Federal grant to University libraries will expand computer linkages across the state and nation

Patrons of the University libraries soon will be able to conduct their own searches of the holdings of major university libraries across the state and nation.

A $49,041 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for special funds will help install PACLink, a software package that is based on an interlibrary cataloging standard. Libraries with the same protocol and easily place interlibrary loan requests of needed materials. Users at other libraries will have the capability to search the WMU library catalog and receive answers quickly.

The libraries' new capabilities are expected to be available to patrons sometime late in 1995. Patrons at 50 libraries in Southwest Michigan's Lakeside Library Consortium also will be able to access library catalogs through PACLink.

The initial effort will be to link the WMU libraries with those at five other Michigan universities that have received recent funding to install PACLink, according to Dean Lance Query, University librarians who heads the grant project. Once the software is in place, it also will give WMU users access to other major libraries, such as those at Pennsylvania State University and the University of California, Los Angeles, where the same connectivity standard already is in place.

"This protocol will give us all the libraries we need for a long time," Query says. "It opens up the possibility of resource sharing and using those increasingly scarce dollars in a more efficient way."

Query says that, in the future, the protocol will allow libraries to pursue much more specialization in addition to the normal core collection that each library will need. WMU's specialized collections would serve as "virtual" libraries for major libraries at institutions across the country. The specialized collections at other institutions would, in turn, be available to WMU library patrons.

"If we are going to do in-depth collecting in the area of paper science, why should the University of Michigan do the same?" Query asks. "If the U. M. is going to develop an extensive collection on legal history, why should we do the same?" Protocols like this will allow each collection to be seamless, user-friendly, and allow us to do interlibrary lending transactions without filling out all the traditional forms now required.

PACLink is a product of NOnS, a commercial online cataloging system that is becoming known across the country. Currently, 10 of Michigan's 15 public universities have NOnS-integrated systems. Besides WMU, those libraries installing the PACLink software with funding from a variety of sources. The five, which include 20,000 catalog records, will be immediately linked to WMU's libraries, are Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

The whole area of electronic access to library holdings is "a very complex, fluid situation," says Query, who notes that many people routinely access other libraries by using the Internet. Copyright and archival questions already are plaguing librarians on a daily basis. Even though many library catalogs already are available on the Internet, problems arise from a lack of consistency of screens and searching procedures.

"This is an area in which technology has outstripped policy," Query says. "It will take quite a while before this all is sorted out." At least 500 volunteers will be needed to assist the project in a variety of areas. They include fund-raisers, display guides, quilts monitors, parking attendants, merchandise salespersons and quilt set-up, take-down and clean-up assistants.

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Federal funding has paved the way for a new program at WMU that will respond to a nationwide demand for professionals with both rehabilitation counseling and nonprofit leadership skills.

The U.S. Department of Education has approved five years of funding for the program, which combines the resources of WMU’s Department of Blind Rehabilitation and Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.

President Haenicke has charged the committee to respond to a nationwide demand for professionals who are blind and, through the use of career counseling, helping them take full advantage of their education.

The program, which was created when WMU educators realized that employers were retraining their blind graduates in rehabilitation to take on the additional counseling duties needed for agency work, no other school in the country offers training in the combined set of skills.

The counselor is focused on helping people find and maintain employment. To do something of a case manager, Wiener says.

“ать rehabilitation counselor acts as something of a case manager,” Wiener says.

The counselor is focused on helping people with career choices and assisting them in finding and maintaining employment. To do that, the counselor needs good assessment skills as well as the skill to help the blind individual and the family adjust to the problems that arise as a result of a disability.”

The new program has been implemented with a minimum of additional resources committed by either department. With career counseling already a specialty in counselor education and counseling psychology, only one new course, “Foundations in Rehabilitation Counseling,” was added in that department.

In rehabilitation, a new course in “Job Analysis and Job Placement” was added and existing courses were redeveloped to meet the needs of rehabilitation counselors.

“The rehabilitation counselor acts as something of a case manager,” Wiener says.

“The counselor is focused on helping people who are blind and, through the use of career counseling, helping them take full advantage of their education.”

The program serves a special population of clients that we have not served in the past,” Hovestadt says.

“Really want to do a better job of both educating people who are blind and, through the use of career counseling, helping them take full advantage of that education.”

The population served is a growing one, Hovestadt says.

“Advancements have resulted in the need for more,” says Wiener.

“Blind professionals with disabilities distinctly different from the nondisabled are at disproportionate risk of unemployment or underemployment.”

The new addition of a rehabilitation counseling component to help guide these people makes WMU one of only three schools in Michigan to offer training in that particular area.

“One of the big advantages of this program is that those who are blind and want to train like this do not have to go out of state for their education,” Wiener says.

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30 faculty and staff members to be inducted into 25 Year Club at annual banquet Dec. 5

Thirty faculty and staff members who have been employed 25 years or longer at the University are eligible for induction into WMU’s 25 Year Club at the annual banquet Monday, Dec. 5, in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

The club, which will now have 294 active members, also has 75 members who have been inducted in the past. The first members were inducted in 1964.

Members and guests will be welcomed by Richard K. Schaper, human resources. New members will be inducted by President Haenicke.

All inductees will receive a pendant, a 25-year service pin, a silver-colored identification card and a framed certificate.

The budget for induction is $50,000. The club’s governing board will approve any budget increases that may be necessary.

Graduate College plans day for diversity students

The Graduate College will sponsor its seventh annual Graduate Information Day for Diversity Students from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

The purpose of the event is to provide prospective diversity students with information regarding graduate school and to provide master’s level students with information for diversity-related positions.

The meeting, which includes a complimentary lunch, is open to all interested students, faculty, alumni and review committees.

Interests include sabbaticals, admission, financial aid, entrance examinations, and various programs and requirements.

“I hope that by including these items as part of the agenda, students will be less intimidated about applying to WMU’s Graduate College,” said Griselda Daniel, Graduate College. “Western’s diversity undergraduate students make up a significant portion of the diversity of WMU’s graduate students. However, with the added encouragement of this agenda, I feel that more of them will attend.

Dec. 1 senate agenda includes report from MLK Day group

The Faculty Senate will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Fetzer Center. Agenda items include remarks by President Haenicke, reports from the Luther King Jr. Legacy Committee and a recommendation to delay implementation of the General Education Policy.

Media

Elder C. Quandt, chairman of geology, discusses tourism during the holidays in an article for the Kalamazoo Gazette. He says that tourism during the holidays can be a valuable contribution to the local economy.

Obituary

William E. Buys, emeritus in community health education, died Monday, Nov. 23, in Grand Rapids. He was 75.

Buys joined the WMU faculty in 1964 in which he taught during the period after teaching at Southern Illinois University, Wayne State University and the University of Illinois. He was recognized for his significant role in curriculum development in the department and was one of the faculty members responsible for developing the bachelor of science degree in community health education.

He also directed the community health services program for 15 years. In 1971, he received an Alumni Teaching Excellence Award for his superior educational efforts.

Buys wrote or edited several books on speech-related topics and continued that work after retiring in 1980 to Stoweood, Mich. He also continued to teach occasionally at Ferris State, Central Michigan and Saginaw Valley State Universities.

He was a member of the American Speech and Hearing Association and the American Speech and Hearing Association.

Bargaining sessions

University employees if you are currently participating in the tax-deferred retirement savings plan, you will be receiving your 1995 salary reduction calculations and agreements from SDMG within the next few days.

If you have not previously participated in the tax-deferred savings programs and would like more information prior to scheduling your appointment, please call Brat-Eutz at 343-0633.

Exchange


WANTED - Slightly used Nordic Track. Call 7-5191 weekdays.

Zest for Life

Congratulations to the 70 WMU employees who participated in the Zest for Life Corporate Olympics team in the 1994 YMCA Community Corporate Olympics. Our team took second place overall in Division IV and earned the “Keeper of the Flame” award for our continued dedication.

We won first and second place in the bike prediction event, first and second place in the two-mile fast walk, second place in the women’s three-mile run, first place in the one-mile prediction event, first place in the five-mile relay and first and second place in the new men’s triathlon event. Earlier in the year, a WMU employee volleyball team participated in the YMCA Corporate Olympics volleyball tournament and earned runner-up honors.

Next year will be the 10th anniversary for the Community Corporate Olympics and the YMCA is planning some special activities to make this a memorable celebration. Many positive changes will continue to occur to meet the needs of the participants. The Corporate Olympics name has been changed to the “Corporate Games” to avoid infringement on the name of the international Olympic contest.

If you were not involved this year but are interested in participating in 1995, call the Zest for Life office at 7-3322 to sign up.

Current participants will receive registration information mid-winter semester.
HOT OFF THE PRINTER — A map depicting the city of Kalamazoo’s land use patterns was just one of many products on display Nov. 18 at the College of Arts and Sciences Geographical Information Systems Research Center open house in the Trimpke Building, David G. Dickenson, right, geography and director of the center, showed the map and the Hewlett-Packard color printer/plotter that produced it to, from left: Gregory P. Anderson, a GIS analyst at the center; Kathleen Wresnies, a graduate student in geography from Paw Paw; and Dave Shimarker, GIS coordinator for Barry County and a 1991 alumnum. The center, established following the University’s 1992 Centers for Excellence competition, integrates geologic and geographic information into a computer database that can be used by local government officials to make crucial zoning, land use and groundwater protection decisions.

Money raised through donations and the sale of merchandise before the display and beyond the $19,000 cost of bringing the quilt to Kalamazoo will go to local AIDS service organizations, sponsors said.

David Small, a widely published author and illustrator of children’s books who lives in Mendon, has donated the artwork for a commemorative postcard and post card, which will be sold in the center and telephone numbers so that additional information may be sent to them.

According to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, more than 1 million Americans are infected with the virus that causes AIDS and more than 200,000 people have died from the disease since its discovery in 1981. More than 360,000 cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in the United States. The number of diagnosed cases in Michigan is more than 5,800.

Expert on HIV prevention to present colloquium Dec. 1

An expert on HIV prevention strategies will speak on campus Thursday, Dec. 1. Jeff A. Kelly, professor of psychiatry and mental health sciences at the Medical College of Wisconsin, will lead a colloquium on “Preventing HIV and AIDS: Strategies that Work.”

Kelly, who also is director of the Community Health Behavior Program for the college, will discuss several strategies to prevent the spread of HIV infections. They include face-to-face interventions with high-risk individuals and broader scale community-level campaigns.

His lecture, which is free and open to the public, is being sponsored by the Department of Psychology.

School of Music extends holiday greeting Dec. 4

The School of Music will extend its annual holiday greeting to the community during a free concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in World AIDS Day observance conference set for Dec. 1-2

WMU, the Kalamazoo County AIDS Planning Task Force and a consortium of community-based organizations in Southwest Michigan are sponsoring the World AIDS Day observance from 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1, at Loy Norrix High School Auditorium.

The speakers will include two experts in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention and three HIV infected persons who will relate their personal stories of how HIV has affected their lives and how they cope with the infection.

The consortium also will sponsor a conference titled “Advances in HIV Prevention Strategies — Influencing Risk Reduction Behaviors in Youth and Young Adults” Friday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 211 Bernhard Center.

The conference, which is by invitation only, is for Southwest Michigan educators and those who professionally interact with young people ages 12 to 26. For more information, persons may call the College of Health and Human Services at 7-2638.