Library Technology, Gadgets & Paraphernalia: A Briefe Historie

Compiled by Karen Schmidt
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Relax, and go back to a time when Men were Men…
A Group of Librarians, Narraganesett Pier, Rhode Island
And Women were...

um....

well.....
Filing as a profession for women

Library Bureau

BOSTON • NEW YORK • PHILADELPHIA • CHICAGO
Salesrooms in Leading Cities of the United States
Great Britain and France
1919
“Now that’s an efficient way to order books.”

That’s what librarians are saying about Demco’s newly-designed 5-part Multiple Copy Order Form. One typing gives copies for ordering, library, notification, accounting and temporary shell card and reduces chance for error. Even, pica spacing eliminates the need for “soft rolling” the typewriter between lines. Saves time! Class name and author name appear at the top of each form. Speeds filing! The reduced height makes “temporary catalog card copy” filing much easier and all data is arranged to match Demco’s new book order cards for quick, accurate transfer of information.

Want more information? Send for “Catalog Brochure #30” and free samples today. Learn how completely new Demco book order forms... or custom forms designed to meet your special requirements... can help your staff maintain peak efficiency.

Remember the joys of five part multi-copy order forms..... the smears, the illegible 5th copy?
GUESS WHICH ONE IS THE VENDOR?

1961 - DODGE CITY MAYOR AND ACTORS & LIBRARIAN WITH THE GAYLORD AUTOMATIC CHARGE MACHINE
acquisitions and other technical services bill payments were handled by accessioning lists
The ca. 1900 Bates Stamp

Lovingly referred to at Illinois as the “NORMAN BATES” stamp…
Early in our profession, recipes for making pastes were part of library training and included combining arsenic as well as other ingredients that attracted bugs and mold, and caused paper deterioration.

AGOKEE WAS AN IMPORTANT ADVANCE
SPACE AGE ALUMINUM AND HI-TECH ENGINEERING
FROM THE 1960s HIT THE LIBRARY FIELD BIG TIME

KEEPS Shellac, Lacquer or Gaylo
FRESH and READY for Instant Use!

The new Aluminum Container will really save you time—trouble—and nuisance! It keeps any of these liquids fresh for weeks at a time without the usual evaporation, discoloration and deterioration.

The Container is made of spun aluminum—lightweight and attractive—and has an inner glass container that may be removed easily. Inside the top edge is a stainless steel bar clip on which the brush may be wiped or held at any desired level when not in use. When the top is in place the brush is suspended in the liquid so that it will not harden nor does the liquid crystallize. As a result you do not need to wash out the brush or container after using.
Book repair was a training program offered by the W.P.A. in the 1930s.

Repair equipment boxes were made available to county libraries & allowed library staff to handle repair work at remote sites.

These cases were developed by Gaylord.
The ad for this Book Press claimed to have overhead people selling this in the shipping room of a library as a “Book Squeezer” that gets rid of book worms:

“TURN THE WHEEL, GET HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF PRESSURE, AND THE WORMS HAVE TO BEAT IT OR BE SQUASHED!!”
The clunky and heavy **SE-LIN** Labeler is still in use. Developed in the early 1960s by Batelle Institute, it was the first Library Technology Project effort. LTP served as a sort of Library “Consumer Union” for a number of years.
WE HAVE ALWAYS FOUND WAYS TO TORTURE OUR JOURNALS....
AND HEAT UP OUR BOOKS…
This 1956 Gaylord brain-child was meant to be used in libraries that weren’t open very often.

Gaylord ads suggest having unlisted titles for those daring users who “just wanted to take a chance.”

An unsolved mystery:

WHO HAS THE BOOK?
The pre-cursor to high-density shelving:
THE 1931 SNEAD ROLLER CASE

ALL YOU NEED IS A HARD FLOOR...
OSU Library alums will remember the RAND-TRIEVER of the 1970s... and the work that went into keeping maintenance down to 40 hours a week....
This concept was reputedly an idea promoted by – if not created by – Richard Abel.

The basic project was a circulation system that used vacuum pressure to sort books into their order of popularity, based on circulation records.

No photo exists, this is an artist’s rendition
First invented in 1863, the Library Indicator contained 100s of small slugs that were replicas of books in the collection & users could see what was in circulation.

In essence, this was the first Public Inquiry Terminal.
Hybrid between the book catalog & the card catalog

RUDOLPH’S CONTINUOUS INDEXER

was little more than a way to display catalog cards, but claimed to solve ALL CATALOGING PROBLEMS

1891
From about 1900

Our move to the card catalog from the book catalog forever changed the way users could access our collections.
These little leprechauns from 1943 belie the sophistication and creativity of the catalog card drawer of which there were many patents and designs created over the years.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS GUY DOING ???????
He is taking sound level readings while setting a catalog drawer down on textured plastic laminate on wood

1957 – Library Technology Products
Ink and pens were very important to cataloging, and pens were marketed to highlight the speed with which one could write....
...because our cards were hand-written

TACHIGRAPHY – the study of writing – was taught in library school
The lino-type slug catalog cards were tediously created and the typewriter was an obvious advancement.
Those of us of “a certain age” will remember the Cataloger’s Camera

Developed at Indiana University, the camera weighed 10 pounds

It took shots of cards from NUC and developed them in seconds…
And of course we then duplicated cards and over-typed them.

Sometimes even at our desks.
And when we made mistakes in our typing, we erased them....
This iconic product was developed in the 1940s.

The ads tried to make it appeal to librarians by noting that it "Keeps everything neat and tidy!"
We have always been such a well-dressed bunch…
The color-coded KARDEX moved us to a more visible way to Gap Claim.

It also provided a good foundation for automating our serial check-in.
And thus an attitude was borne....
CLEARLY, ROBOTS MADE WORK A HAPPY, HAPPY PLACE
Before 1900, the circulation desk was the Gateway to The Temple of Books
“ABSOLUTELY SAFE EVEN IN INEXPERT HANDS”

This 1920s Snead book conveyer moved books horizontally & vertically @ 65 feet per minute
The charging machine traveled from one library to another. It carried up to 1200 books and hooked up to a building’s electricity.
NOTE THE CHILDREN’S SECTION
It took a reel of microfilm and would output it on to paper – generally creating a large hank of paper that needed to then be chopped up into pages
This UTLAS (University of Toronto Library Automation Systems) 1980 bar code scanner allowed patrons to use a lightpen and scanner for circulation.
Likely the first use of “self-charging”
“for your protection a confidential film record is being made of you and this transaction.”

Early 1950s “J. Edgar Hoover Model” of circulation camera

note to self: do not make current administration aware of this technology....
1951: Computers begin to insinuate themselves into our vocabulary ~
“Your patrons won’t question any fines proved on this computer !!”
Visible Index For Delinquents

We believe this is the easiest, most efficient manner of keeping track of delinquents. We picture here the new book type of visible filing, two styles of cards being shown. The most compact method ever devised . . . and inexpensive too.

What Enthusiastic Users Say:

"Are very much pleased with visible index panels and find them great help in getting in our fines"—LASSON CO. FREE LIBRARY, SUSANVILLE, CALIF.

..."Do not know how we would keep track of all our fines without it"—PUBLIC LIBRARY, EUGENE, ORE.

..."I cannot praise your visible index too highly or say enough in its favor, both as a time saver and a check up on students"—FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, N. J.

..."We have been wishing for years that someone would invent a visible index for delinquents and you may imagine our joy when it appeared in your catalog . . . We find that prompt and immediate reminders of overdue make collections much easier; the panels save both time and money"—DEAN'S LIBRARY, NEWTON, N. J.

See Demco Catalog For Prices

How to keep track of delinquents....
This glove-style scanner from 1998 begs the question: “Is this a model or do you get that hand with it ??”
The symbol of the Center for Research Libraries, this beautiful machine was developed to allow scholars to run through a number of books and was especially designed for readers with the gout. 1588 - Ramelli
Sure to be popular with the undergrad users, this was originally designed as an invalid reading stand.

A few modifications might allow for an iHome, wireless, and X-Box 360
The “New Earphone Record Player” debuts in Savannah, Georgia

Most users, it was reported, were boys and men.

(Well-dressed, too, in 1959)
ODE TO “FEDERATED SEARCHING”
Remote simultaneous searching, 1970s

Remember the good old days when plastic phone cradles jarred loose?
Following are pages from
The Faxon series of conference Photographs

F.W. Faxon would take a number of photos, place them in a book and circulate them to conference attendees
RULES

1. FORWARD TO NAME BELOW YOURS ON THE FOLLOWING LIST, BY "LETTER POSTAGE" (12¢)

2. FORWARD THE DAY AFTER RECEIPT

3. SEND ME WORD WHEN YOU FORWARD THE BOOK TO NEXT NAME ON LIST.

THOSE WHO DO THIS AND STATE THAT THIS BOOK GOES ON WITHIN 24 HOURS MAY HAVE AS A SOUVENIR ANY VIEW: SEND ME THE NUMBER AND I WILL FORWARD IT.

DUPLICATES OF ANY PICTURE MAY BE HAD BY ORDERING BY NUMBER AT 10¢ EACH OR 12 FOR $1.00 UNMOUNTED ONLY.
A little calculation will convince that to go to 80 cities in 90 days will be impossible unless this book is promptly forwarded within 24 hours of receipt. It must get round before we leave for Portland. Hurry!!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>D.P. Corey and wife</td>
<td>Malden, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Miss L.A. Williams</td>
<td>P. L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Miss H.E. Haines</td>
<td>215 Broadway, N.Y. City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>R.R. Bowker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>A.E. Bostwick</td>
<td>226 W. 42 St., N.Y. City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>T.P. Hill</td>
<td>26 Brevoort Place, Brooklyn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>W.A. Bardwell and wife</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Miss E.V. Baldwin</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>H.S. Carr and wife</td>
<td>P. L., Scranton, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Dr. E.C. Richardson</td>
<td>Princeton Univ. Lib.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dr. H. Putnam</td>
<td>(Will Mr. Boyd show to Mr. Hanson, and others who went to St. L. who desire to look at book.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>C.W. Andrews</td>
<td>and Mr. Josephson</td>
</tr>
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An olde-tyme listserv....
Lest we forget…

- “640K [of computer memory] ought to be enough of anybody.”  Bill Gates, 1981
- Computers in the future may weight no more than 1.5 tones.”  Popular Mechanics forecast, 1949
- I think there is a world market for maybe 5 computers.”  Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943
- “Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?”  H. M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927
As you head off to the Seattle Conference, best wishes & congratulations to ALCTS on our 50th anniversary…..