules are also available.

With a 3-year maintenance contract (which includes any upgrades) and barcodes this package cost \$4,000.

Many schools are using the Ocelot system, and also about a dozen special libraries. So far I have found it suits my library's needs well, backup is good through a 008 number to Melbourne. I have been able to go to one training day at Wodonga with other librarians from northern Victoria. There are a couple of aspects of the system that I feel could be better - this is mainly due to it being a modular system and having to go to different modules for different functions. I think that Ocelot will be adequate for Vianney until the use and size of the library grows considerably.

I have been able to put some functions of the circulation module on a low security so the seminarians are able to borrow books, and check their loans records when I am not there.

Irene Mills.

MAJOR THEOLOGICAL REFERENCE RESOURCES: 1992

Lawrence D. McIntosh
Joint Theological Library

The continuing purpose of this annual survey is to alert librarians as to the availability of recently published reference resources. The annotations are meant to assist with selection decisions. Most of the imprints are 1992, but a few 1991 titles which arrived too late for inclusion in last year's list, are also included.

General

1. Ziefle, Helmut W. *Dictionary of modern theological German*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1992. 354p. 0-8010-9935-8; US\$24.95.

Ziefle, with his *Dictionary* (1982) and *Theological German reader* (1986) has proved a friend to those struggling with theological German. The debt is compounded with a much enlarged edition of the *Dictionary*