

INTRODUCTION

The ninth annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing was conducted by the Division of University Extension and the Graduate School of Library Science of the University of Illinois, on April 30-May 3, 1972. Like the eighth clinic, it was devoted to a single topic: the application of on-line computer systems to the mechanization of library operations. Significant advances have been made in this field in the last three or four years and a number of interesting and innovative systems have become operational in some relatively small institutions as well as the very large library organizations.

In planning this clinic an attempt was made to include papers on a wide range of library applications of on-line computers, as well as to include libraries of various types and various sizes. Two papers deal with on-line circulation control (the Ohio State University system, described by Hugh C. Atkinson, and the Northwestern University system, described by Joseph T. Paulukonis), one with acquisitions (LOLITA at Oregon State University Library, described by Larry Auld and Robert Baker), one with serials control (a system at the Biomedical Library, UCLA, described by James Fayollat) and one with on-line cataloging procedures (used in the Shawnee Mission Public Schools and described by Ellen Miller and B. J. Hodges). Multi-functional on-line systems are represented by the BALLOTS project at Stanford University (described by A. H. Epstein and Allen B. Veaner). I. A. Warheit of IBM gives a comprehensive overview of the application of on-line interactive systems in libraries. Irwin Pizer describes the use of such systems in library

networks, and Glyn T. Evans undertakes the difficult task of identifying and summarizing key points made by previous speakers.

Ellsworth Mason, to use his own words, plays the role of Daniel in the lions' den and plays it in his own able and inimitable way. His talk drew a crowd that probably set a record for attendance at a session in this series of clinics. The talk was entertaining as well as provocative and it generated many questions, which were ably handled by the speaker. Some hostility toward the speaker was evident in certain segments of the audience!

I am very grateful to all of the speakers whose work appears in this volume and whose excellent presentations made this a very successful meeting. Grateful acknowledgements must also be made to my colleagues on the planning committee: Herbert Goldhor, Director of the Graduate School of Library Science, and J. Divilbiss, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Library Science, University of Illinois. To the latter in particular must go full credit for the planning and implementation of the on-line demonstrations that were an important feature of this ninth Clinic.

F. WILFRID LANCASTER
Chairman and Editor

June 1972