"Electronic Library" course

The University of Oregon Library has successfully experimented with a team-taught credit course, "The Electronic Library," that includes classroom instruction in major information technologies. The course, which was open to both undergraduate and graduate students with no prerequisites of computer literacy, met twice a week for seven weeks. It utilized resources in both the University Library and the University Computing Center, where students used the computer lab and obtained VAX accounts for Internet searching.

The course curriculum included a Hypercard orientation to the services of the library; lectures in Boolean strategies, the MARC record, and differences between keyword and thesaurus searching; and demonstrations and hands-on practice with the Library's online catalog (including the Expanded Academic Index), CD-ROMs, the Internet, government documents databases, and OCLC's FirstSearch service. Instruction was shared among the Coordinator of Library Instruction (Paul Frantz), the Coordinator of Electronic Resources (Sara Brownmiller), the East Asian bibliographer (Robert Felsing), and the Interlibrary Loan librarian (Joanne Halgren).

Students reported that the course was an excellent introduction to resources that would change the way they did research, and the team of librarians gained experience and insight into different ways of presenting new information technologies. The course will become a regular component of the Library's credit course offerings, and techniques used in the course will become incorporated into workshops and other instructional efforts. Anyone wishing copies of the course syllabus, assignments, and a list of class readings may obtain them through the LOEX Clearinghouse for Library Instruction, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan.—*Paul Frantz, Coordinator of Library Instruction, University of Oregon*

search account is required. The system (containing the videodisc of architectural images, RLIN LaserLink Software and user's manual costs $650 (plus tax, shipping, and handling). Contact the RLIN Information Center at voice: (800) 537-7546; e-mail: bl.ric@rlg.stanford.edu.

VTLS and Princeton to create image database of card catalog

Princeton University Libraries, Princeton's Computing and Information Technology Department, and VTLS Inc. are working on a joint project to scan the libraries' public union card catalog, containing 6.5 million 3x5 catalog cards, to create a database of digitized images. The database represents 1.75 million titles acquired and cataloged before 1980, predating Princeton's automation and online catalog.

Initially, the image database will not be integrated with the libraries' online catalog, but in a later phase of the project plans call for optical character recognition to convert the digital image of each card to fully tagged and indexed records of text in standard MARC format. The deteriorating condition of the catalog cards, the extensive editing of the cards required by Princeton library staff, and the delay it would create in cataloging current acquisitions were all factors in deciding to scan the catalog rather than follow the traditional retrospective conversion model. A recent estimate suggested that a retrospective conversion would cost $18 million and would take 11 years to complete; the image database project will be completed in nine months at a cost of less than $1 million.

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