



AUTOMATOME

VOLUME 3, No. 1

WINTER, 1983

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUTOMATION AND SCIENTIFIC
DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION, AALL

CHAIRPERSON, 1982-83

Duncan Webb
Michigan State
Library

VICE CHAIRPERSON, 1982-83

Thomas M. Steele
University of Mississippi
Library

SECRETARY/TREASURER, 1982-83

James Cooper
University of
Detroit

INTERIM NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Thomas M. Steele, University of Mississippi, University, MS

REVERSE - 30

Last year at this time I was contemplating the publication of my last issue of Automatome as editor and the vanishing of the last snow of a harsh New Hampshire winter with equal relish. After having both burdens lifted from my shoulders for what I thought was good, I am now contemplating another rain of a soggy Mississippi Spring and an emergency stint as editor of Automatome. I'm not sure the quality of life has improved significantly for me, but I am *franc* if you are.

One appeal: If I am to get out two issues prior to the Houston meeting as I promised Duncan Webb when he asked me to be editor again, I'm going to need your help.

Please send any news, book reviews, article abstracts, meeting announcements, etc. to me:

Tom Steele, Interim Editor
James O. Eastland Law Library
University of Mississippi
University, MS 38677

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Duncan Webb has again selected a wonderful program for the convention. The speakers are: James Rush of J.E. Rush Associates who will speak on "Libraries in the 80's"; "Book Overfelt of CRO Systems Research on the "New Dimensions of Information Systems"; "Book Overfelt Launkas of U.S.C. who will speak on "Software for Library and Computer Applications" and again; James Sprowl of the American Bar Association will speak on "New Developments in Hardware." More details will be published in a separate program for the convention program.

SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION ON AUTOMATION AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT

June 14, 1983

The annual business meeting of the Special Interest Section on Automation and Scientific Development of the Association of Law Librarians was held on June 14, 1983, at 7:06 a.m., in Room 1111 of the Sheraton Hotel in the Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan. Attendance was about 100 librarians.

The minutes of the June 30, 1981 annual meeting were read and approved.

Byron Cooper, Treasurer, reported that the Section's balance on June 30, 1981, was \$1,386.42. After receipts from members' dues of \$1,000.00 and disbursements of half of the members' dues (\$500.00) to the AALL and expenses of \$228.83 for volumes 1 and 2 of Automatome, the balance on hand on June 11, 1982, was \$1,642.59.

Ms. Patricia commended Thomas Steele for his editorship of the Automatome during 1981-1982. She also commended Duncan Webb and Peter Kempel for developing a convention program on "Administration of Automation," held on June 15, 1982, at 9 a.m., under the Section's auspices.

Continuing from the preceding year, discussion was then focused on the scope and purpose of the Section. After some debate, John Christensen moved that the concerns of the Section should be limited to newer technologies that are not handled elsewhere in the Association. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

After pointing out that the Vice-Chairperson, Duncan Webb, appointed in 1981 becomes the new Chairperson, Mr. Kempel nominated Thomas Steele as Vice-Chairperson/Chairperson-elect. The nomination was seconded, and Mr. Steele was unanimously elected. Mr. Christensen nominated Byron Cooper for reelection as Secretary/Treasurer. The nomination was seconded, and Mr. Cooper was unanimously elected.

Mr. Webb then moved that the Section sponsor a breakfast at the 1983 AALL Convention. After a discussion of the cost, time, and extent of such a breakfast or, in the alternative, an afternoon wine-and-cheese reception, and of the people who might be invited or permitted to attend, Mr. Christensen moved that the Section vest full authority in the Chairperson to make all decisions and arrangements regarding a breakfast or reception. Mr. Christensen's motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

An informal discussion then ensued concerning the role of the Section in gathering information about computer uses and problems in law libraries. It was informally agreed that Mr. Webb would coordinate factfinding efforts regarding computer applications in law libraries. Mr. Kempel urged that Automatome should be used as a clearinghouse for news and information about law library computer applications, and he urged Section members to submit references to valuable articles appearing in computer journals; such references could be published in the newsletter.

Mr. Webb then moved that the ASD/SIS undertake a study of the use of microcomputers in law libraries with less than 200,000 volumes, with information to be gathered during 1982-1983. He suggested that a program at the 1983 Convention might be jointly sponsored by the ASD/SIS and the Readers' Services and Technical Services sections. He stated that the in-coming Chairpeople of the other sections were interested in such a program. He proposed that cost quotations from vendors for software programs be solicited; perhaps the AALL might pay vendors to design software computer programs for libraries under 200,000 volumes; perhaps such programs might be coordinated with LAWNET. Mr. Webb proposed that the following steps be taken: (1) a joint meeting with the Readers' Services and Technical Services Sections to discuss these proposals; (2) drafting an RFP [request for proposal] specifying the needs that must be met by such software programs; (3) publication of the RFP in the newsletter and solicitation of response and criticisms from the membership; (4) redrafting the RFP. Mr. Steele moved that the Section support such an endeavor. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Byron Cooper, Secretary

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
DUNCAN WEBB

Since the Resolution passed in June revising the ASD mission statement to "promote the design and manufacture of law library computer systems...under 200,000 volumes," several libraries have contributed suggestions for systems design. The largest law library contributing was Harvard and although the system described by Director Terry Martin is much larger than that required by ASD many elements of the system were quite well thought out and very useful to our planning. The smallest and most attractive system for a public law library within our parameters was the Alaska Court system described by the Alaska State Law Librarian Aimee Ruzicka. This system has all the needed functions for the smaller private and public law libraries and includes a network function which can be operated in widely scattered branch locations. The major technical functions are now described as follows:

Check in - This is a dynamic holding file for continuations titles to record latest supplement received, automatically claim previous piece not received and manually order additional materials lost or destroyed. This file also has a general locator descriptor for routing, binding and retention schedule. An additional descriptor will be added for automatic renewal/cancellation and miscellaneous instructions. Output - file dump or selected title history dump.

Acquisitions - sub system dynamic holding file for all titles ordered with added entry author and publisher descriptors. This file will accommodate three additional descriptors for classification, P.O. numbers and price. A delete function will automatically store this information upon receipt of the title for a system dump and print for an acquisition list. Price and declining budget totals will be calculated in a separate file from the price and P.O. number descriptors, which operates from the delete dump, output: file dump and printout of titles received.

CATALOG AND CIRCULATION

This is a master file of holdings by title with an added entry for author and classification number. (including publication date). Input will come from both the check-in file (which matches and updates) as well as the acquisitions file dump.

This file has no descriptive cataloging but can be accessed on line or displayed in remote "billboard" locations in response to reference inquiries.

An automatic circulation function descriptor is activated by entering the classification number and a periodic overdue dump automatically prints and entered patron name, address and telephone number for label printing.

WORD PROCESSING

This separate function must be compatible with off the shelf CP/M systems and accept data from any descriptor in any file to allow budget data and reports to be drafted and printed in standard letter format with footnotes, table of contents, scrolling, windows paging, index, bibliography and graphics functions.

This is obviously a small system with large file requirements. It will be necessary to mount this system on a 16 bit processor under a price of \$20,000 including peripheral hardware.

Any suggestions to these specifications will be appreciated. The request for information will be sent to manufacturers by January 15th and replies will be published in the next newsletter.

Our aim is to attract manufacturers to the task of writing software specifically for this application for AALL members. If you have a specific need please write to our Newsletter editor and we will respond as soon as possible.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 22-25 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INFORMATION SCIENCE Mid-Year Meeting, Lexington, KY, Contact: ASIS, P.O. Box 554, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044.
- June 4-9 SPECIAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, Contact: SLA, 234 Park Avenue South, New York, NY, 10003, (212) 477-9250.
- June 27- July 4 AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- June 26-29 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES. Annual Meeting, Houston, TX. Attend the Automation SIS's Program and Business Meeting. Times to be announced in the next issue of AUTOMATION and in Convention program.

REVIEW OF CURRENT LITERATURE

Aslib Annual Conference, 55th. Information Technology: Practice, Potential, Limitations and Effects on the Profession, 35 Aslib "proceedings #1 & 2.

Carter, Ruth C. and Scott Bruntjen. Data Conversion, White Plains, NY : Knowledge Industry Publ., 1983. 130p. \$34.50 hc; \$27.50 sc.

Guide to conversion of bibliographic data into machine readable form.

Computer Literature Index. Phoenix, AZ : Computer Literature Index (PO Box 9280, zip: 85068), 1968- . \$95/yr. (602)995-5929.

Covers 100 periodicals plus books and special reports. Quarterly; annual cum. 300 subject headings. Formerly: Quarterly Bibliography of Computers and Data Processing.

DeGennaro, Richard. "Library Automation and Networking: Perspectives on Three Decades," 108 LIB. J. 639 (1983).

Eddison, Elizabeth Bole. "Who Should Be In Charge?" 74 SPEC. LIB. 107 (1983). Addresses the future of librarians as information managers especially in the private sector.

"Electronic Mail Users Survey," 43 U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D LIBR. 25 (1982). Survey of libraries using a EMS system for ILL.

Halperin, Michael and Ruth A. Pagell. "Searchers' Perceptions of On-line Database Vendors," 74 SPEC. LIB. 119 (1983).

Survey and analysis of user experiences and perceptions of the database utilities.

Holland, Maurita Peterson, "Machine-readable Files for Serials Management: An Optimizing Program and Use Data," 44 COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIB. 66 (1983).

Hoover, Ryan E. Online Search Strategies, White Plains, NY : Knowledge Industry Publ., 1982. 345p. \$37.50 hc; \$29.50 sc.

Isaacson, Kathy, "Machine-readable Information in the Library," 22 RQ 164 (1982).

Luquire, Wilson, "Attitudes Toward Automation/Innovation in Academic Libraries," 8 J. ACAD. LIBR. 344 (1983).

McDonald, David R. and Susan E. Searing, "Bibliographic Instruction and the Development of On-line Catalogs," 44 COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIB. 66 (1983).

Malimconico, S. Michael, "Hearing the Resistance," 108 LIB. J. 111 (1983).

How to deal with staff and user resistance to automation.

Mason, Robert M. "What Good are Microcomputers Anyway?" 108 LIB. J. 108 (1983).

Background and introductory article on micros in library settings.

Mintz, Anne. "Introduction: the Information Industry of the Future," 74 SPEC. LIB. 105 (1983)

Introductory piece to an issue comprised of articles on information technology.

This article raises philosophical and ethical issues.

Nichol, Kathleen M. "Database Proliferation: Implications for Librarians," 74 SPEC. LIB. 110 (1983).

Problems of choice of system or utility when databases are duplicated. Contracts, training and education are also addressed.

1983 Microcomputer Market Place. New York, NY : Dekotek Inc. (P.O. Box 1863, Grand Central Station, Zip: 10163), 1983. \$75.00.

Rooks, Dana C. Staffing the Library Automation Project," 44 TEX LIB. 8 (1983).

Schulman, Jacque-Lynne. "Video PATSEARCH: Unique Solution to a Unique Problem," 2 INT'L. J. MICROGRAPHICS & VIDEO TECHNOLOGY 21 (1983).

Coming next issue: BYU conference; More details on the Houston program; and more . . .