

W. J. PLUMBE

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LIBRUNAM

E. M. CAMPOS

WHAT IS LIBRUNAM?

It is a complete system for the handling, processing and retrieval of bibliographic information (mainly books), developed by the Dirección General de Bibliotecas of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

The very fact that LIBRUNAM is a complex system, owing to the many programs that comprise it, makes it a versatile, flexible, compatible and easy-to-use system. Its programming and implementation is organized into modular units.

Each unit includes:

- Study and evaluation of the current system.
- Design of the automation system.
- Definition and design of software.
- Definition of necessary routines for its implementation.
- Appraisal of technical and human resources.
- Cost-benefit evaluation.
- Selection and acquisition of the proper equipment for its operation.
- Personnel training.

The basic LIBRUNAM units are:

- (1) Acquisition of monographs.
- (2) Bibliographic data bank.
- (3) Cataloging and classification of monographs.
- (4) Retrospective conversion.
- (5) Quality control.
- (6) Information retrieval.
- (7) Theses.

LIBRUNAM has been designed to aid the libraries and to serve their users.

* National University of Mexico.

BIBLIOTECA



CENTRO UNIVERSITARIO
DE INVESTIGACIONES
BIBLIOTECOLÓGICAS

AID TO LIBRARIES

(a) Acquisition of books

Since the UNAM receives 120 000 to 150 000 books per year, an automated system is necessary for the handling of the following: payment to suppliers, preparation of library accounts reports, handling of money orders, requests for checks and bank drafts, applications for payment for the UNAM bursar's office, invoices received, verification of checks, orders control, foreign currency exchanges and catalog supply business (record forms, labels).

(b) Processing of books

A considerable part of the processing of books (such as the search for on line information for the precataloging and classification of the bibliographic material), is carried out with the aid of LIBRUNAM.

For this work the MARC tapes received periodically from the US library of Congress are processed and used, in addition to the UNAM Data Bank composed of the titles recorded in the official or master catalog.

Material is simultaneously cataloged, classified and codified according to the MARC II format for monographs. Immediately afterward the data is retrieved, revised, corrected and cards are elaborated.

Finally, to complete this processing, and before the books and cards are delivered to the corresponding departmental library, records and statistical controls are elaborated in accordance with the library, the number of copies, the type of cataloging language, the type of publication and its subject.

(c) Theses

A program for the creation of a data bank containing information concerning the theses written at the UNAM has been designed. For the masters and doctoral theses an abstract résumé of the work is included. Thus the information output used for the theses are the same and have the same possibilities as those used for the monographs.

(d) Co-ordination, administrative control and statistics

The bibliographic material is coordinated and controlled from the time it is received by the Acquisitions Department until it is distributed to the departmental libraries. Statistics can also be obtained through the use of the system itself.

AID TO USERS

(a) Data bank

The LIBRUNAM data bank is composed of:

1. The titles recorded in the official or master catalog of the Dirección General de Bibliotecas up to December 1977. (Retrospective.)
2. The daily production of the Technical Processes Department since January 1978.
3. The MARC tapes issued by the Library of Congress of the USA.
4. The catalog classifications according to subject, author, publisher and series headings.

(b) Information retrieval

The LIBRUNAM data bank aids in the selection, cataloging and classification of bibliographic material, as well as in the search for information for bibliographic or research purposes. The information retrieval can be done on line according to any of the elements composing the catalog card or to any combination of them. The information may also be retrieved in a free form by the selection of a word given in the text of the card, or even by means of a phonetic retrieval. The phonetic retrieval makes it possible to obtain information even though it may contain mistakes, be they orthographic ones made when typing, or those resulting from the possible transliteration of words implicit in the use of other alphabets, or those due to an uncertainty in regard to the spelling of either the author's name or the title.

(c) Elaboration of bibliographies

Bibliographies are made primarily by author, title and subject. The user can select the printed format he desires, short, long or in its original form.

(d) Catalogs

There exist a great many possibilities for the use of LIBRUNAM in the diffusion of information. Bulletins listing new acquisitions could be issued by the UNAM or by the specific libraries, according to general lists and the master catalog of LIBRUNAM.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, LIBRUNAM aids in the acquisition and the automatic data processing of bibliographic material. It is compatible with the majority of the automated data banks in the world. It is a simple, sure

and reliable system for whatever type of user. It assists the library patron in his research activities and in the elaboration of bibliographies. It helps improve the facilities available to library users by increasing the quality and variety of services while reducing the time required to perform them.

Librarianship in France

C. C. AGUOLU*

Since 1960, when many African experts in African history, education, sociology have been engaged in educational, social and political francophone countries of Africa, a common fundamental assumption was that territories were so much subject to former European colonizers that they have been unable to shed off colonial social, educational and political systems. Serious efforts being made by these inherited educational systems to remain virtually ineradicable. Asheim, a noted American librarian,

It is very difficult for the newer nations, however disenchanted they may have been, the present generation is in revolt against the present generation is in revolt against comes from a tradition that defers to political domination of the colonial symbols, rituals, and rules; thus the ceremonies and protocol, to models as they imagine they are repudiating.¹

Much as Asheim's observation is a basic contention is corroborated by a noted Nigerian educator, Dr Babalola, in *African Education*:

Of the approximately fifty countries in Africa, twenty, French; three, British; and the rest, affected countries has taken on some of the influence in terms of the social, cultural, economic

* University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria.

¹ L. Asheim (1966). *Librarianship in the Developing Countries*. New York: Praeger Press.

² A. B. Fafunwa (1967). *New Perspectives in African Education*. Lagos: Longman.