ever, under current institutional procurement procedures, the Library is not free to utilize these capabilities independently of the institutional purchasing departments. WHOI’s procurement procedures are currently undergoing modification and are likely to become more decentralized through the use of new software. Perhaps this decentralization will eventually enable the Library to use the DRA acquisitions module directly for purchasing and then transfer the information into the WHOI accounting system. Of course, this all depends on government audit requirements and the necessity for full accountability for institutional spending.

As we have continued to implement our DRA system, we have been placing more of our peripheral collections into CLAMS. We need to continue this process until all MBL and WHOI library resources are fully searchable in a single database. This implies that all Library acquisitions would enter the system via the acquisitions module at the time of ordering, not just a portion of them as at present. This also would enhance the utility of the database. In addition to Library resources, it would be a major enhancement to the database if all the desk reference acquisitions information now in the acquisitions librarians’ dBase files could somehow be included in the CLAMS database so that staff could be aware of each other’s resources as well as those of the Library itself. This will be a difficult situation to work out since these items are considered as references for specific staff, rather than for the institution at large. In addition, we need to be able to keep these non-Library items private from the greater CLAMS community of our non-MBL/WHOI partner libraries. Perhaps implementation of MFHL will show us a way to do it in a fair and equitable manner.

As you can see, our world of interlocking circles and spiders’ webs is as interesting as it is complex. It makes for interesting challenges in all aspects of librarianship, but it also makes for a lot of fun.