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ON LIBRARY APPLICATIONS
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**Proceedings of the 1973 Clinic
on Library Applications
of Data Processing:
Networking and Other
Forms of Cooperation**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1973 CLINIC
ON LIBRARY APPLICATIONS
OF DATA PROCESSING:
NETWORKING AND OTHER FORMS
OF COOPERATION

Edited by
F. WILFRID LANCASTER

Papers Presented at the
1973 Clinic on Library Applications
of Data Processing, April 29–May 2, 1973

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INTRODUCTION

The tenth annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing was devoted to the subject of cooperation between libraries in data processing activities. This topic is one of great current interest and one in which there is now considerable activity. While many library operations involve repetitive, routine tasks that lend themselves readily to automation, not all libraries have funds available to allow the design and implementation of automated procedures. However, by inter-institutional cooperation, at national, state or local levels, certain automated procedures become both feasible and economical. The feasibility and the economics of such cooperation were covered by the speakers at this clinic.

The papers presented are of broad scope, both from the viewpoint of approaches to cooperation and types of library involved. Major emphasis was placed on data processing within library networks and in cooperative processing centers. General overviews on library networking operations are presented by Becker and by McCarn, the latter with special reference to the role of MEDLINE in the National Biomedical Communications Network. The components and configurations of library networks are described by Evans, with emphasis on experience and accomplishments in New York State. Long, Hammer and Sokoloski, and Wright deal with three major programs in cooperative or centralized processing: the Ohio College Library Center, the Massachusetts Central Library Processing Service, and the College Bibliocentre of Ontario.

Activities within the federal government are also represented. Cylke discusses cooperation in automation activities among the three national libraries, while Henderson presents the results of a survey of automation in libraries within the federal government and goes on to discuss the possibility of a cooperative processing center to serve these libraries.

The final group of papers is devoted to cooperation among libraries on a somewhat smaller scale or in more specialized environments. A program for coordinating automation activities within the libraries of the state universities of Iowa is described by Sage. Brodman discusses several data processing activities implemented at Washington University, School of Medicine, to produce various products of use to other medical libraries. An important aspect of her paper is the account of problems encountered in these activities, and lessons learned from them. Cooperative data processing within the industrial library environment is rare and, as Randall points out in his description of cooperative activities within IBM, difficult. Perhaps the most specialized paper in the volume is Jolliffe's description of Project LOC, a cooperative venture between the British Museum, the Bodleian Library at Oxford and the Cambridge University Library, which has as its objective the production of a catalog of the early books held by the individual colleges at Oxford and Cambridge.

Despite an airline strike, which made travel to Urbana difficult and tiresome for many, the clinic speakers had an interested audience of over eighty registrants, drawn widely from the United States, Canada and further afield.

F. WILFRID LANCASTER
Chairman and Editor

June 1973

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