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# EDITORIAL

Automation is certainly no stranger to Indiana libraries. As early as 1962 Purdue University was designing an automated serials control system. The Indiana Union List of Serials, first published in 1972 was one of the earliest union lists in the country. The Indiana Cooperative Library Services (INCOLSA) has been a model for state-wide automation coordination and on-line cataloging support. Several people having national recognition in the area of library automation have had a "Hoosier Connection." Don Hammer, Executive Secretary of LITA, the Library and Information Technology Division of the American Library Association was the first Head of Systems Development at Purdue University. Miriam Drake, Assistant Director of Libraries at Purdue is Chairman of the Board of Trustees at OCLC, Inc. Barbara Markuson, Executive Director at INCOLSA, has been a national authority on automation and networking and was instrumental in developing automation at the Library of Congress.

This is somewhat remarkable considering Indiana is primarily an agricultural state with few large cities and few large libraries. Only six cities have a population over 100,000. Only fifteen libraries have collections in excess of 300,000 volumes. In fact James Rush noted in his report on Indiana libraries that half of the population of the state is served by libraries with collections averaging less than 75,000 volumes.

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In spite of this, nearly ninety libraries are currently doing on-line input of cataloging data through OCLC. A number of Indiana libraries have installed or are planning to install on-line turnkey circulation systems. Numerous automation projects are underway in university libraries in the state with some crystal ball gazing into the possibilities of joint development of an integrated library system.

Debora Shaw, better known in these parts as "Ralf," gives a good overview of library automation in general with some special attention to the "Hoosier Connection."

The Indiana State Library, in a key position both geographically and politically, has taken an active role in automation efforts within the state. While they are well on their way in planning a major system they also offer several automated services. Ed Stockey, Head of the Data Services Division describes one of those services in this issue.

Indiana has a number of corporate and special libraries. Often these libraries require record structures and services that differ from traditional library practices. JoAnn Brooks and Leota Boeson of Vocational Education Services at Indiana University, Bloomington describe such a system. A feature of particular interest is the successful use of a general data base management system in a library information center environment.

This only scratches the surface of automation in Indiana. The professional library organizations within the state all have strong automation divisions. Each of them sponsor at least one meeting per year at which progress reports are given and a forum for idea exchange is provided. The Indiana Library Association has a division called Library Automation and Technology. It sponsors programs at the annual ILA meeting and cosponsors workshops during the year. The American Society for Information Science (ASIS) has an Indiana Chapter that sponsors regular programs and workshops, most of which are automation oriented. The Special Library Association has a Technology Division. The Indiana SLA Chapter often jointly sponsors automation related workshops within the state.

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