

First use of a computer in the operation of a university library

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The first use of a computer in the operation of a university library has been announced in a report by Melvin J. Voigt, University Librarian, and Clay L. Perry, Director of the Computer Center at the University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California. In an experimental project carried on during the past year, the complete records of the Library's holdings of 700 periodicals have been converted to computer form. The computer produces IBM cards each month for issues of periodicals expected. After receipt of these issues, the cards are used to print lists of periodical issues received, for the use of library patrons, and are then used to update the computer tape. A print-out of the Library's holdings for all periodicals in the program can be produced at low cost.

During the coming year 2000 additional serial titles will be added and the program will be broadened to include bindery production and other types of output. Comparative costs of manual and computerized processing will be determined.

This system has many advantages over traditional periodical record systems and will result in better service to library users, as well as in more efficient handling of periodical receipts and records, according to George Vdovin, Head of the Library's Public Services Department, who has been in charge of the project for the Library. Bulky central serials records can be discarded after the system is fully operative. The computer program, which was written by David Newman, will be made available to other libraries.

A limited number of copies of the report are available for distribution.