



Note Booth

library news for eiu faculty

December, 1995 • Issue Number 3

Formula Report

Taking into consideration the discussions and suggestions from the open meetings held regarding the proposed formula, the Library Collection Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That, during FY96, new library book and materials funds, reallocated by the CUPB or received through the regular budgetary process, will be used to change the current percentage allocations to the discipline funds. No discipline fund will be reduced.
2. That the book and materials budget dispersion process continue to include a variety of factors, some which cannot be measured numerically.
3. That the proposed discipline allocation formula be monitored over the next several years and used as one of the indicators for collection management decisions.
4. That the Collection Development Committee revisit the issue of discipline allocations each fall term for the next five years.
5. That the proposed formula data be used to identify severely underfunded disciplines and that the library use new funds to help bring those disciplines closer to a reasonable figure.
6. That the library strives to reduce reliance upon expensive, lesser-used journal titles in all disciplines in favor of document delivery.

When the recommendations for the application of new book and materials money were used, those disciplines suggested for increased funding by the proposed formula each received an increase, shown below as a *percentage of the increase that was suggested*:

Funded at 67%: Education

Funded at 34%: Communication Disorders Sciences, Journalism, Speech Communication, Environmental Biology, and Health, Physical Education, & Recreation

Funded at 100%: English, Theatre, Technology, Family Consumer Sciences, Art, History, Psychology, Philosophy, and Economics

African American Poetry

Thanks to the Cooperative Collection Management Coordinating Committee (CCMCC), a HECA-funded statewide library program, Booth Library now offers *African American Poetry 1760 - 1900*. The database provides full text of the works of 54 African-American poets. They were selected from the bibliography *Afro-American Poetry and Drama, 1760-1975: a guide to information sources* (Ref. Z 1229 .N39 A37). It includes such distinguished authors as Phillis Wheatley, Jacob Rhodes (b. 1833), and T. T. Purvis (fl. 1881). It is available from the Reference Room computers or from any networked PC that can access the library's CD-ROM towers. Ask for the African-American Poets database at the Reference Desk or call 6072 for more information.

Library Catalog to be Replaced

by John A. Whisler, Head, Cataloging Services

One Monday morning in May of 1997, library users will find a new online catalog running in Booth Library. This will be the culmination of a multi-year project of the Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization, of which Booth Library is one of forty-five members, to replace the current software for ILLINET Online. Some components of the current software are based on programming technology from the mid-1960s, and are difficult to maintain and impossible to enhance. The new software for ILLINET Online is to be provided by a company based in St. Louis called Data Research Associates (DRA). The company has over twenty years of experience in the library automation business, and was chosen through a rigorous selection process. Companies submitting proposals for the new ILLINET Online were evaluated in three areas: functionality of the proposed product (weighted at 50% of the decision), vendor reputation and stability (30%), and cost (20%). DRA received the most favorable ranking in all three categories. Here are some of the features you may expect to find in the new catalog:

You will be able to search more than one data base at a time. A search for a topic could be done in the Booth Library catalog, a journal index, and another library's catalog all at once. Because the new catalog will be Internet connected, you will not be limited to resources owned and stored on local or even statewide computer systems.

Results of the FY96 Periodicals and Standing Order Review

42 titles cancelled \$10,737.94

Library Catalog to be Replaced (cont'd. from page 1)

You won't have to learn how to use as many different interfaces. Because the new catalog uses widely-accepted industry standards for information retrieval and display, the same interface can be used to search our catalog, journal data bases, and other library catalogs—even if they don't use the DRA catalog software.

A dictionary feature will help improve results when a search term is misspelled, and the dictionary accepts alternative spellings such as "color" or "colour."

Hypertext searching will allow the user to click on a particular word or phrase and resubmit a new search on the highlighted item.

Every element in the catalog record will be searchable. Presently, many catalog records contain "note" fields where individual song titles on a recording or short story titles in an anthology are listed. However, the current catalog cannot find these individual titles because the note fields are not indexed. The new system will make these fields searchable.

In addition to improved search options in the catalog, the new system will also provide other important services to library users. One of these is the ability to provide renewals of material by phone. From a touch tone phone, a user can call the library and connect directly to the computer. By pressing the correct access codes, an item can be renewed automatically without the assistance of library staff. The system will also allow users to find out what materials they have borrowed from the library. A personal identification number is used to assure confidentiality of this information. The system will also issue notices of overdue materials by telephone or e-mail, in addition to paper mail.

The above-mentioned features are all enhancements of the catalog and circulation components found in the present system. The present system, however, stops here while the new one keeps on going. Components we have never enjoyed before will include a reserve room system that will allow for loan periods calculated in minutes or hours as well as days; a booking system to schedule rooms, equipment, movies, or any other event; an acquisitions system that will keep track of budgets, vendors, and materials on order; and a cataloging system that will speed materials into the hands of users. In the present system, most changes to data are performed in weekly batches; in the new system, all changes happen instantaneously. This will be a

significant help in keeping the catalog as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

To convert to the new catalog, Booth Library must complete several preparatory steps. We must barcode our collection, because the new circulation component functions best when reading bar codes. Our barcode project is well under way, and we expect to be fully ready for bar code circulation before May of 1997. We must convert access to the online catalog from the current dedicated phone lines to Internet access. We will be beginning this process within the next few weeks, and hope to be completely converted by early 1996. We must upgrade terminal hardware to powerful PC workstations. We began this process in the fall of 1994, and will continue to replace old terminals with new as money allows. Finally, we must be sure that the data contained in our catalog is properly matched with data contained in our circulation system to prevent loss of information in the conversion process. We have taken all the appropriate steps to assure this quality, and will take them again before the conversion process begins.

Right now, May of 1997 seems like a long way off. This target date for implementation of the new software was set to allow time for many complex data conversion decisions that must be made in each of the forty-five member libraries of ILCSO, and for each library to address the four steps listed in the previous paragraph. The month of May was selected as a time when most academic libraries experience a slower period of activity between semesters, so that staff may learn the new system with less stress. We are all looking forward to the new and better service we will be able to provide.

