

BOOK REVIEWS

Studies in the application of free text package systems/ John H. Ashford and Derek I. Matkin. London: Library Association, 1982 50 pp (Case Studies in Library Automation) ISBN 0 85365 535 9.

In their glossary, the authors say of *free text*: 'normally found in "free text systems" which store computer records of natural language or similar matter in its original form, and provide access by reference to "words" in the body of the text, as opposed to index systems which designate particular fields as containing the access values'. This document is essentially an account of current applications of the STATUS software package. Most commercial information retrieval systems are capable of searching free text within defined fields. STATUS could perhaps be better distinguished by the flexible way in which it can be made to process either complex record structures that may include controlled fields, or records that consist of no more than a title and associated 'free text'.

The first chapter gives a brief general review of library automation, and includes a table that endeavours to show types of automation best established in various libraries. The chapter is intended as a framework for later issues in this 'Case Studies' series. It is followed by a section that considers various automated library subsystems in relation to processing with a free text package. Nine specific applications of STATUS in UK libraries are then itemized in descriptions of approximately one page. These include equipment used (e.g. IBM, ICL, Prime) and subsystems automated (loans, cataloguing, information retrieval, SDI). Brief mention is then made of some other free text systems.

A table of STATUS applications is given. Three Australian implementations are briefly outlined in this table. The report is easily and quickly digestible. I recommend it for teaching purposes, to those seeking a straightforward summary of bibliographic automation possibilities, to potential STATUS users ... and to those who market STATUS.

Mike Middleton

UNSW School of Librarianship

Who's Who in New Zealand Libraries 1980 (8th ed)/comp A.L. Olsson and Alan D. Richardson. Wellington: New Zealand Library Association. 1981. 35pp NZ\$22.40. ISBN 0 908560 06 0.

The coverage differs very little from the previous editions, ie, it includes only practising professional librarians in New Zealand (NZ). The main purpose for compiling the publication was 'to serve as a management tool for the use of librarians and employing authorities' (p5).

The work contains 1050 entries, compared to the 950 in the previous (1975) edition, and they are up-to-date to 31 August 1980. As in other similar works, complete coverage was not possible, therefore, to increase comprehensiveness, the authors consulted public records and made brief entries from them.

The entries include full name, positions held, place and year of birth, qualifications, membership of societies, NZLA offices held, publications and home address.

The names of NZ libraries are indicated only by symbols in the entries, so those unfamiliar with these will need another reference work, the latest edition of *New Zealand Library Symbols*, to make effective use of this *Who's Who* ...

The NZ library symbols are given in the 'Index to institutions with library symbols' section of the *Who's Who* ... but in a way that makes them difficult to find for non-New Zealanders, because the primary arrangement of this index is by geographic area, eg, 'Hamilton' geographic area is a heading, and under it are listed the relevant institutions with their symbols like 'Waikato Technical Institute HPY'.

The review of *Science and Technology: an introduction to the literature*, on Page 8 of *InCite* no 4 was by Bryan Yates, of the National Library of Australia. We apologise as his name was inadvertently omitted when the review was printed.

In contrast to earlier editions, the book is well produced, with clear, crisp type on good quality paper, but at an increased cost.

If the height (30 cm) of the book were reduced it would make it even more attractive and would be easier to shelve among books of average height.

This is a fine reference book for the use of NZ librarians, but probably overseas users should also be considered, as interest in this work extends beyond the boundaries of NZ.

Géza A. Kósa


Victoria College, Burwood Campus

ESSENTIAL LIBRARY TOOLS: 1

Australian Bookseller & Publisher

Monthly, \$22 pa.
(April issue — forthcoming Australian books, April to October, 1983)

D W Thorpe Pty Ltd
384 Spencer St, West Melbourne 3003
Service for over 60 years



PUT THE ENTIRE LC NATIONAL UNION CATALOG ON MICROFICHE IN YOUR DESK DRAWER AND UPDATE IT WITH THE NEW NUC.

Imagine the LC National Union Catalog from 1898 to 1982 in convenient, easy to use microfiche.

Now, ALS offers exclusively, this multi-purpose reference source; indispensable in cataloging, acquisitions, bibliographic verification, interlibrary loan, reference and research.

CONVENIENT — The NUC microfiche edition, consisting of 693 volumes, can be conveniently located at your fingertips and literally stored at a single microfiche reader station.

DURABLE — The NUC on microfiche will outlast the printed editions.

SAVES SPACE — The collection is contained in 54 linear inches, saving 94% shelf space.

LOW PRICE — The ALS NUC microfiche edition saves 75% over the printed edition.

OTHER LC CATALOGS ON MICROFICHE — Also available, the COMPLETE Subject Catalog from 1950-82 and Audiovisual and Music Catalogs, 1953-

82. Individual annuals and quinquenniums may be purchased.

NEW NUC ON MICROFICHE.

In 1983 ALS will publish four new NUC in index/register format. The new LC catalogs allow you to select the NUC most suitable for your specific needs.

FOUR SEPARATE INDEXES.

Now you can access the NUC by Name, Title, Subject and Series.

SINGLE LOOK-UP.

In most cases a single look-up will complete a search in a matter of seconds with the fully cumulated indexes.


TIMELY DELIVERY.

The NUC will be rushed air mail for earliest use in your library, increasing its use.


LOW PRICES-BEST VALUE.

The new ALS COM-produced NUC is offered at the lowest price available. No other work — print, fiche, or on-line — is a better value.

For information, use the coupon, or call (617) 470-0610.



IN Name	Title	
Organization		
Address		
City/Town	State	Zip Code
Please rush me complete information on LC micropublications:		
<input type="checkbox"/> National Union Catalog	<input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual Catalog	
<input type="checkbox"/> Subject Catalog	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Catalog	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1983 Current National Union Catalogs		



Advanced Library Systems Inc.
93 Main Street
Andover, MA 01810, U.S.A.
(617) 470-0610

Serving Libraries Throughout the World.