ABSTRACTS

The following abstracts are based on those prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, School of Education, Syracuse University.

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Reports on various ARL projects and activities are included. Appendixes provide ARL membership data, the report of the ARL task force on national library network development, the national interlibrary loan code, the auditor's report, and a summary of the Office of Management Studies annual report.


Described in terms of their objectives and their continuing validity and responsiveness to current developments, the United States information policies presented in this paper form the principles upon which the United States generally approaches international information policy issues. The various aspects of U.S. information policy that are discussed fall into two broad categories: the legal foundations of information dissemination and access, and the economics and management of information.


The online catalog discussed in this report extends the present microfiche union catalog development by providing online access to bibliographic records for the holdings of the University of California Libraries. The specifications for the user interface through which the library patron communicates with the online systems to locate materials are outlined, and the catalog's searching capabilities, display options, user information components, help facility, nonautomated aids, terminals, consultation ability, and evaluation mechanisms are described. The report also examines the design criteria for the patron interface, the human-machine dialogue, the search component,

This report describes project activities designed to identify the critical issues and problems in designing and developing library bibliographic retrieval systems for direct patron use. The results of a survey, an issues analysis paper, and a working session indicate four priority areas for study and action: user and use characteristics, interface characteristics, the library environment, and the computing environment. Recommendations made by the working-session participants highlight the consensus of their concerns—the analysis of user requirements and behavior, the monitoring of existing public access systems, the development of materials for cost management, and the development of distributed computing and system links. A summary and analysis of participant-developed definitions of an online catalog, a summary of existing and developing systems, and detailed tabulations are appended.

A Report on the State University of New York Budget Development—Preparation Process, with Focus on the Four-Year College Library. By Peter P. Olevnik. State University of New York, College at Brockport. 1979. 24p. ED 195 281. MF—$0.83; PC not available from EDRS.

This paper provides background information for SUNY librarians, in particular those in the four-year colleges, concerning the budget preparation—implementation process. Included is a step-by-step summary of that process, in the form of timetables illustrating the interrelationships among the executive and legislative units of state government, SUNY Central Office, local campus administration, local campus departments, and other separately funded units; and the relationship between the local campus administration and the local campus library.

Linking the Bibliographic Utilities: Benefits and Costs. Technical Report. By Donald A. Smalley and others. Columbus Laboratories, Battelle Memorial Institute, Columb-
This study of the benefits, methods, and costs of linking two or more bibliographic utilities for use by public and academic libraries assessed the impact of linking on three distinct areas of library operations: shared cataloging, interlibrary loan, and reference searching. The analysis was restricted to bibliographic records for monographs in OCLC, RLG/RLIN, WLN, and Library of Congress databases. The findings and analyses of data are presented in two parts. The effects of linking on libraries and their patrons are discussed, and detailed analyses of the benefits of linking are provided for each of the three areas studied in the first part. The second focuses on the technical requirements for establishing a link, and three promising alternatives are identified: tape exchange of requested records, online access using the "native mode" of the linked utility, and online access with automatic translation of searches and responses. Requirements for developing each of these alternatives are described and comparisons are made. A summary of conclusions and recommendations concludes the report. Appendices include supporting data, a glossary, more detailed discussions of several topics, and a summary description of the BIBLINK model. A bibliography and several reference lists are provided.


This document establishes the context, summarizes the contents, and discusses the Battelle technical report, noting certain constraints of the study. Further steps for the linking of bibliographic databases for use by academic and public libraries are suggested.

Committee on Library Orientation Report to the Directors Council Library Sign System. By Linda Lester and others. University of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1980. 21p. ED 196 452. MF—$0.83; PC—$1.82.

This report by the Committee on Library Orientation at the University of Virginia reviews the need for a unified, well-designed sign system to assist users of the university libraries, and discusses the categories and functions of such signs as identified in the relevant literature. A discussion of the current situation at the university and problem areas revealed by a survey of existing signs leads to recommendations for the development of an improved sign system. Specific recommendations are concerned with the types of signs to be used—orientation, directional, identification (both interior and exterior), conditional and regulatory, instructional and current awareness—and the process of implementation and installation, including services to be provided by a design consultant, priorities for installation, and the provision of an in-house facility for sign production. A list of references and a copy of the survey form for existing signs are attached.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS


Biography and Genealogy Master Index: A Consolidated Index to More Than 3,200,000 Biographical Sketches in Over 350 Current and Retrospective Biographical Dictionaries. 2d ed. Ed. by Miranda C. Herbert and Barbara McNeil. Gale Biographical Index Series, no.1. Detroit:
Canadian Books. in
"The purpose of DEH Review is to identify and evaluate English-language references of potential value to translators, bilingual lexicographers, terminologists, and other language specialists."
Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centers. 6th ed. in 3v. Ed. by Margaret L.


Spec Kit #73: External User Services. Washington, D.C.: ARL Office of Management Studies, 1981. 112p. $15 prepaid, plus $2 per order handling charge. (Contains six examples of general access policies, three documents on reference service, five examples of circulation policies, and four cooperative agreements.)
