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# Library cataloging system ready for researchers' use

By Mary Kay Mulvaney  
Reporter

Students caught up in the last-minute flurry of trying to collect research in the Sterling C. Evans Library for a final paper now have the opportunity to work with a new cataloging system called TAMU/NOTIS. TAMU/NOTIS, meaning North-western Online Total Integrated System, was developed at North-western University and is being used by more than 70 libraries, including more than 40 academic research institutions, said Anne Highsmith, the library's automation project coordinator.

NOTIS has established a strong reputation for system reliability and a special ability to meet the needs of academic library users.

"It's a big improvement," she said. "Anyone who uses the library knows we've had some problems with the reliability of ALIS and the other libraries that have used NOTIS have found it to be very reliable."

ALIS — Automated Library Information System — is the current circulation system and online catalog in the library. It contains catalog records for all materials.

"By saying 'materials,' she explained, "I mean that government documents are not in ALIS. However, we are working on getting them as soon as possible."

*"It's a big improvement. Anyone who uses the library knows we've had some problems with the reliability of ALIS and the other libraries that have used NOTIS have found it to be very reliable."*

— Anne Highsmith,  
project coordinator

She said there are several advantages to installing TAMU/NOTIS in place of ALIS.

TAMU/NOTIS will contain subject headings, one feature that ALIS does not have. Users will be able to search for works in the TAMU/NOTIS online catalog with Library of Congress subject headings as well as author, title and call number references, she said.

There also will be improved screen displays, making NOTIS much easier to understand than ALIS, she said.

"It will be a lot easier to read than ALIS," Highsmith said. "ALIS is designed for the staff to use, but NOTIS's design offers easy reading for anyone."

Cross-references, similar to the

ones found in the card catalog, will be available in the on-line catalog to guide the user, she said.

In addition, a unique search term for each name will be represented in the catalog, she said.

"The problem of having to search for an author under several different forms of the name to obtain all the works by that author will be eliminated in the NOTIS catalog," she said.

TAMU/NOTIS will help students when looking for serial holdings, she said. It will provide location, call number and holdings information for serial titles in a single screen display.

With ALIS, Highsmith said, library users had to find the call number for a serial on ALIS and then check the library's serial holdings list to determine whether that particular volume is owned by the library.

NOTIS will have search functions to help keep search capabilities more flexible, she said. The use of these functions will be familiar to patrons who have used the library bibliographic retrieval service, since the search techniques are the same.

In February, only new catalogs will be installed in TAMU/NOTIS so students will have limited use, but they will be able to familiarize themselves with the system at the same time, Highsmith said. The expected implementation date for the whole database is August, just in time for the Fall 1988 semester, she said.

# Texans talk with Soviets on radio show

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — At the heads of their countries met in Washington, four Texans talked with Soviet citizens about success and peace during a radio talk show Tuesday.

Four San Antonio residents spoke with five people in Moscow via telephone hook-up in the studios of WOAI-AM to mark the start of the U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington.

The nine participants, along with radio co-hosts Pat Rodgers and Eliza Sonneland, discovered during their one and one-half hour conversation that they had similar views about education, entertainment, peace and disarmament and the focus of the summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Soviet journalist Ludmila Eniutina told the Americans she had an apartment in the city, a house in the suburbs and also had a car.

She said that Gorbachev's no decree of glasnost, or openness, has helped many Soviets.

"I think glasnost has given us the opportunity not only to speak out our minds, but the possibility to try different ways to find out the best way to run our life," Eniutina said.

She said success in the Soviet Union is measured relatively much the same way it is in the United States.

"Some people think about success in their professional lives," she said. "Some people think about success in their private lives."

"I don't know a single girl who wouldn't like to be married and have a husband and children at the same time, I don't know a single girl who would not like to have a career."

She said, however, that not all Soviets have automobiles and many are restricted from traveling around the country and abroad if they have sensitive jobs.

Carla Cristadoro, 22, a recent graduate of Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, told Natalia Alexandrova, a Soviet foreign language student, that she thinks American youth are optimistic about the summit.

"We're very happy about it and we're very concerned about what is going to happen between the Soviet people and the American people," Cristadoro said.

# Commission hearings may save town from construction of dam

DALLAS (AP) — The West Texas community of Paluxy might be spared following a decision by the Texas Water Commission to reopen hearings into a dam construction project that would flood the town.

The hearings will determine the future of the town about 40 miles southwest of Fort Worth and could have a severe impact on dinosaur tracks below the proposed dam which have been declared national landmarks.

The town, which has about 50 full-time residents, was founded before the Civil War, said Janet Saltzgiver, whose ancestors founded the town. She said that if the dam is built, the grave of her great-great-grandfather will be under water.

The water commission's call Monday for new hearings on the project was prompted by allegations by Paluxy landowners that improprieties occurred during approval of the project this summer. A lawsuit filed last month by Paluxy landowners charged that improper communications took place between one water commissioner and the lawyer for supporters of the dam.

"Nobody's interest is served by constant fighting and

name calling, or by the time and expense of unnecessary litigation," said Buck Wynne, who recommended that the agency reopen the case.

Wynne joined the commission, succeeding Ralph Roming, who was accused of discussing the project with Frank Booth, the attorney for dam backers.

Booth and Roming have denied the allegations. Booth's clients are Somervell County and the neighboring cities of Stephenville and Glen Rose, which argued the dam was needed to ensure adequate drinking supplies. However, landowners say there are less expensive alternatives to building the Paluxy dam.

Landowners whose property would be flooded by the project filed suit in Travis County district court. Papers filed in the suit allege the commission approved the dam on the Paluxy River near Glen Rose after Booth and Roming engaged in "ex parte" communications, a violation of legal ethics.

A motion by Wynne to ask the court to return the case to the agency for further hearings was approved by the water commission.

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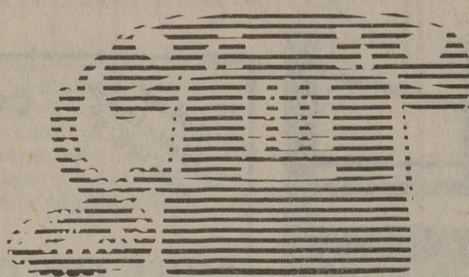
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