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Foyle's: World's Largest Bookshop

Editor

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and books are shipped daily to the Cataloging Department which unfortunately is located across the street. The geographic separation from Cataloging poses several problems and a proposal to move us closer to them is being studied.

Serials follow a similar stream. Issues received in the morning are generally checked in on the same day and are en route to one of the seven locations in the afternoon. This turnaround time is not always possible because of system downtime, staff absences, and mail strikes.

Projects and Problems

The assignment of serial vendors has been somewhat haphazard in the past. A country of origin code has now been designated to every serial title and a major project is underway to revendor titles to an appropriate vendor. We have just completed the revendor of U.S. published titles to a single vendor. This project will continue on a country-by-country basis. Electronic ordering is on our mind as well, and we are discussing this possibility with our major vendors.

In an attempt to protect our diminishing budget, we are actively negotiating a better discount structure with vendors.

During the spring and summer of 1992 a drastic serials review project took place that resulted in the cancellation of approximately $450,000 worth of serial titles. The continued escalation in serial prices may force us to conduct a similar exercise in 1994.

A decreasing acquisitions budget caused by reductions in government funding has already forced us to go through a painful redundancy exercise, the result of which, for the Acquisitions Department alone, has been the early retirement or redeployment of seven people. Cross training is ongoing to make remaining staff more flexible and transportable because the funding situation and the instability of the Canadian dollar point unmistakably to further staff readjustments.

The future looks uncertain, but the dedication and increased willingness of staff to learn new tasks and look at the System as a whole, and not as a series of unrelated entities, will provide a light, if not a brilliant glow, at the end of the tunnel.

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Foyle's: World's Largest Bookshop

The largest bookshop in London (and perhaps the world) is Foyle's, located at the corner of Charing Cross Road and Manette Street. The large building offers books on five floor levels. A favorite hunting place for those seeking specialized books in addition to serving academic customers, it attracts an international clientele.

Publishers like Foyle's because it has a history of never returning books and often it will have in stock not only current editions, but also copies of superseded editions of the same book, all marked with their original prices.


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