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## Diana Seymour

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*Dartmouth College Library*

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## Library Profile

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Library gopher server and is available to all members of the Woods Hole scientific community.

An acquisitions system is a little like serials; it changes and it continues. There are a number of issues which need to be addressed in coming years. First, the Library is working toward becoming more proactive in its acquisitions rather than reactive. Instead of buying monographs because a scientist specifically requests them, we need to actively solicit recommendations and aggressively search for titles to acquire. Because our subject areas are at once extremely broad and extremely narrow, it is difficult to define approval plans and standing orders, except for a few clearly relevant series. However, active searching of *Books in Print* and publishers' catalogs would be useful, as will our new, departmental liaisons. The Library will also, this year, be picking a few subject areas in which to strengthen the collection by active buying. If this works as we hope it will, it could be extended to additional areas.

It would also be good if, in the future, we can find a way to utilize more fully the capabilities of our DRA acquisitions module. The software has the capability for electronic ordering, either directly to the vendor's computer in BISAC format, or via electronic mail, as well as the ability to print standard purchase orders and claims for items not received. How-

## Media Minder

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book. Further, there is a higher percentage of original cataloging since copy is not available from the Library of Congress or as CIP on the material. Abbreviated cataloging is less effort, but full access to the material is sacrificed. Commercial cataloging becomes the most economical alternative since the cost of the original cataloging is spread across a number of uses. ☞

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*I am grateful to Linda Hansen, Professional Media's head cataloger and the former Head of Cataloging at the University of Southern California, who provided many of the technical details for this column. — LC*

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 a great deal 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. ☞

## Diana Seymour

**Diana Woods Seymour**, head of Dartmouth College Library's Acquisitions Department and a Dartmouth librarian for more than 30 years, died Feb. 27 at age 61 after a week-long illness.

Diana Seymour joined Baker Library in 1955 as a librarian in the Catalog Department, after receiving a bachelor's degree from Wheaton College and a master's degree in library science from Simmons College. She left Dartmouth in 1958 to become a reference librarian in the Stamford (Conn.) Public Library, returning to Baker in 1960 as a serials cataloger. During the 1960s Diana led the conversion of Dartmouth's library collection from the Dewey Decimal to the Library of Congress classification system.

In 1976 she was appointed Head of Acquisitions for the Dartmouth College Library system. During her tenure, copy cataloging became part of the Acquisitions Department, monographic approval plans were implemented, and the Acquisitions Department became fully automated. For many years she coordinated the Alumni Memorial Book Program, which provided an important source of support for the Library's collection development program. She was a regular attendee at the Charleston Conference, rarely missing a meeting since the 3rd Annual Conference in 1983.

The Library has established an endowed library acquisitions fund as a memorial to Ms. Seymour. Contributions may be sent to Dartmouth College Library, c/o Claire Packard, 115 Baker Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755.

— **John James** (Dartmouth College Library) ☞