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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ESTABLISHMENTS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN LAUSANNE

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My talk will deal with the possibilities of cooperation, the actual situation
and the limits it imposes. We shall then examine possible developments and
see how far that cooperation can be extended and where its limits lie. We
will then see what possible benefits might accrue.

The study was undertaken under a mandate of a meeting of the governing bodies
of both establishments, the rectorate of the university and the presidency of
the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne.

To put you in the picture of the situation let me describe to you quickly
first of all the activities of the two universities, both of which are in
the throes of moving onto new adjacent campuses on the outskirts of town.

Lausanne University is a full university with facuties of humanities, social
sciences, medicine, life sciences and exact sciences which has in addition
a certain number of specialized schools notably pharmacology, criminology
and comparative law.

The Federal Institute of Technology has 10 departments comprising civil
engineering, surveying, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering,
physics, chemistry, mathematics, materials science, architecture and micro-
engineering. In addition it has attached a certain number of specialized
chairs or institutes of which one can mention the chair of pedagogy and
didactics and the center for plasma physics research. It has virtually no
life sciences.

The university library is at the same time the cantonal library and as such
is the sole copyright library in Switzerland, the canton of Vaud being the
only Swiss canton to have a copyright law. It is only the university book
collections that will move to the new campus, the cantonal collections
staying in town, at the old site in a splendid old building. This building
is the old university, which beautiful. though it is, is totally unadapted
to the role of a rapid circulation system and open stacks which is the lot
of a modern university library. Its book stock is well over 1 million books,
it has a staff of over 60 persons and its purchasing, cataloguing and circu-
lation are computerised by the now well known SIBIL system. Those of you
who came to Lausanne for the 1976 IFLA meeting will have had a chance of
seeing it. Its move to the new campus is planned for 1982 although the
humanities library has already moved to the new site in 1977.

Our technical library is infinitely more modest, as what became the Swiss
Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne (Ecole polytechnique fédérale
de Lausanne) was until 1969 known as the EPUL (Ecole polytechnique uni-

versitaire de Lausanne i.e. the Institute of Technology of Lausanne University). Our collections comprise a mere 250'000 books, we have a staff of just less than 20 and our systems are simply manual. Whereas the university has some 90'000 circulation transactions per year ours are of the order of 25'000 counting consultations, local loans and interlibrary lending.

Let us now look at the areas in which we can cooperate. From the librarians point of view obviously in :

- acquisitions
- cataloguing
- circulation

From the subject matter point of view there are some overlaps in physics, chemistry, mathematics, history of art and perhaps certain aspects of medicine. This is obvious in the first semesters of study which are in part undertaken together by the university and technology students; it is far less evident in the later semesters when the specialities diverge more strongly and it is virtually impossible at post graduate and PhD levels. The reason being that the university tends more towards the theoretical approach whereas the engineers tend more towards the applications. Taking the example of chemists: the university chemists tend to go towards organic chemistry whereas ours specialize in physical chemistry, chemical engineering and analytical chemistry. There is one common institute which deals with radiation and electron chemistry.

Before proceeding to examine the librarianship aspects of the cooperation let me say that there is a number of institute libraries at the Institute of Technology, which although we help to organize them from the point of view of cataloguing and indexing we have no say in their acquisitions or of disposal of the funds for book purchasing.

There is another point to mention, the principal inter-library loans partner for us at the Institute of Technology is our sister organisation The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich or the ETHZ (Eidgenössische technische Hochschule Zürich) which is world renowned. Their collections comprise over 2 million books and nearly 20'000 periodicals and their role is to be the national technological library of Switzerland.

Notwithstand all this we have examined with my colleague Mr. P. Gavin, the assistant director of the University Library, not where there were divergencies, but rather points of common interest from which cooperation could be started and later increased.

Let us now look at the current situation of acquisitions : there is no common ground and no cooperation in any shape or form at present. Except perhaps such costly books as Beilstein. It is also obvious that in specific disciplines eg. theology and mechanical engineering no common ground will ever exist. No Deus ex machina can intervene here.

For disciplines taught at both establishments eg. chemistry, physics and mathematics purchasing of the same copies at both places may be not only justifiable but necessary. The time spent examining each case may be costlier than the savings.

The main point of action then would seem to be periodicals. They are costly in that they represent an long term engagement in subscriptions, bookbinding costs and administrative handling. An essential prerequisite to this would be to establish a policy and be able to enforce this at the Institute of Technology obliging individual chairs not to take out their own subscriptions as it would be nonsense to economise between the University Library and our own yet admit multiple subscriptions within our own sphere. Our study has lead us to make some spotchecks, which however for the moment are inconclusive, a more detailed study being necessary.

What of the future? A systematic coordination is virtually impossible with the present system which would require the circulation of lists or regular meetings to be effective. No one can spare the time for this.

If however the two libraries shared a common automated system then a regular consultation to avoid a double subscription becomes a routine on-line check. In fact the University Library has already with the help of SIBIL achieved considerable savings by eliminating subscriptions common to the faculties of law, economics, geography, English and German. This is a direct result of a common catalog file on the computer for existing subscriptions, new orders are routinely checked. A prerequisite is of course that the peripheral libraries are incorporated in the automation system.

We now come to the question of circulation. Let me say that the rule my predecessor favoured was to not have inter-library loans within the town. Her contention was that a bus fare spent by the user was cheaper and quicker than the administrative expense and effort of sending the book across town. Today we must be service conscious and we do speak to our local partners who play the game very well with us.

Inter-library loans function well, not to say very well, in Switzerland. The king pins of the system in a union catalogue of books and a list of periodicals both of which are kept and maintained up to date by the Swiss National Library at Berne.

Both the University Library and the Library of the Institute of Technology participate in the Union catalogue and in the Inter-library lending. There is therefore no obstacle to cooperation now. And I may say that the system works. It works because the University library catalogue is on microfiche of which we have a copy (up-dated every six months) and our loans slips are marked with the University Library call number, which makes this all the easier. The same applies to our call for books from the ETH to whom about 85 % of our requests are addressed.

Should our purchasing however become shared then this traffic could increase substantially in the disciplines mentioned and a van shuttle service might be justified. However before envisaging such a step one technical requisite ought to be realized.

- a common automated catalogue which would allow the reader to :

-- find out in which library his book is sited and secondly

-- its availability status i.e. is it already on loan, at the bookbinders etc.

In this way the user could be prevented from unnecessary trips, waiting or annoyance.

I would like to make a small digression now to a point of interest which has no direct bearing on the subject we are examining here : It is that the ETH, our main interlending partner also is automated and issues its catalog in the form of COM microfiche. The matter however does not stop there. As of the 17th May 1979 the ETH has made its lending file directly accessible to its users and we are currently ordering our books from there not by mail, but by terminal, which represents a considerable saving in time and effort for our staff.

I am mentioning this as a tribute to the pioneering work of my friend and colleague Dr. J.-P. Sydler whom you all know and who has done a great deal to modernise library administration in Switzerland and to whom I also owe a debt of gratitude in many other ways. I am taking the opportunity to thank him publicly in a forum that I consider particularly appropriate for such an occasion, to wit IATUL, since we are both technical librarians.

The digression closed let us return to our examination of the scene in Lausanne. To make this lending effective apart from the technical conditions a policy matter must also be settled and that is that all libraries concerned including the "peripheral" libraries must participate in this scheme. It goes without saying that small "peripheral" libraries cannot be forced to lend to just anyone, but their books must be in the common catalogue and they must agree at least to consultation of their collections on their premises. This condition is fullfilled to a very great extent at the Institute of Technology, but somewhat less at the University. If this condition is not fullfilled, then there is no longer reciprocity and the scheme cannot be implemented. This is liable to be the most difficult point on which to get agreement in view of the large number of varying partners that must be consulted and convinced.

We now come to the central point of the entire scheme which is the question of cataloguing.

In 1977 the Association of Swiss Librarians issued their Magnum Opus which is a treatise dealing with the way the ISBD is to be applied in Swiss Libraries. The University Library has been using ISBD since well before 1976, basing its application on provisional rules and bringing them up to date as new versions were issued. We changed over manually as of January 1978, and this I may say not without a good deal of problems in our small team. This step at each of the libraries means that the fundamental prerequisite of an identity of cataloguing rules is satisfied. If we have any doubtful cases we apply the University Library solution.

We are as yet not on the computer and current austerity measures may put this application some years away. The University Library has at present some 180'000 items catalogued by computer covering a whole or a part of their own collections, those of the Faculty of Letters, of the School of Business Administration and of the Faculty of Physics.

The idea of the University Library is to work towards a centralised machine configuration i.e. all the partners work on the same CPU (Central Processing Unit) while having various forms of terminals and peripherals on their own site accessible on-/off-line. Such partners could be major peripheral libraries as well as the Library of Medicine which is a substantial unit of its own.

The heart of the scheme is the centralized union catalogue.

While such a scheme may be too cumbersome nation wide it has its advantages on a regional level :

- a single union catalogue puts a maximum of information within the users' reach, while

- requiring the administration of only a single computer center both from the point of view hardware and of software.

This means software improvements (or problems) have an immediate effect on all users, there is no superfluous information stored; only one file, albeit a big one, is consulted, and consulted exhaustively; and the potential pitfall of gradual divergence of different systems is completely eliminated.

If we agree to this development and partake in this system a unified doctrine is assured in our region and re-development of yet another set of programs is obviated.

While agreeing with these principles we have not yet committed ourselves formally, but morally. We have however certain conditions to put to our, so to speak, Senior partners :

1) We want to be consulted over developments so as not to be surprised over costs and in order to be able to have our needs met.

   The reason for this is that we have somewhat divergent views over hardware which we can discuss later.

2) We want to be kept aware of studies being undertaken for the pruchase of hardware (scheduled for 1982) by the University Library for the same reasons.

3) Last but not least we want costs to be as low as possible compatible with high quality service.

The SIBIL is at present programmed in PL/1. This is an IBM language part of which is inherent in IBM hardware. The system is currently running in a time sharing mode or an IBM computer belonging to the cantonal authorities. The library share the computer with the cantonal accounts, to cantonal revenue authorities and several polices files, the busiest of which is vehicle registration. Some of the files have higher and consequently conflicting priorities on the computer. Hence the desire of the library to have its own computer as of 1982 when waiting time is expected to become intolerable for on-line use.

Concerning the new hardware we are confronted with the following alternatives :

1) SIBIL is put onto a new IBM computer. Advantages: reloading onto a fully compatible if not identical hardware; no conversion problems. Simplest from the administrative point of view.

   Disadvantages : The relatively higher costs of IBM hardware at present.

2) Transfer of SIBIL onto non-IBM yet completely compatible hardware. This
   solution still provides a certain amount of risk of the unexpected.

3) Transfer of SIBIL onto hardware other than IBM without considerations
   of compatibility. Problem : The reprogramming involved is difficult to
   estimate and even more difficult to weight its costs against possible
   savings.

4) The reprogramming of the entire system to suit very advantageous hard-
   ware offers that might arise.

It is as yet too early to choose any of the alternatives listed and only time
will tell which solution will be adopted in view of the conditions prevailing
at the time when the choice must be made.

To say how the Institute of Technology Library can be integrated into SIBIL
is as yet uncertain. What is certain is that it must be done step by step.
There is also no doubt that new books must be given priority. The question
of how far we can rework our old catalog remains open.

Our biggest problem is without a doubt personnel. Consequently we are not
certain how we should do our cataloguing in the future. The following courses
are open to us for creating the input :

a) with our own staff on our own equipment. To this end we must face the
   following costs :

   - hardware : purchase or leasing

   - maintenance

   - personnel

   - space

   We would have to bear all these costs.

b) Using the University Library as a full service bureau. We would then
   pay them per bibliographic unit of input.

c) Our staff using a University Library machine on their premises. Method
   of changing not determined.

d) Our staff sharing a suitable and compatible input machine with another
   user at the Institute of Technology.

   Question as yet completely open.

As you can see we have looked at these possibilities from the qualitative
point of view and we shall now have to quantify them. We are still a long
way from being able to take firm decisions and the University is only one
of the partners with whom we are discussing automation.

Before however drawing conclusions I would just like to mention a few
improvements that we expect from SIBIL, which is a system that has not yet
reached the apogee of its development.

The creators of SIBIL know that :

- there is a number of modules that must still be created.

- there are programs which are and will continue to be adjusted, corrected modified and improved.

- certain conceptual faults exist. They will be eliminated in due course.

New developments that are planned are :

- on-line updating of the order file.

- on-line correction of the catalogue

- cross-references of subject headings

- on-line access to subject headings (not UDC)

- automated ordering from closed stacks

- use of MARC tapes for cataloguing

- subject searching by Boolean logic

- use of on-line terminals by users

- control of current serials and periodicals

- etc., etc.

Now for the conclusion that may be drawn. It is not new to those who know the OCLC system. And we have proved it to ourselves all over again, to our entire satisfaction :

> Really close library cooperation is facilitated and in fact only possible with the help of a good, sound and reliable computerised system.

The problems that remain are those of obtaining the necessary human and material resources. The benefits that accrue must be shown to be such that even in times of austerity the authorities cannot refuse to provide the necessary means otherwise all the foregoing plans will remain but pious hopes.

DISCUSSION

Mr. C.G. Wood: Did this set of cooperative proposals derive from <u>voluntary</u> agreement to proceed?

Tanzer: Informal talks had been held over a previous period. The matter came to a head with the formalized request for a report from the libraries concerned.