

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. SUBJECT COVERAGE and CLASSIFICATION

This bibliography covers all possible aspects of Online Public Access Catalogues: system design, system descriptions, hardware, file management, information retrieval, subject access, thesauri, user interface, human-computer interaction, information seeking behaviour, evaluation methodologies, evaluation studies, management, resource sharing and system monitoring. This is illustrated by the Classification Scheme on pages 6 to 10, which has been devised specifically for this bibliography.

The purpose was to look at OPACs from as many angles as possible, and that includes such topics as authority control or ergonomics. But the reader must not expect to find an exhaustive coverage of authority control or ergonomics. Citations on for example authority control were included only if they referred to OPACs in particular.

The references were assigned to one (sometimes more) classification section usually on the basis of the abstract, sometimes the document itself.

In terms of time-span covered, some early papers were published in the 70's, whereas the main body of the literature appeared in the first half of the 80's, primarily in the United States. This bibliography includes references until Autumn 1986, and incorporates more recent European contributions.

### 2. SOURCE FILE

The references include journal articles, conference proceedings, books, research and technical reports, theses, a few other bibliographies and some references to software.

Most of the data was gathered through searching the online bibliographic databases commercially available. In October 1986, online searches were performed on ESA-IRS, Dialog Version 2, and Wilson-Line on the following bibliographic files: Abi-Inform, Books-in-Print, Conference Paper Index, Dissertation Abstracts, ERIC, INSPEC, ISA, LISA, Microcomputer Index, NTIS, PASCAL, Psyc-Alert, Psyc-Info, and Library Literature.

Duplicates were eliminated from the downloaded files by manual checking. Some further material was gathered from existing bibliographies, from personal records, and suggestions from other people; where this material was not already present, it was keyed in directly.

The results of the online searches were downloaded and transferred to a microcomputer for further processing. The MIRABILIS information retrieval package was used for creating, editing, indexing, sorting and printing the database.

Each bibliographic reference consists of the author(s), the title, the source and collation, and the subject heading(s).

No editing of the bibliographic source and collation format was done; it would have been very time consuming indeed to standardise the various formats and the inconsistencies found in the many different formats used in all the databases searched.

### 3. HOW TO USE THE CLASSIFIED BIBLIOGRAPHY

This bibliography consists of a numbered list of 952 bibliographic references, presented in a classified sequence.

A Classification Scheme Summary giving only the main classification sections can be found on page 5.

The full Classification Scheme is shown on pages 6 to 10. Each section of the classification is identified by a heading which was also used to index the bibliographic references. A short text explains further the content of each section of the Classification Scheme.

With each section are also given the corresponding numbers of the bibliographic references pertaining to it. The reader can select a section of the classification and, using these numbers, go to the right portion of the numbered list of bibliographic citations. Within each portion of the list, the citations are presented in the alphabetical order of the authors.

Each bibliographic reference consists of the author(s), the title, the source and collation, and the subject heading(s). These subject headings are the same as the headings used to identify the various sections of the Classification Scheme.

A fair number of bibliographic references were classified in more than one section of the Classification Scheme (the 952 numbered references of the classified sequence correspond to 769 unique bibliographic citations). Those appear more than once in the numbered list, and have more than one subject heading assigned to them; this should help the reader ascertain the topic of the citation, and should also support cross-referencing.

There is an Author Index on pages 156 to 168 which correlates the authors to the reference numbers of the classified list of bibliographic citations. Because of the duplication of records in the classified sequence, the list of entries under a given author in the Author Index may include references to identical records.

## CLASSIFICATION SCHEME SUMMARY

### PART A: OPACS AS INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS

1. OPACS IN GENERAL
2. CATALOGUE FORM
3. OPAC FUNCTIONS AND DESIGN
  - 3.1 OPAC SYSTEM DESCRIPTION
  - 3.2 OPAC INSTALLATION DESCRIPTION
  - 3.3 HARDWARE
  - 3.4 SOFTWARE
    - 3.4.1 FILE MANAGEMENT
    - 3.4.2 IR TECHNIQUES
  - 3.5 USER INTERFACE
  - 3.6 USER MANUALS
  - 3.7 SUBJECT ACCESS
    - 3.7.1 DATABASE CREATION
    - 3.7.2 CLASSIFICATION
    - 3.7.3 THESAURUS
    - 3.7.4 AUTHORITY CONTROL

### PART B: EVALUATION

1. TRADITIONAL CATALOGUE USE STUDIES/COMPARATIVE USE STUDIES
2. METHODOLOGY
3. OPAC EVALUATION
  - 3.1 USERS
    - 3.1.1 IMPACT STUDIES
    - 3.1.2 PUBLIC USAGE
    - 3.1.3 EVALUATION CASE STUDY
  - 3.2 USE
    - 3.2.1 TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE
    - 3.2.2 IR PERFORMANCE
    - 3.2.3 USE PATTERNS
    - 3.2.4 ERGONOMICS
  - 3.3 USER INTERACTION
    - 3.3.1 EASE OF USE
    - 3.3.2 INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

### PART C: OPACS IN ORGANISATIONS

1. MANAGEMENT
  - 1.1 SYSTEM PLANNING
  - 1.2 SYSTEM SELECTION
  - 1.3 SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION
  - 1.4 COST ANALYSIS
  - 1.5 MAINTENANCE
  - 1.6 STAFF IMPLICATIONS
  - 1.7 EDUCATION
2. RESOURCE SHARING
  - 2.1 FILE CREATION
  - 2.2 CATALOGUE ACCESS EXPANSION
  - 2.3 COPYRIGHT, DATA PROTECTION
3. SYSTEM MONITORING

BIBLIOGRAPHIES, SOFTWARE