Have You Heard?

Chemical Abstracts Service has announced that complete page images of all U.S. patents issued from January 1, 1993, to the present are now available online through USPATFULL on STN International, a network of scientific and technical databases. USPATFULL page images can be easily downloaded, viewed, and printed using STN Express and may also be viewed using any TIFF viewer. Page images will also be available for mail, e-mail, and fax through the PRINT function, currently scheduled for early 1996. The United States Patent and Trademark Office publishes patents on Tuesday of each week. STN’s U.S. patent page image and searchable text data is available on Thursday of the same week.

The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) announced that ISI’s Electronic Library Project is now operational. The first installation of the Project, at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, was completed on schedule, and training of departmental staff at Thomas Jefferson University is ongoing. ISI’s Electronic Library Project provides the tables of contents, bibliographic data, and abstracts for approximately 1,350 scholarly journals indexed in Current Contents/Life Sciences, with the addition of the full images of those journals for which publishers have agreed to allow electronic storage and delivery. It provides for seamless integration at the pilot site through a network-based client/server system that can be added to and coexist with the site’s current local area network (LAN). ISI’s Electronic Library Project is designed to test the economics involved, weigh the need for security vs. access, and measure and assess usability.

Meridian Data, Inc. introduced CD Net for Macintosh, enabling Mac workstations to simultaneously access CD-ROMs over Novell networks. The new CD networking software rounds out Meridian’s product line — now covering the broadest range of client/server environments with multiuser support for popular Apple, Microsoft and IBM network users. CD Net lets Macintosh network clients easily locate and access CD-ROMs anywhere on the LAN. With its seamless integration into the Macintosh Chooser and Finder desktop, familiar operations just work as-is. Once a disc is selected, the software transparently mounts the CD and performs any special setup required by the application. This means that Mac users are not required to learn anything new in order to share CD-ROMs over the network. Many organizations have experienced a substantial productivity boost after transitioning from standalone CD-ROM-equipped workstations to a multiuser network solution. The savings result from improved time management, reduced title licensing fees and elimination of lost discs. For more information, visit http://www.meridian-data.com on the World Wide Web.

Academic Book Center, in Portland, Oregon, has become the first book vendor to participate in a new OCLC program that will accelerate upgrading of Cataloging in Publication (CIP) from the Library of Congress (LC) in the OCLC Online Union Catalog (OLUC). Through an agreement with Academic Book Center, professional catalogers from the OCLC TECHPRO service will be stationed at Academic Book Center, where they will upgrade CIP records in the OLUC to full-MARC records as newly published materials arrive. TECHPRO catalogers at Academic Book Center expect to process approximately 3,000 OLUC/CIP records a month. OCLC has launched an industry-wide program to work with book vendors, publishers and the Library of Congress to accelerate the enhancement of CIP information. OCLC member libraries use CIP records in the Online Union Catalog for ordering, and they upgrade the records later when they have the final printed piece in hand to provide physical descriptions as well as new or corrected cataloging. By accelerating the upgrading of CIP records in the OLUC, OCLC hopes to provide libraries with full cataloging records as soon as possible after publication.

Dawson Subscription Service announced in November that it intends to implement the Source subscription system, initially developed for use at The Faxon Company, as its operating system. Implementation of Source at Dawson Subscription Service will begin this fall and be completed in time to process 1997 subscription orders. The Source system had been partially completed by The Faxon Company when Dawson Holdings purchased the company in October 1994. After completing a thorough system analysis, Dawson committed resources to an aggressive program to complete the Source system as Dawson’s core operating system to lead the company into the 21st century. The first phase of that implementation, at Faxon, is nearing completion, with all 1996 Faxon subscription orders to be placed from the new system. As a part of the project, every facet of the subscription process has been redesigned, including printed invoices and reports, with an eye toward client needs. The Source system is a powerful and flexible system designed to support every phase of serials acquisitions needs. Based on relational database technology and a three-tier client/server model, Source includes on Online client service that brings the system’s power and capability to the client’s desktop.

The Research Libraries Group, Inc. (RLG) announced wider availability of Ariel, its document transmission system for the Internet, through new distributorship agreements with two major library support networks in the United States and a variety of service vendors overseas. While RLG will continue to provide Ariel worldwide, many potential users will prefer to acquire it from local sources, possibly as part of regional resource-sharing arrangements. The AMIGOS Bibliographic Council, based in Dallas, Texas, is providing Ariel to its members and other purchasers in the Southwest. SOLINET, the Southeastern Library Network, Inc. based in Atlanta, Georgia, will be doing the same in the southeast. Sites outside the US already comprise about 20% of registered Ariel users. A growing set of foreign distributors is led by the Pica Centre for Library Automation — a long-time partner with RLG in efforts to improve service to the two organization’s users. Based in Leiden, Pica will provide Ariel software in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg. See the February 1995 Against the Grain Doc Aquis column for more information on the Ariel Document Transmission System.

In other news from the Pica Centre for Library Automation in Leiden, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, is first to sign an agreement with Pica on electronic access of full text journal continued on page 85
articles within the WebDOC pilot project. Within the WebDOC project, initiated by Pica, a number of Dutch and German academic libraries will cooperate with commercial publishers to offer their endusers access to electronic journal articles. Publishers will deliver SGML-headers of journal articles containing bibliographic data and abstracts. From these data, Pica will build a catalogue (WebCAT) linking to full text articles stored on local servers maintained by the information providers or on a server at Pica. Initially, the Kluwer journals to be accessed will be mainly in the field of Mathematics, Information Science and Economics/Business Information. For the time being, document formats are restricted to Postscript, PDF, HTML and TIFF-images. Kluwer has opted for PDF files. Documents will be made accessible via WWW-browsers such as MOSAIC and Netscape to endusers who are registered at one of the participating libraries. Endusers of libraries that are subscribing to journals Kluwer makes available in WebDOC will have unlimited access, whereas a pay-per-view system will apply for journals for which there is no subscription. Pica is building the technical infrastructure to arrange access to WebCAT and to document servers including the accounting mechanisms which controls the access. WebDOC is expected to go live on January 1, 1996 and will run for an initial trial period until the end of December 1997. At that time, the project will be evaluated and will be continued if the results are as planned.

UnCover, one of the world’s largest, up-to-date periodical indexes and document services, has announced the recent addition of the Linda Hall Library to its network of 20 contributing libraries worldwide. Linda Hall Library, located in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the foremost science, engineering and technology libraries in the United States with a collection in excess of one million volumes. The Linda Hall Library collection features: more than 40,000 scientific journal and serial titles; extensive conference and symposium proceedings; 1.5 million technical reports, U.S. patent specifications and trademarks; engineering standards and specifications; U.S. government documents and more than 300,000 monographs. Through an extensive international exchange program, the library also has an impressive collection of foreign research publications. The library collection encompasses a broad range of science and technological disciplines including astronomy, chemistry, computer architecture, agriculture, paleontology, mathematics, geology, natural history, botany, zoology, food sciences, physics, photography, mining and metallurgy. With the recent acquisition of the library of the country’s five largest engineering societies, its collection of engineering materials is one of the foremost in the country.

Dissertation Abstracts, a database from UMI indexing over 1.2 million doctoral dissertations and master’s theses, is one of the newest databases on OCLC’s FirstSearch service. Updated monthly, Dissertation Abstracts covers virtually all U.S. and Canadian doctoral dissertations from 1861 forward, dissertations from around the world beginning in 1988, and master’s theses from 1962 forward. In addition to more than 1.2 million citations, Dissertation Abstracts features abstracts of dissertations from 1980 forward and abstracts of theses from 1988 forward, as well as order numbers and other details needed to order copies of the 1 million dissertations and theses available in full text from UMI. With approximately 45,000 new entries each year from more than 1,000 institutions worldwide, Dissertation Abstracts provides easy access to one of the largest and most widely used bibliographic information files in the world. The electronic interlibrary loan ordering function is also available to FirstSearch endusers for placing electronic orders from Dissertation Abstracts through their library’s Interlibrary Loan Services.

Follett Software Company has added UMI newspaper databases to the Informationplus family of CD-ROM hardware and software products. The Informationplus line provides school library patrons access to textual and interactive multimedia information published on CD-ROM, through a multi CD-ROM drive tower. As a distributor/reseller of UMI, Follett Software Company now makes available in CD-ROM form full-text information from the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and USA Today. The combination of informationplus software and hardware creates an information bank that can become an integral part of the library reference center. Electronic reference material included in informationplus covers periodicals, television and radio, as well as the new UMI newspaper databases. The UMI databases are updated monthly, to keep information current. Each of these leading publications is represented with detailed information, not abstracts. A simple-to-use search interface, consistent across all UMI newspaper databases, allows library patrons easy access to information. And since informationplus allows for a multiuser network environment, several users can access the system simultaneously, sharing CD-ROM data at workstations throughout an institution and saving libraries the cost of additional copies of CD-ROM applications.

EBSCO Publishing recently entered an agreement with CINAHL Information Systems to include the CINAHL database on EBSCOhost and with Sociological Abstracts, Inc. to provide the sociofile database on EBSCOhost. EBSCOhost is the new Z39.50-compliant client/server system which offers keyboard searchable access to periodical and research databases. CINAHL provides comprehensive coverage of the publications in nursing and 17 allied health disciplines, health sciences librarianship, biomedicine and consumer health information. Covering over 2,000 journals published worldwide, sociofile includes abstracts of journal articles in the Sociological Abstracts database from 1974 onward and enhanced citations for relevant dissertations, plus the complete Social Planning/Policy & Development Abstracts (SOPUDA) database. Access to the CINAHL and sociofile databases via EBSCOhost is scheduled for 1996.

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