

JWL RECEIVES GRANT TO INSTALL COMMUNICATION STANDARD

A special grant of approximately \$20,000 from the federal government has enabled James White Library to integrate a worldwide communications standard with its Innopac system. Officially known as the Z39.50, this protocol standardizes communication between diverse library systems, allowing them to operate seamlessly despite differences in operating systems, search engines, and databases.

The grant is sufficient to allow James White Library to install both the client and server modules for Z39.50 communication. This means that not only can an Andrews student or teacher use the system to search the online catalogs of other libraries, but individuals in those libraries can receive the same benefit when they search the catalog of James White Library. Increasing numbers of academic libraries are installing Z39.50 web servers, and the Library of Congress has been compliant with the standard for several years.

The Z39.50 Information Retrieval Standard began as a means for libraries to share cataloging data in the form of MARC records, and eventually expanded to include many types of shared databases and formats. With this standard for client/server, it does not matter if libraries are running different machines with different operating systems – it allows sites to search local databases and remote databases using a single interface, and to link seamlessly to other online library catalogs. For Andrews, it means that our users need only know the familiar Innopac set of commands when searching local or remote databases.

As more and more libraries become Z39.50 enabled, there will be a variety of benefits to inter-library communication:

- Online catalogs, both local and remote, can be accessed in one single search;
- Cataloging is enhanced, as bibliographic record sourcing is less complex;
- Interlibrary Loan is simplified because search and order becomes a one-step process;
- Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) can be set up, searches run automatically on a number of sites, and the results sent to a specific destination.

Funding for Z39.50 came through a new federal program – the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) – administered as a subgrant program by the Library of Michigan.

LIBRARY COUNCIL APPROVES ALLOCATION SYSTEM

After more than two years of study, the James White Library Council in November voted implementation of a complex formula for the allocation of the annual book budget. The new formula has already been applied to the current 1998-99 budget.

The formula incorporates several elements that are relevant to the allocation of library book funds between the five schools of the University and the Division of Architecture. The elements include, for each school: number of FTE faculty, percentage of undergraduate credits taken, number of graduate programs supported, and the existence of doctoral programs.

Development of the formula was complicated because there are two distinct sources of funds for the library book budget. The university's

general appropriation is designed to support all programs, while a special General Conference appropriation is designated specifically for Seminary and Graduate books.

While there is broad agreement on the new formula, its application at the department level produces some problems where there are overlapping and interdisciplinary graduate programs. Some fine-tuning is likely when the James White Library Council reviews it this spring.

NEW WORKSTATION FOR DISABLED

Thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Ellsworth McKee of Collegedale, Tennessee, the James White Library is in the process of setting up a state-of-the-art workstation for individuals with sight and reading disabilities.

To be located in the Multimedia Center on the top floor of James White Library, the special workstation will consist of a computer with a 21-inch monitor, a Kurzweil combination reader/scanner, a CCTV Camera, and several software packages. Other hardware and software may be added as needed.

For more information, contact Jess Oliver at 6259.

TASK FORCE ON DISTANCE LEARNING SUPPORT

At its meeting on January 26, the Library Faculty Council voted the establishment of a small Task Force to study all aspects of the library's support for distance learning programs of Andrews University. Members of the Task Force are Keith Clouten (chair), Cynthia Helms, Terry Robertson, and Steve Sowder.

The Task Force will review the wide-ranging off-campus programs of Andrews University and see how the James White Library can provide an appropriate level of service for each one. Of particular interest is the recently published *ACRL Guidelines for Distance Learning Library Services* which defines distance education from a library perspective and sets standards for

library support, ranging all the way from traditional loan of books by mail to sophisticated electronic services. The latter include web access to full-text resources, provision of rapid document delivery, telephone and e-mail reference service, basic technical support to remote users, and bibliographic instruction via the Internet.

Particular issues that need to be addressed include re-negotiating database licenses to allow off-campus access, authentication of users, and serving students in far-away environments where communication infrastructures are limited and expensive.

There is also the issue of budget for staff support and to meet increased database license fees. Experience in other academic settings has shown that whereas the overall cost of distance learning programs is less per student than are traditional campus programs, exactly the reverse is true when it comes to library support. On-campus users come to the library building, find their own books, make their own photocopies, search databases with minimum help, and so on. Distance learners can do none of those things, so the library staff have to take on an additional workload to provide basic services.

Andrews distance education programs at the present time include the Cantor and doctoral leadership programs of the School of Education, off-campus elements of the Seminary's Master of Divinity program, off-site nursing education programs, School of Business extension programs, ADRA / MSA programs at four global sites, Andrews programs on affiliated campuses around the world, and the Home Study Institute programs. These diverse programs need varying degrees of library support.

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