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A SPECIAL REPORT

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY TO OFFER NOTIS SERVICES TO OTHER LIBRARIES

Northwestern University has made a long-range commitment to offer its integrated, comprehensive library system to libraries in the United States and abroad, according to University Librarian John P. McGowan.

The library system, known as NOTIS (Northwestern Online Total Integrated System), is an operationally tested set of computer programs with full documentation and procedural manuals. It has an online catalog component, which enables library patrons and staff to locate items held or on order and to determine their status, as well as library materials management component, which supports such library operations as acquisitions, serials check-in, cataloging, authority control, catalog maintenance and circulation services.

NOTIS development began in 1967, and it is now a third-generation system, McGowan said. It has been in continuous use in the Northwestern University Library system since 1970 and each successive version of NOTIS has built on the strengths of the previous version.

McGowan said that the NOTIS software package may be licensed either on an annual or on a permanent basis, and is available for use on IBM or IBM compatible equipment. NOTIS uses standard programming languages, and maintenance includes enhancements to programs, as developed, and assistance in installation and use of the system.

Northwestern has a demonstrated record of continuity and commitment to library systems development, said Robert H. Strotz, president. This commitment will ensure that the NOTIS system will remain state-of-the-art, and will offer a particularly high level of technical support to those educational institutions, special and public libraries that choose to work with us, he said.

The NOTIS system was installed at the Biblioteca Nacional, Caracas, Venezuela in May 1979, and is being installed at the Biblioteca Nacional, Santiago, Chile. Other users of the NOTIS software include the University of Florida; University of South Alabama; Central State University (Edmond, Oklahoma); Washington University (St. Louis); and the University of Cincinnati. The NOTIS library system will be installed at Clemson University and at Harvard University later this year.

McGowan said that because NOTIS supports internationally recognized standards, any NOTIS installation has the potential for linkage to other NOTIS installations, and to future regional and national data bases. We continue our commitment to excellence, he said, and this is evidenced by Northwestern's participation in a number of cooperative programs with the Library of Congress, such as the Name Authorities Cooperative Project.

He said that the NOTIS developers have recently completed a project funded by the Council on Library Resources. Working with staff from the Research Libraries Group, they have developed application level protocols for the computer-to-computer transfer of bibliographic and authorities data.

For further information on the NOTIS library system, contact Kenton Andersen, University Library, 1935 Sheridan Road, Evanston, or call Mr. Andersen at 492-7004.