

Computer Age Comes To Vaughan Library

by Sylvia Newcombe

Library users will notice a re-arrangement of the card catalogue and the appearance, along the back wall, of a number of microfiche readers. These are the first visible signs of the Acadia libraries' move to the computerization of the card catalogue and circulation services.

The microfiche readers (5 on fourth floor Vaughan and one in the Science Library, with others soon to be on the serials floor and in the Kirkconnell Room) will enable users to utilize COM (Computer Output on Microfiche). Whereas before, books received had their cataloguing information displayed on cards, now all books received, starting in June 1982, will have that same information on microfiche. At this time the records of approximately 7500 books have been inputted into the system. Iain Bates, deputy librarian, said that they hoped to have 125,000 records in the system in two years and to have the whole task completed within five years.

Each microfiche readers will be accompanied by three sets of microfiche. One set will list the books by author/title, one by subject and the third by their arrangement on the shelves. Now, instead of opening a drawer, the user will insert the correct fiche into the reader and, by using the fiche, index, find the entry she/he is looking for.

The microfiche will be completely updated every month to include the records added during that month. The periodical holdings have now started to be inputted. The latest and most used ones will be done first and hopefully all will be included within a year.

Having the computer records on microfiche is the first step to

having the records accessible by computer terminal. Even when the stage is reached when the computer terminals are used for access to the records the COM will still be available for use during a computer crash.

When the card catalogue is completely computerized, the goal is to have the catalogue database accessible from any compatible terminal anywhere. The catalogue will be more flexible and easier to use.

The major disadvantage to this move is that there will be a long transition period. Until all of the records are transferred to the computer, students will have to look in two places, on the microfiche and in the card catalogue, for each entry one has to look up.

The installation and setup of the new system is slow because a lot of developmental work is being done here by the Computer Centre and the library staff.

When asked about the problem of lineups at the readers, Bates replied that the cost of the readers was such that more could be purchased. On the problem of missing microfiche Bates commented that all sets were replaced each month and any lost or mutilated during the month could easily be replaced. A more serious problem will be breakdowns of the readers.

It will not be until the spring/summer of 1983 that the computerization of the circulation process will be put into practice. Then each user will receive a plastic card with a bar code on it (like that found on groceries). The library assistant will have only to pass a wand over the card and then over the books being checked out. The checking out of books



THE NEW microfiche readers are the first step in the computerization of the library's card catalogue. Now in addition to looking in the card catalogue, users should also check the microfiche which has all of the most recent acquisitions.

will be much faster.

This system will also allow the circulation desk to look after overdue books more easily and accurately. Users will be able to find out what books they have out or on hold.

The processing of books will also be faster. Once the system is settled in, the time between a book being received by the library and being put on the shelf (and its record in the computer) should be a matter of weeks instead of the months it can take now.

Bates feels that the system will be more cost efficient. There will be some job reduction but staff reduction will be only by attrition.

Eventually there will be more room on the main floor (where the card catalogue is now) and Bates said that he would like to see a reader's aid desk set up to give more help to students and others in using the library.

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Willett Talks

Welcome back to another year of "Willett Talks" to keep you amused, confused, informed, and up-to-date on the animal house of Acadia.

We at Willett, in keeping with the return of classes, are offering our own courses open to all students here at Acadia. For example, for girls we have **How to lose your reputation 1069** to be taught on weekends late at night with all members of the Willett faculty as instructors. For the more adventurous guys, **Ten ways to shake a Narc 3061**. The courses offered are varied and for any information please do not hesitate to contact our Dean.

The S.P.C.A. chapter at Willett would like to warn residents of a dangerous "animal" on the premises. We urge you to approach with caution. While on the subject of warnings, we at Willett would like to warn the campus of a dangerous hustler living in our

residence; we are not at liberty to reveal his real name but we can tell you he does by the codename Fred Devanarr.

We would also like to announce the opening of a new movie filmed entirely on location at Willett. It is a horror epic entitled "Son of Hurl." This spine chilling thriller may be too much for the younger folk so be prepared.

This week we end on a sad note with the departure of John Allen, a Willett boy since last year. We hope he goes on to bigger and better things. Things are not all bad though, for we are brightened by the return of another Willett boy, Chip White who was unavoidably detained from joining us at the very beginning. Welcome back, Chip and don't forget to bring a straw to the Axe.

Till next week,
"Roses are red,
Violets are blue
Willett is Number 1
And Chipman's 22."

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