Annrep

ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89 SERIALS SECTION

The major undertaking of the serials section during 1988/89 was the transition from a manual to an automated serials control system. A $68,000 grant from the Board of Governors Challenge Fund for Management and Administative Improvement enabled the Library to implement the Faxon Company's online S-10 serials system. The funds were used to purchase computer hardware and software and to contract with Faxon to develop a computerized database of all serial titles in the URI libraries from data in the URI Serials List. The following hardware was purchased for online access to Faxon for the main library in Kingston:

3 IBM PS2 Model 30 Microcomputers (2 in the Serials Section; 1 in Government Publications Unit)
2 2 Telex 1191 terminals
1 Telex 8-Port Controller
1 Epsom printer

In addition software emulation packages were purchased allowing the branch libraries (Pell and CCE) to access Faxon using dial-up procedures on microcomputers already available on site.

The SC-10 serials system enables the main library, the two branch libraries, and the Government Publications unit to perform serials functions-- check-in, claiming, binding, payment--locally, although management reports include data from all sites as a whole. Faxon is responsible for all database and computer maintenance; contracting libraries access the Faxon computer via microcomputers or terminals and pay a monthly fee to maintain their serial records and use Faxon's LINX system.

The serials section began checking in current periodicals and continuations on the system in January 1989. The Checklist was "closed" at the end of 1988. Starting with 1989 check-ins, all serial materials are entered into the computer record (rather than paper records). All serials staff (check-in, claiming, payment, and binding staff) were trained in searching and data entry on the computer system. The staff on the whole has adapted well to the new procedures, although some questions still arise. Because the database of serial titles was developed from information in the URI Serials List (local, non-standard bibliographic data), considerable database cleanup by serials staff was required and is continuing. A Faxon computer malfunction in May caused additional complications during this transition year.

Statistics provided by the system denote that at the end of June, 1989, the combined URI libraries have a total of 8,996 unique current serial titles and 11,305 serial total copies. Total issues received in June was 6,268; total issues received, Jan-Jun was 23,170.