Facsimile network speeds medical document delivery in New Jersey

The University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), a facility composed of three medical schools in four cities as much as 100 miles apart, recently began using high-speed facsimile transmission for the exchange of several thousand health care and biomedical information documents each year. Often documents are required within 30 minutes of the request to accommodate medical emergencies within the university library network.

The New Jersey program was inspired by the success of a network developed by the College of Physicians Library in Philadelphia in 1984. Shortly afterward, UMDNJ librarians submitted a grant proposal to the University’s Foundation to analyze and purchase facsimile systems for each campus library. At the same time, the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, one of the core institutions of the UMDNJ, and three other affiliated hospital libraries applied for a grant to the Hunterdon Health Fund for facsimiles to provide health care information to professionals in central New Jersey.

A University-wide library subcommittee began investigating facsimile technology, developing systems specifications to meet the needs of a statewide university library network. The primary objective was to secure a system that would provide dependable 24-hour service at the lowest possible cost and still ensure immediate response time upon demand.

The search resulted, according to assistant university librarian Victor A. Basile, in the selection of Pitney Bowes Facsimile Systems as the preferred vendor. The chosen system for the major lending libraries was the Pitney Bowes 8900, which can send or receive a hard copy image in several seconds. The subcommittee established a network time schedule to ensure that each library had non-competitive access to each participating library for a specified interval each day. Routine long-distance transmissions were scheduled during low-cost time periods, and librarians also used a feature known as turnaround polling that allows a single machine, with one telephone call, to send and receive documents from a second location.

First-year costs for the interlibrary system startup and operation are covered by the two grants. The costs for transmitting a 10-page article vary depending on distance between libraries and the amount of text per page. Basile reported that current monthly usage figures indicate the system can move an estimated 12,000 documents in its first 12 months of operation—about one-third more than the number of documents moved by courier and mail services last year.
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- **Descriptive Terms for Graphic Materials: Genre and Physical Characteristic Headings** (February 1987) identifies 513 authorized terms with 290 cross references to help descriptive catalogers identify, describe, and locate graphic material. Both genre terms (such as advertisements, censored works, competition drawings) and physical characteristics (such as etchings, albumen photoprints, and computer-aided designs) are included, along with special field designations for MARC users. Copies may be ordered for $20 from the Customer Services Section, Cataloging Distribution Service, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20541.

- **Effective Meetings for Busy People: Let's Decide It and Go Home**, by William T. Carnes (348 pages, 1987), is a humorously written treatise on how to increase the effectiveness of decision-making meetings, from local committee get-togethers to large deliberative business meetings. Advice is provided on how to chair meetings successfully, how to reduce costs without cutting essentials, how to improve interpersonal communication within meetings, when and how to add “theater” to a meeting, and how to use parliamentary procedure most effectively (sometimes by not using it). Copies may be ordered for $29.95 (plus $4.00 handling) from the IEEE Press, 345 E. 47th Street, New York, NY 10017-2394. ISBN 0-87942-211-4.


- **Josef Skvorecky: A Checklist**, by Jana Kalish (232 pages, 1986), is a comprehensive listing of all the works of this Czech-born Canadian writer up to the fall of 1983, including translations and critical works. Full bibliographical descriptions are given for first editions of his novels and short stories. A copy may be ordered for $12.50 from the Reference Department, University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5. ISBN 0-7727-6000-4.

- **The Legal Research Manual: A Game Plan for Legal Research and Analysis**, by Christopher G. Wren and Jill Robinson Wren (242 pages, 2d ed., September 1986), explains the process of analyzing legal problems in addition to describing legal reference sources themselves. With its emphasis on research methodology, the book leads the user new to legal literature through all the steps necessary to evaluate the facts in a problem, identify the legal issues involved, find and analyze the applicable law, and determine whether it is still valid. There are also chapters on how to take useful notes and how to know when to stop researching. Copies of this paperback are available for $9.95 (plus shipping) from A-R Editions, Inc., 315 W. Gorham St., Madison, WI 53703; (608) 251-2114.


- **The Master's Degree: Tradition, Diversity, Innovation**, by Judith S. Glazer (129 pages, 1986), has been published as Report no. 6 of the 1986 series of ASHE-ERIC Higher Education Reports. Glazer concludes that the master's is truly a professional degree, aligned closely with specialized accreditation agencies, professional associations, and potential employers—a finding that has particular relevance for our own profession. The MLS is discussed in the report, along with ten other master's programs. Copies may be purchased for $10.00 from the Association for the Study of Higher Education, One Dupont Circle, Suite 630, Washington, DC 20036. ISBN 0-913317-33-0.

- **The Milton S. Eisenhower Years at Kansas State University**, edited by Virginia M. Quiring (120 pages, 1986), contains nine essays by faculty members who knew and worked with Eisenhower, a former president of the university who later went on to Penn State and Johns Hopkins. A copy may be requested from Virginia M. Quiring, Kansas State University Libraries, Manhattan, KS 66506.

- **Mind Your Own Business**, by Alice Sizer Warner (165 pages, 1987), is a practical guide to setting up your own information consulting business. The author discusses the personal attributes needed to be a successful infopreneur and covers 23 different areas in which they are active, including online searching, document delivery, marketing research, publishing, and training. An important chapter on money explains how to get, handle, and save it. Copies are available for $24.95 from Neal-Schuman Publishers, 23 Leonard St., New York, NY 10013. ISBN 1-55570-014-4.

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• Plain Talk about Grants: A Basic Handbook, by Robert E. Geller (76 pages, 1986), is a practical guide to planning and getting grants. It includes exercises that may be used to practice the techniques resulting in well-written proposals. Copies may be ordered for $8.95 (plus $2.00 handling) from the California State Library Foundation, P.O. Box 2037, Sacramento, CA 95809.

• Smartcom II for the Online Searcher, by James S. Koga (20 pages, 1987), contains tips on set-up, searching, and enhancement for anyone using Smartcom II on an IBM PC or compatible. Included are more than 30 model log-on macros for some popular vendors, along with sample instructions for uploading and downloading using Smartcom. Copies are available for $5.00 (checks payable to Cal Poly Library) from James S. Koga, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, P.O. Box 3088, Pomona, CA 91768.

• Stars, Galaxies, Cosmos, compiled by William R. Corliss (246 pages, March 1987), is the last in a series of bibliographical catalogs of astronomical anomalies from this author. The categories described in this volume include such puzzling phenomena as the historical disappearance of stars, pulsar anomalies, molecular cloud rings circling galactic cores, the quasar energy paradox, quasar fuzz, the spectrographic evidence for life in space, intergalactic clouds, galactic jets, double sources of radio energy, unidentifiable infrared galactic objects, and much more. Copies may be ordered for $17.95 from the Sourcebook Project, P.O. Box 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057. ISBN 0-915554-21-6.

• University Libraries in Transition: Responding to Technological Change, by James A. Hyatt and Aurora A. Santiago (112 pages, 1987), documents the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) case studies of library management and planning at four institutions (Princeton, University of Illinois, New York University, and University of Georgia) that have been faced with technological challenges. The report discusses automated library systems and operating costs, the importance of effective management planning, turnkey computer systems, integrated library computer systems and distributed versus centralized library systems, and the relationship between libraries and campus computing centers. The study was done with support from the Council on Library Resources. Copies are available for $15 for NACUBO members, $22 for non-members, from the NACUBO Order Desk, One Dupont Circle, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036-1178. ISBN 0-915164-29-9.

CALENDAR

May


19—Management: “Management and Supervision Issues in Information Companies,” American Chemical Society, 1155 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services, the emphasis will be on the effective management of human resources. Fee: NFAIS members, $150; non-members, $200. Contact: NFAIS, 112 S. 16th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102; (215) 563-2406.

June

2—5—Problem-solving: Library Analytical Skills Institute, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. Sponsored by the ARL Office of Management Studies, the Institute uses a laboratory approach that includes pre-course preparation and field studies. Fee: $450. Limited to 35 participants. Contact: ARL/OMS, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036; (202) 232-8656.

10–12—SUNY: Annual Meeting, State University of New York Librarians Association, SUNY