

ploration of the matching of bibliographic records representing materials in 221 libraries for the purpose of correlating their bibliographic identity. In the process of this activity the project has shed new light on possibilities of computer-aided recognition of identification of bibliographic items. It has also elaborated a new, powerful, and ingeniously simple method of this recognition, the "fingerprint," which may open up a far-reaching potential for the management of bibliographic records in national and international context.

The project has contributed new knowledge about bibliographic data also in other areas. There is much in the pages of the LOC Report pointing in the direction of a sophisticated simplicity inherent in bibliographic data as contrasted with our currently prevailing and unquestioned reliance on systematically exhaustive accumulation of interpreted bibliographic data as a basis for future direction of computerized management of bibliographic records. Implicit in some of the principal observations in the LOC Report is the potential for a powerful alternative to the present-day bibliographic management anchored in a cataloging code coupled with a large measure of interpretation for compatibility.

The LOC Report is rich in detailed data; it summarizes the results with clarity and is oriented within a perspective of practicality. The success of the work owes much to the distinguished group of experts who participated in the definition of the project and to the competent and devoted work of the project team working against a full measure of difficulties caused by a computer not intended for textual data processing. The director of the project was John W. Jolliffe, keeper of catalogues of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, a library automation pioneer renowned for his insight, research discipline, and professional standards. The report will take its place among the select group of classics in library automation literature, and its observations and tabulated data are likely to inspire reevaluation of many a current practice. For the automation-oriented rare books bibliographer in particular the LOC Report offers the challenge of radically new horizons.—*Ritvars Bregzis, University of Toronto Library.*

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