COMPASS COMES TO OLIN LIBRARY

Early in February, the Libraries' Computer-Assisted Search Service (COMPASS) began offering access to databases in the social sciences and humanities through a computer terminal located in the Reference Department of Olin Library. This service complements the computer searching of the natural sciences and the physical sciences already established at Mann Library.

COMPASS can be used to help with a term paper, to prepare a thesis or research proposal, or to get information about specific products or industries. The results of a computer search may range from exhaustive bibliographies to a few pertinent citations, depending on the field searched and on the user's needs.

The databases are simply collections of information in machine-readable form. Many of the major databases available for computer searching at Olin consist of the computer tapes used to produce printed indexes and abstracts familiar to library users, such as Language and Language Behavior Abstracts, Psychological Abstracts, and Social Sciences Citation Index. Not all questions or research topics, of course, require or even benefit from computer searching rather than manual searching. Reference librarians at Olin and at Mann will help faculty, students, and staff to decide whether computer-assisted searching would be appropriate for their information needs.

Fees for this new service are determined by the bases accessed and range from seven to twenty dollars. A list of data bases with corresponding search fees is available at reference desks in campus libraries.

To initiate a search, request a demonstration, or get further information about COMPASS, call or visit the reference department in Mann Library (256-7754) for topics in the natural or physical sciences, or in Olin Library (256-4144) for topics in the social sciences or business. Most searches are done on an appointment basis. After a search request is submitted, the librarian in consultation with the client selects the appropriate data bases and outlines a search strategy. Two librarians are presently assigned to work primarily with COMPASS searching: Susan Markowitz (Mann) and Neil McElroy (Olin).
NEW OLIN LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT ASSIGNMENTS

As one result of the current Mellon Foundation Grant described in the previous issue of the Newsletter, Olin Library has been able to improve its book selection capability. Under the general direction of Assistant Director Hendrik Edelman, a number of experienced librarians will work closely with faculty and graduate students on new acquisitions and special bibliographical problems in several subject areas. Faculty are invited to consult with them at any time.

G. Marvin Tatum, Jr., Humanities Librarian, 502 Olin Library, 6-4614, is responsible for classics, ancient and medieval history, archaeology, English and American history and literature as well as anthropology, philosophy and psychology.

Janie L. Harris, Social Science Librarian, 213 Olin Library, 6-3525, directs the selection and special reference services in the modern social sciences, with emphasis on economics, sociology and political science. Ms. Harris will also be responsible for official publications and statistics in these fields.

Eva Kronik, Western European Studies Librarian, 213 Olin Library, 6-3525, is responsible for Germanic and Romance languages and literatures as well as Western European history.

Susan H. Livingston, Collection Development Coordinator, 110 Olin Library, 6-4969, directs the selection for current affairs and letters, including the 7-day collection.

COPYRIGHT AND THE LIBRARY

The Cornell University Libraries have issued guidelines for faculty members explaining what Library staff can and cannot do in order to comply with the Copyright Revision Law (PL 94-553). Faculty are reminded that under the new law, "unless a publisher has granted permission for multiple copying, we cannot make more than one copy for you on a library copy machine if the publication is under copyright, nor can we distribute multiple copies made without this permission."

The full text of these guidelines, titled "The Library and the Copy Machine," is available at all reserve desks. The reserve desks also have files of permissions received from publishers and sample letters requesting permission to photocopy, if it is necessary for you to do so.

A different section of the Copyright Law covers classroom use (see "Guidelines for Classroom Copying" in the Jan. 26 Cornell Chronicle). For a more general review of the copyright law as applied to educational institutions, you may want to consult The New Copyright Law: questions teachers and librarians ask (NEA, 1977) at reference desks in most campus libraries.
RECENT ACQUISITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS

Aristophanes. Comoediae Novem. Venice, Aldus Manutius, 1498. This is the first printing of Aristophanes' plays in the original Greek. Because some of the manuscripts on which this edition was based have been lost, the printed book now has the value of a manuscript for textual criticism. Cornell's copy is in exceptionally good condition.

A collection of twentieth-century leftist literature has been given to Cornell by Mrs. Helen Ann Mins Robbins. Included in this gift are novels, textbooks, children's books, a number of works published by the Co-operative Publishing Society of Foreign Workers in the USSR, and a rare copy of Stalin's Defects in Party Work and Measures for Liquidating Trotskyite and other Double-Dealers published in Moscow in 1937.

The first volumes of The James Joyce Archive have been received from Garland Publishing. Under the general editorship of Michael Groden all known Joyce manuscripts, including those in Cornell's Joyce Collection, are being published in facsimile with prefaces by leading Joyce scholars.

In memory of her husband, Mrs. Leverett Saltonstall, Jr. has given to Cornell an extraordinary collection of letters and documents from the Revolutionary War period. The collection includes letters addressed to Deputy Commissary General Carpenter Wharton from George Washington, John Hancock, and Robert Morris discussing the storage and transfer of supplies for the troops.

Two important additions have been made to the Antislavery Collection. We have acquired one of the earliest books written by an American black, A Narrative of the Lord's Wonderful Dealings with John Marrant, A Black, Now Gone to Preach the Gospel in Nova-Scotia... London, 1802. Marrant's narrative includes an account of his capture by the Cherokees. We have also added the first edition of Elias Hicks's influential Observations on the Slavery of the Africans and their Descendants... New York, 1811.

Notes by Joan Winterkorn, Department of Rare Books

UPDATES

Reference/Instruction in Central Libraries

Statistics for the Fall 1977 semester confirm that students in record numbers are using reference desk services. To date this welcome trend presents only one serious problem -- namely, that assignments involving large classes may require hundreds of students to use the same set of limited reference materials. When these students try to write term papers on one or two topics, all due at the same time, materials tend to disappear. Reference librarians would therefore appreciate advance notice of these kinds of assignments if possible, so solutions could be sought before students begin their assignments.
Reference staff in Olin and Uris Libraries are again offering sessions in use of the Library. To schedule undergraduates, call Joan Ormondroyd or Hal Espo in Uris (256-2339). For graduate students, sessions will be scheduled in Olin Library covering use of the card catalog and basic bibliographic tools. Instruction in resources and search techniques for selected disciplines can also be arranged - call Ann Gerken, 256-3319.

Annex Library

As reported in CUL Newsletter #1, transportation will be provided daily from campus libraries to the Annex building. However, we expect that users will need to go in-person to the Annex only occasionally to consult large runs of material. All libraries will have records of their Annex holdings and will be able to retrieve items for use on-campus the next day.

Bids for construction of the building and for installation of shelving were opened in early February. As the low bids received are within the budget approved by the University Trustees, construction is scheduled to start by March first and be completed by August fifteenth.