INTRODUCTION

In April 1969, the Library of Congress began to distribute to other libraries its cataloging services on machine-readable tape. This event has often been compared in importance to that of 1901 when the Library first began to distribute its cataloging services. Because of the importance and potential of this new service the eighth annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, conducted by the Division of University Extension and the Graduate School of Library Science of the University of Illinois, April 26-29, 1970, departed from its past consideration of all major aspects of library operations to concentrate on this specific aspect which can influence many different library operations. The intention was to review MARC after one year of operation, to present the current picture and future programs of the Library of Congress in regard to MARC and to assess the local, national and international potential of this service.

Carl M. Spaulding, program officer, Council on Library Resources, Inc., opened the conference with remarks about the meaning of MARC and its potential.

Henriette D. Avram was well qualified to speak on the purpose of a data-oriented, computer-based centralized service, with emphasis toward generalized applications on a centrally maintained set of data files for access by a variety of users. It is within such a data utility that the MARC system is "evolving" at LC.

Hillis Griffin writes from personal experience with the MARC distribution service and as a MARC user. He praises some MARC subscribers for their hard work with MARC but also chides others for lack of initiative in using MARC. He concludes that in this business "there is really no other road to success than through hard work."

The next series of papers consists of reports from some of the hard-working MARC subscribers referred to by Griffin. The British MARC program and its development, as well as a critical look at other aspects of MARC, are noted by R. E. Coward. Josephine Pulsifer puts MARC within the context of a number of cooperative efforts in Washington State.

Although illness prevented Frederick Ruecking, Jr., from attending the conference, his paper is included here. In it he explains the broadening of the original perspective for MARC in the Fondren Library, Rice University.

Robert S. McGee and Robert C. Miller report on MARC usage in

the University of Chicago Library's bibliographic data processing systems.

At the clinic two commercial users of MARC also reported: William R. Nugent, for Inforonics, Inc., and Fred. C. Cole, Jr., for Autocomp, Inc. Cole's paper is included in the published proceedings.

Frederick G. Kilgour "puts it all together" with his summary paper pointing out the successes of MARC, the problems with MARC and looks to its evolution in the future.

Herbert Goldhor, director, Graduate School of Library Science, helped with the planning of the conference. Robert D. Kozlow, automation librarian, University of Illinois, Hillis Griffin, and Frederick G. Kilgour also made valuable suggestions. Donna Duff Lenfest, clinic supervisor, helped in a variety of ways. All of their efforts are well deserving of acknowledgment for contributing to the success of the clinic.

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Kathryn Luther Henderson
Clinic Chairman and Editor

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