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Innovations Affecting Us

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Innovations Affecting Us

Column Editor: **Judy Luther** (The Faxon Company)

This is a new feature beginning with this issue. Our activities have traditionally included the identification and purchase of materials which are added to library collections. As new formats became available (microform, cdrom, databases), the role has expanded to include information in all forms. In some institutions, acquisitions is also responsible for acquiring articles (via interlibrary loan and document delivery) which are not kept but given to the patron. Our roles are changing, affected by new technologies and new ways of identifying and acquiring information for the patron. This column will look at the changes and how they impact us. We want to know more about what's happening out there in the way of new products and services in libraries, vending, and publishing. Send us your submissions. And Judy is looking for a little help from her friends. Does anyone want to co-edit this column with her?

This issue begins with news of three new services.

TOC for Books

Blackwell North America has created a database of New Title Online (NTO) which includes all titles available through

their approval plans for the last five years. Beginning with books published in 1992, these records are enhanced with the table of contents (TOC) and title summaries which are being scanned into the 505 field of the MARC records. The TOC file is currently under development, with the

University of Hawaii and San Diego State serving as test sites. Collection management librarians will be able to search these records (via dial access or the Internet) to assist in the review/evaluation process. Libraries will be able to obtain a TOC tape for their orders with BNA or send a list of ISBNs to be matched against the file. This tape can be loaded in a local online catalog, expanding access to the contents of these books. BNA offers an authority control service and notes that subject headings for monographs are expanded by an additional 6-10 descriptors per title. Pricing will be available by ALA. For further information, contact your local sales representative or Allan Graham, BNA, 800-547-6426.

Contents Alert

Elsevier has completed a six month pilot test of Contents Alert, a TOC service sent via e-mail and designed to acquaint end users and librarians with existing and forthcoming articles in the field of materials science. As anticipated, this has resulted in increased demand, with scientists requesting copies of the articles from the library. Based on the positive response, Elsevier is considering expanding this to other disciplines such as mathematical physics. For

further information, contact John Tagler, Elsevier NY, 212-633-3780.

Ariel

RLG has developed a pc based software package designed to expedite faxing by eliminating the need for a photocopy and speeding transmission with compressed data. Tested at the

universities of California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Utah and at Colorado State University and Dartmouth College, Ariel utilizes a laser printer with the advantage of bond paper over slippery fax paper. Although you do not need to be a member of RLG, you do need an ethernet lan connection to the internet and transmission must be made to another Ariel station. Currently 150 institutions have bought Ariel including some in Canada, Australia and Finland. For further information, contact RLG 800-537-7546. ☎

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