DATA PROCESSING IN THE TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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The Texas A & M University Library embraced automation as a way of life when it became the first library in the Southwest to employ a Data Processing Supervisor as a full-time Library staff member in September, 1964. The creation of such a position as part of the Library staff was only one of several favorable circumstances which combined to provide the necessary foundation for the achievements outlined in this paper.

In addition to an enthusiastic University administration which provided requested supplemental funds for a special conversion project, the Library has access to the University's centralized data processing facility, which is one of the largest such University installations in the Southwest. The Data Processing Center houses an IBM 7094-1401 computer system with 14 magnetic tape drives, two separate off-line 1401 tape systems (one with a 1404 printer), and a battery of high speed sorters, collators, and card punches. This tremendous hardware capability has proved to be a great asset to our automation program.

A second asset of a more subjective nature is the Library's membership in a co-operative effort involving the libraries of Texas A & M, Rice University, and the University of Houston. While ninety miles separate College Station from the University of Houston and Rice in Houston, the association has proved very beneficial to each library. In the fall of 1964 the three libraries met to discuss their mutual interest in automation. Since available computer equipment varied tremendously with each University, an agreement was reached to share ideas and co-operative effort at the systems and design level, with meetings to be arranged roughly three times per year. Each library reviewed its most pressing needs, and the final result was that the University of Houston Library decided to tackle the acquisitions operation, Rice University Library was already preparing to automate its circulation operation, and Texas A & M elected to attack the serials control problem.

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Probably the most outstanding result of the co-operative agreement, in addition to the strong personal relationships that developed, was that Texas A & M was able to justify and implement an automated circulation system in an extremely short time due to the sharing of both experience and advice of the Rice Library. Although the two circulation systems are related only by the IBM 357 Data Collection Units used by each, considerable time and effort were saved by Rice's generosity. With implementation of Texas A & M's Automated Serials Control operation, the University hopes to be in a position to repay its debt to the co-operating institutions.

The Texas A & M University Library is wholeheartedly involved in data processing applications and the automation of clerical operations. While not concerned immediately with the more sophisticated area of information retrieval, the Library looks forward to the time when such systems will become a reality. Although the two applications just mentioned, serials and circulation, represent the two major areas of automation, several other routine functions also utilize punched cards. The Library's physical property inventory is maintained with a punched card system which allows rapid reconciliation with the University's inventory records at the close of each fiscal year. The Acquisitions Department also maintains a punched card file by purchase order number, coded to allow rapid breakdown of outstanding encumbrances by categories such as books, serials, and others. Finally, Acquisitions runs an annual analysis of vendor performance (primarily the state contract jobber which changes from year to year) by punching and analyzing on an IBM 1401, data which provides the percentage of books delivered by five day increments and the percentage of books delivered for each discount received.

Automated Circulation System

In February 1965, the University approved a supplemental grant to the Library in response to a proposal which outlined and justified the conversion necessary to implement an automated circulation system. There were two major steps involved in the initial conversion of our collection for the automated system, viz., keypunching, and gluing pockets and inserting cards.

Of the Library's half-million volumes, it was necessary to produce IBM bookcards for a circulating collection of approximately 200,000 volumes. This represents the circulating collection in the main library only; branch libraries were not included in the conversion or in the plans for automation. The branches will be absorbed into a new \$3,800,000 library building to be completed in 1968; at that time the necessary IBM bookcards will be keypunched in another crash project. In addition, since bound serial holdings are not circulated, it was unnecessary to produce a machine readable bookcard for the additional 200,000 bound serial volumes in the main library building.

After several methods of producing the necessary machine readable identification for each circulating volume were investigated, local keypunching under the Library's own management was selected as the most practicable approach. Alternate methods considered included optical scanning of pencil coded sheets and contract conversion by a private firm. Neither of these possibilities was acceptable, however, either because of simple unavailability of the service desired or because of the problem of shipping irreplaceable shelflist trays to and from the contract keypunching firm ninety miles away. The deciding factor in the final decision was the availability of the University Data Processing Center's keypunches on a second shift basis at no cost to the Library.

Five girls were hired at \$1.25 per hour to work 4-1/2 hours each weekday night, 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., plus 3-1/2 hours on Saturday morning. The girls read directly from the shelflist cards in their catalog trays, which were carried to the Data Processing Center and back each evening. The girls typed the accession number and call number for each bound volume except for those books which because of classification number or shelf card notation were known to be non-circulating, entering an average of 25 keystrokes per card. Figure 1 illustrates the full bookcard format. Only one of the girls was an experienced keypunch operator although all were capable typists. By the end of the first week they were averaging 1,000 cards per night per girl and maintained this average for approximately seven weeks, the time required to complete the project. Card output was limited not by punching speed but by the time required for the girls to interpret each shelflist card according to prescribed instructions.

The keypunched cards were kept in shelflist order and periodically listed on an IBM 1401. The listings were then sight-verified against the original shelflist cards by two additional girls employed full-time during the day for the duration of the project. Error cards, omitted cards, and cards for non-circulating volumes were pulled or repunched. All original cards, which were punched in regular blank card stock, were then input to an IBM 1401 program which scanned the fields, adding fill periods and 357 control punches, and then punched the final card into the Library's Master Bookcard stock. This program also printed each volume's accession number on a gummed 1/4" by 1-1/4" label.

The final master cards, kept in shelflist order in labeled boxes with the corresponding gummed labels, were then run through an IBM 557 interpreter. Costs for keypunching and verifying were as follows:

Trages		
Keypunching: March 22 - May 11, 1965 Sight verifying: April 5 - May 28, 1965		\$1800
Supplies		
200,000 Master Bookcards 217,000 Stock Tab Cards 200,000 Pocket Labels		\$ 410 \$ 255 \$ 260
Non-billed Operations		
Listing on IBM 1401 for verification Reproducing for Master Card on IBM	15 hours	

Reproducing for master Card on IDM	
1401	20 hours
Interpreting on IBM 557	40 hours

The book collection lacked pockets which were glued in by high school students at \$.75 per hour. The boys worked from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in unairconditioned stacks during the summer months. Working in teams of two, ten boys averaged 7500 books per day. The gluing operation was virtually complete in five weeks.

These students plus an additional five people were also utilized to match the Master Bookcard to the book, insert it in the pocket, and attach the accession number label to the pocket. The insertion operation was in simultaneous operation by the second week in June and continued to August 20. Most of September was also spent with one regular library staff member working full-time on the backlog of snags.

Costs for the gluing and insertion operation were as follows:

Wages

Gluing Pockets: J	une 1	- July 7, 1965	
Match and Insert:	June	15 - August 20, 1965	\$4600

Supplies

200,000 Bookpockets	\$ 991
5 Gluing Machines	\$ 55
30 gallons glue	\$ 105

Roughly, the total conversion cost was approximately 3.9c per book and the project, start to finish, took five months.

In addition to the conversion of the collection it was necessary for each Library patron to have a plastic card with borrower identification in machine readable form punched into it. The Registrar's office already provided a student identification card, which was modified to IBM 357 system specifications. This card is custom laminated by the University and embossed in the Registrar's office with student

Wages

permanent number, name, and birth date. Each currently enrolled student receives a new card at the beginning of each fall semester, which provides automatic yearly validation.

All other non-student users, including University faculty and staff, faculty and staff family, and local area and special users are issued a permanent factory-produced card purchased by the Library. These are non-embossed cards on which the name and user number are handwritten. All non-student users are required to provide their Social Security number as identification. A library user thus either presents his student ID card to be punched or requests a Library Card the first time he enters the Library during the year. The patron's name, mailing address, and identification number are recorded for keypunching and addition to a magnetic tape file of names and addresses. The punched ID card is immediately returned, and the patron is ready to charge his book. The six digit student identification number is recorded with three trailing zeros, and an additional prefix number is assigned to both Social Security and student numbers to indicate the status of the borrower for later analysis of Library usage.

The data processing equipment in the Library consists of an 082 Sorter, an 085 Collator, an 026 Keypunch, an 013 Badge Punch, and the IBM 357 Data Collection System. The IBM 357 system includes two model six input stations with cartridge manual entry, mounted at the Circulation Desk on either side of a 358 control unit and receiving keypunch which are enclosed in a soundproof plywood box built into the desk. The regular 026 Keypunch services the needs of other Library departments upon request as well as all regular processing of new acquisitions and other Circulation Department keypunching.

A brief description of operation of the IBM 357 system is as follows: A patron presents a book to be checked out with a valid current identification card. The Circulation clerk selects the correct date due cartridge to be used for the charge and inserts the bookcard, identification card, and cartridge to activate the IBM 357 input station. The output keypunch produces two cards, each containing book identification, borrower identification, and date due (see Figure 2). The two cards are uniquely coded in cc 80. The first card is placed in the pocket with the bookcard as proof of charge and as notification to the borrower of date due. The second card remains on the keypunch stacker, and the accumulated charge cards are input to the nightly computer processing run.

As books are returned, they are held on a booktruck with their corresponding return cards. Immediately before the truck is released for shelving, the return cards are sorted into accession number order and matched with the collator against a deck containing one card (see Figure 3), for each book on Hold. The Hold cards are likewise maintained in accession number order and contain only the accession number in machine readable form. Any matching cards that merge flag books that are to be removed from the truck before it is released to the stacks. While a low-volume operation, the sorter and collator in the Library are necessary even in a computer-based system such as this one, not only for Circulation processing but for various other IBM card filing routines that can be done more conveniently on a mechanical basis.

A manual back-up charging procedure is available in the event the IBM 357 system breaks down, or in the event a book is presented at the Circulation Desk with the Master Bookcard missing or mutilated. The procedure utilizes a three-part IBM card-size form (see Figure 4), which is used manually to record book identification, borrower number, and date due. One part then goes with the book in place of the Return Card, one part is filed as a temporary record of charge, and the third part is sent to the keypunch operator to have the required Master Card or Charge and Return Card set keypunched. The Charge Card thus produced is entered into the day's accumulation of charge cards and processed normally by the computer. The Master Bookcard or Return Card is filed manually to await the return of the book. All returns containing the temporary return form must have the Bookcard or Return Card waiting in the file pulled, and then must be processed through the normal Hold procedure.

The Library believes that a book should either be in its proper place on the shelf, or it should be reflected by a charge to a person or a location. Location charges are achieved by some fifteen special plastic charge cards kept in the Circulation Office which are punched with special numbers for "Reserve," "Bindery," "Interlibrary Loan," etc. All charges are maintained in one circulation file in call number sequence so that location and patron charges are interfiled for easy reference on the circulation listing.

One additional feature of the system is worth special note. The use of an accession or item number unique to each volume permits a thief-proof door check system. In a "two-card" system such as this, all information is machine recorded: book identification, borrower identification, and date due. No manual stamping or validating is required. The accession number is stamped both in the book and on a pocket during initial processing, and this pocket is then glued firmly in the book. The accession number labels which were computer printed during the conversion period also provide the item number for back holdings. The Library Doorman thus matches item number on the pink Return Card and item number on the pocket as proof of valid charge. Other information, including date due, need not be checked. The unique item number guarantees the current validity of the charge and also prevents the common dodge of charging a book and then using the Return Card in a second book to get it past the door check.

Regular nightly operation, which has continued without interruption since October 1965, proceeds as follows. The Circulation Department delivers to the Data Processing Center by 10:30 each night except Sunday the accumulated Charge and Return cards in random order. These updates are sorted, edited, and processed by the IBM 7094, and a new listing of books in circulation (see Figure 5) is printed on a two part paper. Error messages, daily statistics, and a listing of extreme overdues immediately follow on the listing (see Figure 6). First and second overdue notices and fine notices (see Figure 7) are printed on continuous form postcards with addresses ready for mailing. The update cards and printed outputs are returned to the Library by 8:15 each morning. The two copies of the circulation listing are bound unburst and placed on the desk for patron use, and the postcards are separated and mailed. One copy of the error messages and statistics is retained by Circulation for further action, and the second copy is forwarded to the Data Processing Supervisor for inspection.

Currently, there are about 10,000 charge records on tape and probably an average of 700 updates (charges and returns) for each day. The nightly run requires less than three minutes of IBM 7094 time, plus ten to fifteen minutes of off-line printing on a 600 lpm IBM 1403. The program is written entirely in COBOL except for an assembly language core sort library subroutine. The program was written and checked out in approximately one month's time early in the fall of 1965. The most recent modification, however, was made in February 1966; it seems that odd situations which were not provided for in the program will continue to occur.

The total cost for rental of the data processing equipment located in the Library, less various standard educational discounts, is \$355 per month. A flat charge of \$400 per month is paid to Data Processing for use of machine time, resulting in a yearly cost of \$9,060. The continuous forms for the printed listing and the postcard stock, plus the other special card forms needed, result in an additional cost of approximately \$1,000 per year.

While the automated circulation system can be justified by virtue of performing at least the work of the approximately three and one-half clerks represented, the advantages of the mechanized operation over any traditional manual system cannot be over-emphasized. The system now provides better control than was ever possible under the old manual system. At the same time, it accommodates patrons by providing rapid, easy charging of books and by keeping an upto-date, error free record of the location of books charged out.

Elimination of manual handling and filing of records as well as the tremendous saving of time effected by automatic processing of overdue charges and delinquent returns has freed the circulation staff to assume additional duties while still maintaining almost immediate reshelving of books as they are returned. Perhaps most significant of all is the fact that the present system can accommodate double or triple the present volume of circulation with only a minimum increase in personnel. The automated system also offers great promise in aiding investigation of library usage at Texas A & M by analysis of accumulated charge data in conjunction with the Registrar's machine readable student records.

Automated Serials Control

The Library's decision to attempt automation of the Serials Record operation was made early in 1965. At that time a report outlining basic concepts of the system was prepared, based on the results of a Master's thesis investigation. 1 Initial programming and experimental operation of this proposed system were delayed, however, until January 1966 because of the higher priority assigned to the completion of the design and implementation of the automated circulation system just described. When completely operational, the automated serials system will perform three major tasks: (1) ordering and renewing subscriptions and recording payment for each, (2) recording arrivals and flagging delinquent arrivals, as well as keeping track of all serial holdings to date in the collection, and (3) providing the information required for more efficient control and analysis of operations. In addition, the data in the computer's records can be used to produce listings in various formats for use in public service areas. Such a mundane use alone of the stored data can almost justify the conversion to machine readable form.

Basic Concepts. The basic design concept of the data processing system which supports the serials operation is in some aspects a departure from traditional approaches. Historically, data processing techniques have been developed to accommodate what was considered a basic hardware limitation. This limitation may be described as the necessity for conserving data storage and processing time at nearly any cost. This concept dates from the early years of card oriented computer and unit record equipment systems. In the past, relatively slow interval operating speeds and relatively slow access to mass data storage dictated heavy coding and extreme abbreviation of data for applications involving extensive computer processing. The result has been data processing systems which in reality were designed to accommodate the machines involved and not the personnel who must ultimately handle and analyze the information produced.

Current sophistication of computer hardware and the promise of additional technological advance dictate that completely efficient hardware utilization is no longer the prime measure of effectiveness. Modern high speed computers with practically unlimited rapid access data storage capability allow feasible design of data processing systems suitable to the needs of the application as well as the personnel involved. While relatively inefficient internal processing procedures may be called for, the resulting performance of the system as a whole is the criterion that must be paramount. Input and output of information and data handling procedures are, therefore, organized to accommodate the library personnel involved. Data are stored in the computer uncoded and of variable length wherever possible, especially when coding and decoding would become cumbersome for clerical personnel. Stored in this form, the data can also logically be utilized by or converted to the format required for nearly any conceivable processing system.

The Serials Department personnel will be involved as little as possible in data processing lore or systems of special abbreviations and other confusing requirements. The automated system is, therefore, divided logically into two subsystems: the clerical system and the data processing system. Only very limited familiarity with the computer system is required on the part of library personnel, and the two systems meet only through the interface required to convert data to machine readable form. It should also be understood in considering the approach outlined in this paper that the system is designed as a compromise between the ideal environment of a random store of data accessible on a real-time basis and the actual fact of presently available equipment. While the eventual goal, based on expected future hardware delivery is the more sophisticated operation just mentioned, the system is planned, for the present, to provide the most efficient operation possible utilizing the capabilities of a computer located at a physically remote facility with only limited processing time available for library operations.

<u>File Organization</u>. Each item of data must be uniquely identifiable and individually retrievable. The master tape file is composed of a master unit record for each entry. Desired items of data will be grouped in various printed outputs for use as working files by Serials Department personnel. The master tape record for each entry is grouped logically into several sections: publishing and frequency data, financial and ordering data, bound holdings data, and bibliographic data, for example. In addition, some master records will contain only one section, cross reference data, to the exclusion of all others. This method of processing also requires that each copy of a serial subscription be represented by a separate master record with the appropriate logical sections. Each master record is identified by a unique six-digit serial identification number (SIN). This number is assigned to the master records so that numerical arrangement by SIN will produce an alphabetical arrangement of entries in the Serials Record. In addition to its use as an alphabetical sequence number, the SIN serves as the unique sequential processing number required for a magnetic tape file application. The SIN was initially assigned at intervals of 100 to allow future insertion of new entries in proper sequence. Whenever an individual interval becomes full, the computer renumbers the entire master file, re-establishing the required interval.

Individual data elements are stored and processed by the computer as both fixed and variable length alphanumeric character strings. A system reserved symbol, the dollar sign, is used to indicate the length of the variable length strings and is the only character not available for use within a string. The character strings are uniquely identified by the SIN and a keyword which has a high mnemonic value for use by Serials personnel.

The keyword is a ten-digit maximum English language word used to identify individual character strings. There is also a special class of keywords that do not have character strings attached but are used to set flags for control purposes. Allowable keywords (see Figure 8) comprise a Serials Record "dictionary" which is open-ended. Addition of new data elements, for example, may be provided by simple modification of the program's keyword table. Keywords for each logical record section of the Master Record are additionally divided into two groups: required keywords and optional keywords. Extensive editing is built into the program and all required keywords must be present, for example, for the particular record section to be accepted. Presence or absence of optional keywords is governed by the nature of the individual entry.

An additional open-ended feature is the ability to introduce an English language "note" into the master file whenever necessary. The keyword XNOTE is used, where "X" represents the first character of the name of the logical record section in which the note is to be included. This feature is the fail-safe measure; if all else fails, hopefully the file can contain a short note to the effect that manual processing is the preferred course of action. The master records are maintained in sorted keyword within SIN order. Bound and unbound holdings record sections are additionally sorted, however, by the major sequence number for the particular title as included in the bound character string. Holdings data thus also require interpretation of the character string for unique identification.

Input Requirements. Input to the computer system is presently in the form of punched cards. The serial identification number (SIN) occupies cc 1-6. The keyword (KYWD) occupies cc 15-28. Card columns 13 and 14 are used for sequence numbering (SEQ) of input cards when variable length character strings extend beyond one card. Card columns 25-80 contain the character string (DATA). Card columns 7-12 contain a six character maximum operation codeword (OP). This codeword instructs the computer program to perform one of several operations such as ADD, DELETE, or UPDATE.

Clerical procedures require data collection forms similar to that shown in Figure 9. Data are recorded in a manner familiar to clerical personnel whenever feasible. Months, for instance, are entered as common three letter abbreviations and converted to the numeric representation required for calculation. Figure 10 is a sample listing of input cards.

As soon as practicable, a paper tape typewriter will be used in the Serials Department instead of the hand written data collection form. The typed copy will serve to verify data to be entered in the computer file and will serve as the necessary audit trail until the master file is updated. The punched paper tape produced simultaneously will then be used as direct input instead of punched cards. Availability of a keypunch, however, will always be essential for processing punched card arrival files for current receipts.

Output. The output can be divided into two categories: punched and printed. Printed outputs include both the working files for the Serials Department as well as the various listings for public service areas. The working files will be produced monthly and will consist of four physical files: (1) subscription information, (2) bound holdings and bibliographic data, (3) current and unbound items, and (4) a want list. The bound holdings file, for example, will describe each bound volume individually, indicating accession number, inclusive dates, and published volumes included. The computer will produce an item by item shelflist record for inventory control by the Serials Department (see Figure 11) while any holdings information produced for public service areas will probably be printed as inclusive holdings in the form of a union list. In addition to regularly scheduled output, the number of special reports and statistical listings which can be easily produced from the machine records is limited only by the ingenuity of the programmer and the amount of storage space in the Serials Department.

Direct subscription renewals will be initiated by a monthly listing indicating those titles requiring attention. The annual list of domestic serials required for bidding purposes in selection of a state contract jobber will also be printed on continuous multilith masters and reproduced in the required number of copies. The possibility of completely automatic subscription renewal with computer printed purchase orders seems remote, however, considering the complexity of existing state regulations.

The punched card output is used for inventory control and checkin of expected arrivals. At the beginning of each month, one card is produced for each item expected during the month. Prepunched into each card will be the serial identification number, the operation codeword UPDATE, the keyword UNIT, and a description of the serial issue. Information printed on the arrival card for use by clerical personnel will include this date, plus all other information required to check-in and distribute the issue. This information may also include an optional forty character note, such as "ROUTE" or "CHECK LOOSE INSERTS." As the card is produced, the SIN punched into the card is checked to insure that the correct information is being printed on the card.

Arrival cards are maintained in two separate card files: cards for expected arrivals and cards for received arrivals. Clerical procedure involves matching serial issues and marking them for distribution, as well as the transfer of the corresponding arrival card to the received file. Library files thus show serial holdings as issues expected or issues received in the card files, as issues recorded in the unbound holdings record, as bound volumes, or as missing items appearing in the want list.

One arrival card will be produced for every anticipated individual item. An index, for example, will have a separate arrival card if it arrives separately, or it will be indicated on the arrival card for the issue in which it is bound. Predictable arrivals of supplements will be indicated by separate arrival cards. Each copy of a serial subscription would also require separate arrival cards. A serial subscription for two copies with index separate, for example, would require four arrival cards for the last issue (see Figure 12).

All active subscriptions will be coded as regular or irregular arrivals. A regular subscription is by definition any predictable pattern of publication for which arrival cards can be produced. All other irregular serials with completely unpredictable frequency will be indicated by a printed list. When received, these unexpected items will require manual keypunching of an arrival card to update the master file. Claiming of delinquent arrivals will be aided by inspection of the arrival cards remaining in the file at the end of each month. The decision to claim missing material, however, must be based on the knowledge and judgment of an experienced staff member. "Claimed" cards are flagged and returned to the expected arrivals file.

A second punched output planned is a bindery "tickler" card. This card will be produced in a preassigned month so that the binding load is staggered evenly over a twelve-month period. The bindery clerk will receive a card at the beginning of each month for each title to be bound. The card will list receipts as recorded by the computer. These cards constitute a "tickler" file only; if visual inspection indicates missing issues or insufficient bulk for binding, the card will be refiled until the missing material is received or until the next bindery card for the title is produced. Serial issues are normally bound into physical volumes of a size to "fit the hand." The decision to bind a given number of issues into a physical volume must be based on the judgment of the bindery clerk. In addition, physical size of individual issues may change drastically and unexpectedly, requiring an exception to the normal routine frequency of binding. The backlog of cards in the bindery file will also aid the clerk in estimating the backlog of unbound material in the collection.

When fully implemented, the computer system will automatically compile monthly operating statistics in addition to routine maintenance of the master file just described. The system is being programmed for an IBM 7094-1401 combination, which includes a model 1404 printer off-line. All non-1401 programs are being written in COBOL whenever possible to insure compatability both for the expected expansion to IBM system 360 equipment, and for the different computer configurations at Rice University and the University of Houston.

The computer facility is made available to other University departments by the Data Processing Center at a reduced rate, and the Center operates as a service facility for University operations as well as serving as an educational facility. For present purposes the Library's need is paramount, and no attempt is being made to present a solid economic justification for the system which is being developed.

Present Accomplishments. In preparation for the approaching conversion of the Serials Record, a Serials Data Processing Clerk was employed as a full-time staff member in the fall of 1965. This young lady, working under the direction of the Serials Librarian, acts as the interface between the sometimes unintelligible serials record files and the keypunch operators by re-ordering and organizing the information on a form suitable for keypunching.

Any data input to a machine records system must be complete and accurate, particularly bound and unbound holdings information used for inventory control. To achieve this lofty goal the Library also employed last fall a crew of full-time clerks to begin a physical inventory of holdings to verify the existing but unreliable records. Holdings information will be converted to machine readable form only after being verified by the inventory crew. It is expected that this project will last at least another year.

The conversion of other Serials Record data to machine readable form was begun in February 1966. Initially, a serial identification number, location, call number, title, and the control keywords, SERIAL or PERIODICAL and ACTIVE or INACTIVE were coded for each of the approximately 7000 entries in the serials holding file and transferred to a magnetic tape file. All cross references were also keypunched and added to the file. In addition, the necessary procedure was established in the Serials Department to insure that title changes and new subscriptions would henceforth be keypunched so that an updated file could be maintained. All keypunching is being done as much as possible by the regular keypunch operator during the day, who is also responsible for keypunching for the Circulation Department as well as all other library work. A second keypunch operator is employed part-time on a second-shift basis to cope with the volume of data waiting to be keypunched.

Two listings were immediately produced from the data. The first was what might be called a Union List of Serial Titles for Texas A & M University Library. No holdings information whatsoever is reflected, but all cross references are included. This listing, which up to now has been printed only once on Multilith masters and reproduced for campus distribution, will be reprinted only as the need dictates.

The second listing includes only current periodical subscriptions by current title; no cross references are provided. This listing contains the approximately 3500 titles which are available in the current periodical reading rooms in both main and branch libraries, and in the main library Reference Department. It is available in several copies in public service areas in both main and branch libraries and is reprinted presently on a twice monthly basis (see Figure 13).

A little imagination will suggest numerous other uses for the presently limited amount of data now available in machine readable form. One can get simple statistical counts by selected characteristics or listings arranged by call number or location, or combinations of the above. The question is, Do we really want this particular breakdown at this point? There is a temptation to bury the operation in mounds of needless printouts of unwanted information.

The next step is the complete conversion of financial and subscription information, as well as beginning in earnest the conversion of the verified holdings records for the inventoried portion of the collection. The Data Processing Clerk records the ordering and subscription data on mimeographed data collection forms, which are batched and sent to the keypunch operator. Meanwhile, holdings information is keypunched directly from shelflist cards in their catalog trays. As the ordering and subscription data are converted, the computer will immediately begin to flag subscription renewals, and the periodicals list required by the state for bidding purposes will be produced in August 1966 from the information in the magnetic tape file. Our approach to conversion and to the associated experimental programming and debugging is that each mass conversion of a segment of the Serials Record will justify its own existence by immediate utility. Long before complete holdings information is available in machine readable form, the automated serials system will be performing nearly all of the other functions outlined previously.

Conclusion

The progress made in applying data processing techniques to library operations in less than two years is frankly astonishing. One system operates beyond expectations, and a second major operation should be successfully automated within the next year or two. Several lessons have been learned in the course of the last two years. There is no such thing as a completely accurate record where serials are concerned. Attempting to convert data for a computer operation tends to spotlight any weakness in accurate recording of information and, for that matter, in the procedures which supposedly insure that this accuracy is maintained.

There is an old axiom that a computer can best be considered as exceedingly stupid, but it can be letter-perfect where repetitive filing and record maintenance are concerned. We are convinced that perfection is a gift with which mere humans are not yet ready to cope; the perfect error-free input called for cannot be presented, and consequently we spend quite a bit of time correcting mistakes that we created ourselves only the run before. We have also discovered the great need for rethinking what must be done. It is easy to mechanize existing processes, without reviewing the whys of the operation or, in many cases, its usefulness in the first place.

Finally, we believe that our progress can be substantially increased if the library staff is given instruction in basic punched card and computer concepts and then kept abreast of the immediate as well as overall objectives. To accomplish this, a continuing program of lecture and demonstration meetings has been established in which the professional librarians and most of the clerical employees participate. They are encouraged to read new publications of potential interest. In the past, representatives of other libraries have also been invited to attend the two major staff seminar meetings.

REFERENCE

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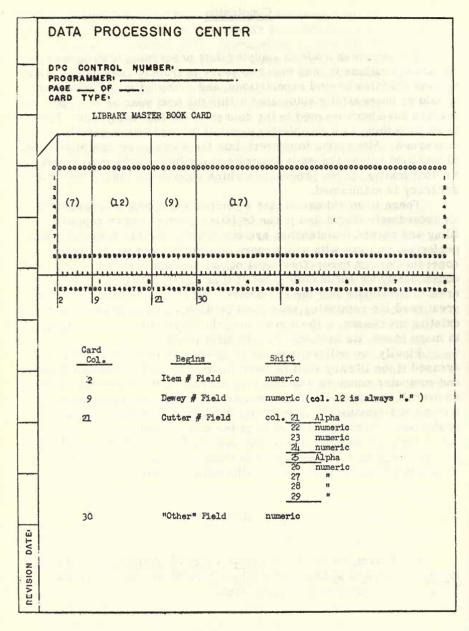
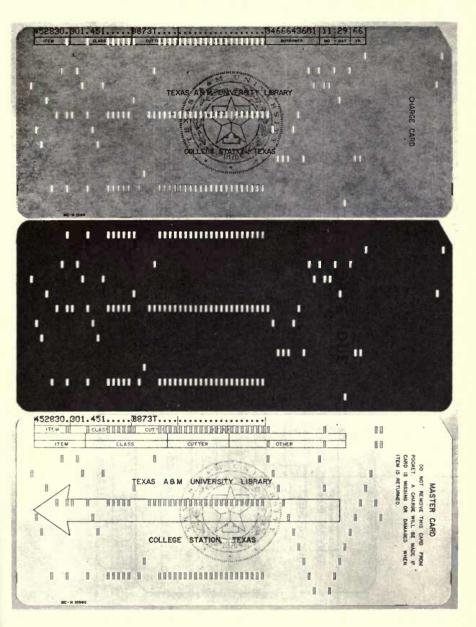
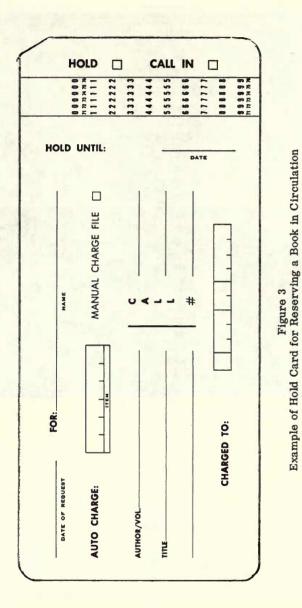


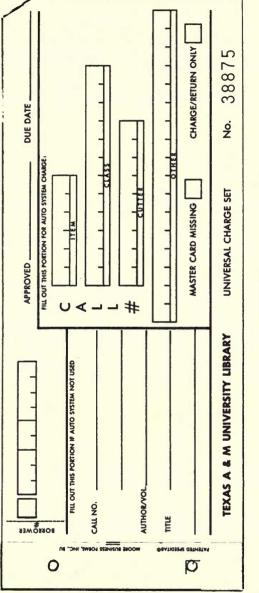
Figure 1 Format and Directions for Keypunching the Bookcards





Examples of the Three Punched Cards Used in the Automated Circulation System







	F	TEXAS A+M UNIVERSITY MAIN LIBRARY	UNI VERS	ITY MAIN	LIBRARY		800KS IN	BOOKS IN CIRCULATION	2	AS OF	03/12/66	
CALL NUMBER	R			ITEM	-ITEMBORROWERDATE DUE	DATE DUE	CALL NUMBER	R		1TEM	-ITEMBORROWERDATE DUE	DATE DUE
301.15	C3296	0701		220949	9 3452583543	3 03/23/66	301.152	H9868		301153	1632840000	03/22/66
301.15	C487P	004 T		157762			301.152	16782		404472		09/60/90
301.15	C487P	1956		30112		_	301.1522	M1 33 S		116613		03/23/66
301-15	C7125			686505	05989 3452583543		301.1523	07438		314788	1653490000	03/23/66
301.15	C 9795			319085	5 1638070000	00/10/100	301.1523	10179		283944		03/11/60
301.15	09215			129256		-	301.1523	M3811		294360		04/10/66
301.15	F932S			266730			301.153	8458C		230369		02/28/66
301.15	6227E			330979	ŝ	0.	301.153	0965		415904		03/14/66
301.15	H2745		ľ	251502	Z RESERVE	59/103/10	301.153	0965		415422	1654154000	03/16/66
201.15	13051			200781			101-105	02470		305005	1640794000	06/02/20
301.15	H763H			242822		11/03/65	301.154	L477H		209634		04/08/66
301.15	H7635			417266		02/15/66	301.154	56789		265965		04/01/66
301.15	K64W	1963		413306			301.15408	C554V		357110	-	04/01/66
301.15	K655	1954		266464		ŏ	301.155	6317L		315950	RESERVE	10/28/65
301.15	K921			358018	8 1613168000	U LERM	201.105	83661		343514	1.1.1.1	03/18/66
c1•10c				10100			331 100	10000		01001000		2
51.105	17544	-		747145			301.155	F828H		266794	BINDERY	99/27/10
301.15	L 754H	. 2		245475			301.155	66656		257890	~	TERM
301.15	M282M	1940		101845			301.155	G671L		364467		TERM
301.15	M679M			102686			301.155	G6985		194006	5462847122 03/20/66	03/20/66
301.15	R388A			413704	-	0.	301.155	G774E		360303	5462847122	03/20/66
<1.10E	K662M			664161	A DESERVE	59/60/11	CC1.106	91614		204602	10004220001	00/C2/C0
301.15	R662M			151457		11/04/65	301.155	H4915		180938	RESERVE	11/03/65
301.15	R662M			151458		11/04/65	301.155	H737L		404464	m	TERM
301.15	R662M			151459		02/09/66	301.155	H945C		229904	RESERVE	02/08/66
301.15	R662M			151554		11/04/65	301.155	154A		327659		03/17/66
301.15	R662M			261395		11/04/65	301.155	M787P		347878		TERM
21°106	K002M			261390	A RESERVE	11/04/65	201-105	17875		241430	3404323ULU 81N0FRV	02/21/66
301.15	H2628			344159	-		301.155	5469E		326802	~	TERM
301.15	54455			414474		_	301.155	5469L		288861		11/04/65
301.15	\$5520	1956		309550	-	-	301.155	S873M		268493	268493 1650814000	04/10/66
301.15	55520	1956		327210			301.155	N76H		230466	BINDERY	10/01/65
301.15	2000223			224666	1582350000	99/01/00 0	201-105	1407M		100002	1640808000	03/16/66
301.15	57929			266274	-		301.1583	H462H		300724	3464323010	TERM
301.15	U5755			299383	-		301.1583	S966W	1962	357805	3464323010	TERM
301.15	N297G			330480		5	301.1583	S977C		401920		TERM
301.15	W297G			330481			301.1583	T785C		247262	3464323010	TERM
301.15	W6290			276181			301.1583	17850		241263	3464323010	CT CT CT CT
301.15	N6290			281012		03/28/66	201.1584	HI41F		116162	RINDERY	02/01/10
301.15	N6290			411941			301.1584	H741E		394016	5457584057	03/19/66
301.15	Y735			83585.			301.1584	R643L		19161	3464323010	TERM
301.15	222C			405953	-		301.1584	R643P		264624	3464323010	TERM
301.1508	F771M			314315			301.1584	R659C		193535	3464323010 TERM	TERM
301.152	C6/8A H9866			301151	8 1613195000 1 3451265752	2 03/23/66	301.183	E85C		415233	RESERVE	00/10/10
301.152	H9868			301152			301.183	EASC		415234	RESERVE	01/04/66

Figure 5 Sample Page of List of Books in Circulation

186

	Messages
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ure	on S
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	Page
	Sample I

0		DAILY AU	DAILY AUTOMATED CIRCULATION STATISTICS	STATISTICS			M NO 1413	0
0	UNI VERSITY STUDENTS	UNIVERSITY FACULTY/STAFF	FACULTY/STAFF FAMILY	LOCAL AREA USERS	DTHER USERS	TDTAL		0
O CHARGES PROCESSED	292	11	0	44	0	413		0
O RETURNS PROCESSED	305	44	a	25	-	375		0
O BOOKS IN CIRCULATION	4=725	2.048	123	433	64			6*
0				•••• TDTAL CIRCULATION 7,393 ••••	ATION 7.	•••• 668		ŏ
0				IPLUS 5+385 LOCATION CMARGES	DCATEDN CH	ARGEST		0
O DVERDUE BODKS NOT RETO								0
O - FIRST NOTICE SENT	1	12	0	٥	0	13		0
- SECOND NOTICE SENT		I	0	0	0	4		c
- DVERDUE 30 DAYS PLUS		50	1	£	0	115		5
			_	6	0			
CIRC SYSTEM DIAGNOSTIC MESSAGES.	SAGES.				AS DF	AS DF 03/10/66	POBM IN	o" * "

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AS OF 03/10/66

TEXAS A+M UNIVEASITY LIBRARV

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O O	0 0	* *°	0	
CIRC SYSTEM DIAGMOSTIC MESSAGES. AS DF 03/10/66 AS THE CHARGE FILE AND PREPARING DVERDUE AND FINE MOTIONES.	WARNING - THE RECORD WAS PROCESSED AS INDICATED, BUT CORRECTION MAY BE MECESSARY.1 O_1^4 WARNING - THE RECORD RECEIVED NO FURTHER PROCESSING AND CORRECTIVE ACTION IS WEEDED.1 W DISASTER - MACHINE UMABLE TO COPE WITH SITUATION.1	UMRECOGNIZABLE DUE DATE IN RETURN CARD CARD TGNORED. CORRECT AND RESUMNIT. UTTEN'23475.* CALL ND-674	WWECCOCNIZALE DUE ONE IN RETURN CARD CARD IGNDRED, CORRECT AND RESUMNIT. UITEM 411442' CALL MO'913	LENDRED. CORRECT AND RESUBMIT.
CIRC SVSTEM DIAGMOSTIC MESSAGES. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS INDICATE PROBLEMS EMC	SEVERITY LEVEL PRECEDES EACH COMMENT. (WARNING (EROR (DISASTER	UNRECOGNIZABLE DUE DATE IN RETUI (IITEN'23475.º CALL NOº674	UNRECOCNIZABLE DUE DATE IN RETUR (ITEN*411462' CALL NO'813	
CIRC SYST THE FOLLD	SEVERITY	ERRDR	ERRDR	EPROP
0, 0	0 0	0	0	0

187

430	DUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE Following book is overdue at texas		0
en o	A+M UNIVERSITY MAIN LIBRARY. PLEASE PRESENT THIS NOTICE WHEN RETURNING BOOK.		0
0	CALL NUMBER		0
0	832G599FH		0
0	ITEM NO DATE DUE	6462846350	0
0	247710 12/01/65	MISS JEAN M MARTIN 210 FAIRWAY 8RYAN TEXAS	0
	(NOT RETURNED AS OF 12/08/65)	UNIAN TEXAS	0
0			0
0	OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE		0-
0	FOLLOWING BOOK WAS RETURNED 9 DAYS OVEROUE AT THE TEXAS A+M UNIVERSITY MAIN LIBRARY. YOUR DELINQUENT FINE IS \$2.25.		0
0	CALL NUMBER		0
0	949.5F688		0
0	ITEM NO OATE OUE DATE RETO		0
0	PLEASE CONTACT THE MAIN LIBRARY	638202	0
-	CIRCULATION DESK IN ORDER THAT WE MAY RESOLVE THIS MATTER TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL CONCERNED.	MR RICHARD A JOHNSON 2801 N HWY 6	
0	UNPAID FINES ARE BILLED THROUGH THE FISCAL UFFICE FOR COLLECTION.	BRYAN TEXAS	0
0			0
0	OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE FOLLOWING BOOK WAS RETURNED 9 DAYS OVERDUE AT THE TEXAS A+M UNIVERSITY MAIN	••• FILE COPY •*•	0
0	LIBRARY. YOUR DELINQUENT FINE IS \$2.25.		0
0	CALL NUMBER 949-5F688		0
0	ITEM ND DATE DUE DATE RETD		0
v	21177. 11/29/65 12/08/65		Ŭ
0	PLEASE CONTACT THE MAIN LIBRARY CIRCULATION DESK IN DROER THAT WE	638202	0
0	MAY RESOLVE THIS MATTER TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL CONCERNED. UNPAID FINES ARE BILLED THROUGH	MR RICHARD A JDHNSDN 2801 N HWY 6 BRYAN TEXAS	0
0	THE FISCAL OFFICE FOR COLLECTION.	DRIAN TEAAS	0

Figure 7 Sample Page of Overdue Notices Prepared by the Computer

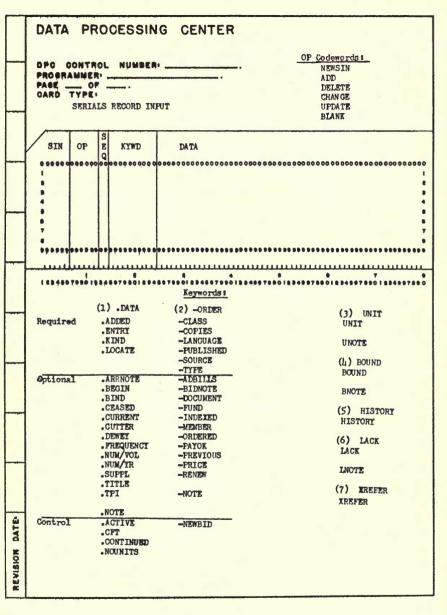


Figure 8 Format for keypunching the Serials Record Input

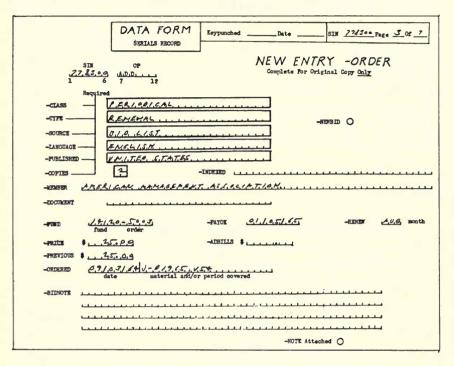


Figure 9 Form for Preparing Serials Record Input

107840NEWSIN		
107840ADD	XREFER	AMERICAN MANAGEMENT REVIEW. SEE MANAGEMENT REVIEW.S
108350NEWSIN		ACCOUNTION OF CORRECTION TRAINING AND STAN OFF
108350A00	1XREFER	ASSOCIATION OF CORPORATION TRAINING. BULLETIN. SEE
108350ADD	2XREFER	MANAGEMENT REVIEW.\$
23835ONEWSIN		
238350A0D	XREFER	CORPORATION TRAINING. SEE MANAGEMENT REVIEW.\$
LJUJJUAUU	ANELEN	
784350NEWSIN		
784350ADD	IXREFER	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CORPORATION SCHODLS. BULLETIN.
784350ADD	2XREFER	SEE MANAGEMENT REVIEW.\$
865450NEWSIN		
865450ADD	XREFER	PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION. SEE MANAGEMENT REVIEW.\$
778300NEWSIN		
778300A0D	.ACTIVE	s
778300AD0	ADDED	JAN65\$
778300A0D	.8EGIN	JANS
778300A0D	.BIND	00100000000\$
778300ADD	.CURRENT	V54N1Y1965\$
778300ADD	.CUTTER	M266\$
778300A0D	.DEWEY	650.5\$
778300ADD	.ENTRY	MANAGEMENT REVIEW.S
778300ADD .	.FREQUENC	YREG1111111111111
778300ADD	.KIND	OKIGINAL\$
778300ADD	.LOCATE	H-SS\$
778300ADD	.NUM/VOL	12.
778300ADD	.NUM/YR	125
778300ADD	.TPI	SEPDEC\$
778300ADD	-CLASS -COPIES	PERIODICALS
778300ADD	-FUND	14120-5003\$
778300ADD	-LANGUAGE	
778300ADD	-MEMBER	AMERICAN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS
778300A0D	-ORDERED	09/03/64J-01965,V54\$
778300ADD	-PAYDK	01/05/65\$.
778300ADD	-PREVIDUS	25.00\$
778300A00	-PRICE	25.00\$
778300A00		DUNITED STATESS
778300ADD	-RENEW	AUG \$
778300ADD	- SOURCE	BID LISTS
778300ADD	-TYPE	RENEWALS
778300ADD	BOUND	25831V1;1914\$ 25832V2;1915\$
778300ADD 778300ADD	BOUND	25833V3,1916\$
778300ADD	BOUND	25834V4,1917\$
778300A00	BOUND	154352V5,1918\$
778300ADD	BOUND	154353V6,19195
778300A0D	BOUND	154230V7,1920\$
778300ADD	BOUND	154231V8,1921\$
778300ADD	BOUND	375602V9-12,1922-23\$
778300ADD	BOUND	243104V13,1924\$
778300ADD	BOUND	243105V15,1926\$
778300ADD	BOUND	243106V18,1929\$
778300ADD	BOUND	243107V20,1931\$
778300ADD	BOUND	154354V21,1932\$
778300A00	BOUNO	154355V22+1933\$
778300ADD	BOUND	154356V23,1934\$

Figure 10 Sample Page of Entries in the Serial Record

BOUND HOLDINGS

650.5 M266		
HISTORY	V1-7N8,1914-AUG1920 AS NATI	NAL ASSOCIATION DE
HISTORY		ETIN. V7N9-V8, SEP1920-JAN1922 AS
		CORPORATION TRAINING.BULLETIN.
		ATION TRAINING. VIO-11.MAY1922-
		INISTRATION. V12-14, APR1923-DEC
	1925 AS AMERICAN MANAGEM	ENT REVIEW.
BOUND	25831 V1,1914	154360 V29,1940
	25832 V2,1915	295913 V30,1941
	25833 V3,1916	295912 V32,1943
	25834 V4,1917	176760 V33,1944
	154352 V5,1918	243143 V34,1945
	154353 V6,1919	295911 V35,1946
	154230 V7,1920	225311 V36,1947
	154231 V8,1921	216622 V37, 1948
	375602 V9-12,1922-23	216623 V38,1949
	243104 V13,1924	243108 V39,1950
	243105 V15,1926	224965 V40,1951
	243106 V18,1929	224966 V41,1952
	243107 V20,1931	243109 V42,1953
	154354 V21,1932	344483 V43,1954
	154355 V22,1933	341556 V44,1955
	154356 V23:1934	341557 V45,1956
	154357 V24,1935	304755 V46,1957
	176761 V25,1936	341558 V47,1958
	295888 V26,1937	341559 V48,1959
	154358 V27,1938	341560 V49,1960 502564 V50,1961
	154359 V28,1939	102 104 41011101
		586431 V51,1962

Figure 11 Sample Page of the Bound Holdings File

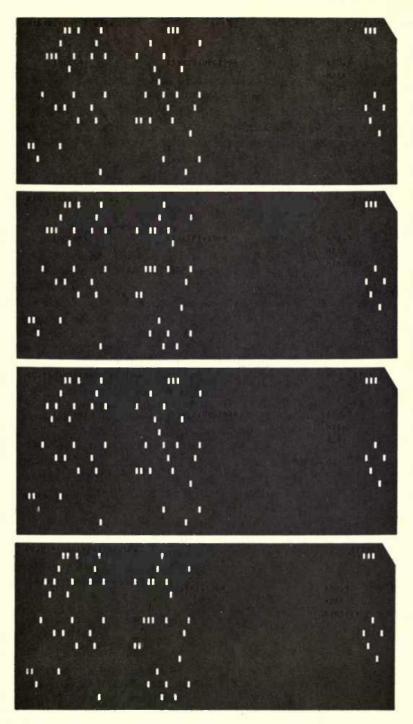


Figure 12 Examples of Arrival Cards for Two Copies of a Serial, with Separate Volume Indexes

	TEXAS A+M UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PERIDDICAL LIST	FEED
	02/14/66	
636.505/H361	FEED AND FARM SUPPLIER	630
636.08505/F295	FEED BAG	630
636.08505/F2957	FEEDS ILLUSTRATED	630
658.93305/F295	FEEDSTUFFS	650
	FELSMECHANIK UND INGENIEURGEDLDGIE	EL
631.805/F411	FERTILISER NEWS	630
616.6905/F411	FERTILITY AND STERILITY	610
	FERTILITY AND STERILITY	VET
665.05/F421	FETTE-SEIFEN-ANSTRICHMITTEL	660
512.8105/F443	FIBDNACCI QUARTERLY	510
677.05/F443	FIBRE AND FABRIC	670
	FICHERD BIBLIOGRAFICD HISPANDAMERICAND	REF
799.05/F453	FIELD AND STREAM	700
633.205/C734F	FIELD CRDP ABSTRACTS	REF
791.4305/F487	FILMFACTS	REF 330
332.6305/A532	FINANCIAL ANALYSTS JOURNAL	
332.05/F491	FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE	BA 330
332+03/1491	FINANCIAL WORLD	BA
	FINANCIAL WUKLD	370
	FINISHING ABSTRACTS	EL
551.4606/F511M	FINLAND. HAVSFDRSKNINGSINSTITUT.	
JJ1.4000/1 J11.	MERENTUTKIMUSLAITOKSEN	
	FIRE ENGINEERING	EL
	FIRE RESEARCH ABSTRACTS AND REVIEWS	EL
812.05/F527	FIRST STAGE - A QUARTERLY OF NEW DRAMA	800
639.205/F537	FISHERIES NEWSLETTER	630
	FLEET OWNER	EL
664.905/F596	DIE FLEISCHWIRTSCHAFT	660
	FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL	EL
	FLIGHT MAGAZINE	EL
580.5/F632	FLDRA	580
378.759/F63S	FLORIDA. STATE UNIVERSITY, TALLAHASSEE. RESEARCH	
	COUNCIL. FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDIES	
506/F636J	FLORIDA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. QUARTERLY JOURNAL	500
	FLORIDA ENGINEERING SOCIETY. JOURNAL	EL
595.705/F636	FLORIDA ENTOMOLOGIST	590
630.5/F63B	FLORIDA GROWER AND RANCHER	630
570.8/F6368	FLORIDA. UNIVERSITY, GAINESVILLE. STATE MUSEUM.	570
	BULLETIN	
639.105/F636	FLORIDA WILDLIFE	630
135 005 15444	FLOW LINE	EL
635.905/F644	FLOWER GROWER	630
	FLUID HANDLING	EL
050/5/53	FLYING	EL 050
05D/F652	FDCUS (AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SDCIETY)	
574.05/F665	FDCUS (CONFERENCE BOARD)	8A 570
	FOLIA BIDLOGICA	
612.105/F665 398.05/F666	FOLIA HAEMATOLDGICA FOLK-LORE (FOLKLORE SOCIETY, LONDON)	610
398.05/F666F	FDLK-LDRE (FULKLOKE SUCIEIY, LUNDON)	390
784.405/F666	FOLKLORE AND FOLK MUSIC ARCHIVIST	700
398.05/F666J	FOLKLORE INSTITUTE. JOURNAL	390
338.105/F636	FODD AND AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION	330
338.10611/U5755D	FODD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED	550
338-10011/03/330	NATIONS. FAD AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PAPER	

Figure 13 Sample Page of the Current Periodicals Subscription List