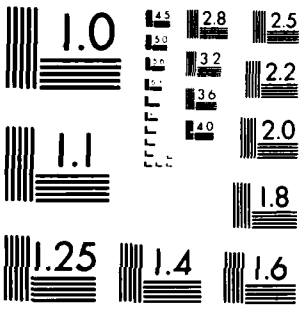
AD-A126 625 METHODS OF LIBRARY SURVIVAL: THE JOURNAL RESOURCE SHARING NETWORK(U) DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD RALSTON (ALBERTA) J G CURRIE FEB 83 DRES-359 1/1

UNCLASSIFIED F/G 5/2 NL

END
DATE FILMED
4 83
DTIC



UNCLASSIFIED

DRES

SUFFIELD REPORT

NO. 359

DISTRIBUTION
UNLIMITED

METHODS OF LIBRARY SURVIVAL: THE JOURNAL RESOURCE SHARING NETWORK (U)

by

John G. Currie

PCN No. 64D00

February 1983

DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD : RALSTON : ALBERTA

UNCLASSIFIED

DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED

DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD
RALSTON ALBERTA

SUFFIELD REPORT NO. 359

METHODS OF LIBRARY SURVIVAL: THE JOURNAL RESOURCE SHARING NETWORK (U)

by

John G. Currie

PCN No. 64D00

February 1983

UNCLASSIFIED

DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD
RALSTON ALBERTA

SUFFIELD REPORT NO. 359

METHODS OF LIBRARY SURVIVAL: THE JOURNAL RESOURCE SHARING NETWORK (U)

by

John G. Currie

ABSTRACT

The current situation of journal subscriptions in a Research and Development Information Centre is examined. The problems of high journal cost, literature scatter and staff-actioned maintenance duties are noted. A journal resource sharing network of similar information centres within the Research and Development branch of the Department of National Defence is proposed and its workings are illustrated.

(U)

UNCLASSIFIED

DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD
RALSTON ALBERTA

SUFFIELD REPORT NO. 359

METHODS OF LIBRARY SURVIVAL: THE JOURNAL RESOURCE SHARING NETWORK (U)

by

John G. Currie

INTRODUCTION TO THE PUBLISHED PAPER

This paper was originally presented to a working group of Information Scientists which is made up of the individuals who control the information services of the Department of National Defence's six Defence Research Establishments (DREs) and the central control agency (DSIS) all of whom are responsible to the Chief of Research and Development. We are, by the broadest interpretation, a network although we do not function as one. We share the following attributes:

1) a certain similarity of research;
2) a similar overall purpose;
3) the same management policies;
4) certain communications systems; and
5) we are all ultimately responsible, through our Chiefs, to the same office, Chief of Research and Development.

The Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES) suffers from an unfortunate physical location. The nearest university is approximately 250 km away. We are not on any regular delivery routes from organizations such as the National Research Council. We are virtual prisoners of the mail service. The delivery problems are severe and at the present time there is no forseeable respite.

While this paper was written for a very specific audience, I do feel that it is valid for all information services. Journal costs are excessive. There has been an information explosion. There is literature scatter. The most unpleasant realization is that, if left unchecked, journal holdings can begin to function as a library's version of "Pac-Man" eating the budget, staff time and eventually the effectiveness of the research assistance one can provide.

During the past three years DRES Information Services have spent a considerable amount of time pondering the popular questions of inflation (Harvey and Murray), methodology and progress (Currie and Murray). Money has been a serious library world concern from time immemorial and I doubt that this will ever change. The reaction at DRES when the periodical costs increased from $31,000 in 1977 to $73,000 in 1982 was to throw money at the library. This did, of course, have some pleasant effects but it did not solve the problem. Abuses to the system were created and a "buy now, pay never" attitude became deeply ingrained in the users collective consciousness. While the Chief of DRES is still willing to channel great sums of money the library's way it has now reached the point where the library staff cannot cope with the amount of material coming in, nor do I feel that the users find a high portion of relevant material, let alone read everything that they have asked for on automatic circulation. "The culture which has liberated man from the primitive forest" as Daniel Gore pleasantly put it "now thrusts him into the midst of a forest of books no less confining and stifling" (Gore, p. 1376). The majority of information consumers seem incapable of accepting Gore's forest as a truism and unless I am out in intellectual left field it seems that their chance of finding something pertinent, let alone the most pertinent information, decreases as they slowly sink into the increasing mire of rapidly accumulating printed matter.

This is not to say that the information consumers and providors at DRES are in constant conflict. While the consumers may not wish to accept the concept of the fecund nature of journal publishing and while they cling to their idealized vision of the seemingly omniscient university libraries of the late 60s they do realize that money, like nostalgia, isn't what it used to be. The average cost of periodicals at DRES doubled between 1977 and 1982 settling in at $204 per title before such items as service charges and foreign exchange were added. However, after a great deal of lobbying by the information staff and much soul-searching, shuffling of feet, and some feelings of martyrdom by the consumers, the DRES journal list was cut from 358 titles in 1982 to 254 titles for 1983. Interestingly enough, the average price per title rose from $204 to $236 which would have doubled this year's inflation figure. This is not to say that the consumers did not make sacrifices for they did bid a tearful farewell to some core journals and to all of the reviews.

The DRES exercise in restraint was very beneficial but it was not an end in itself. Consumers at DRES, including those just out of university, seem firmly wed to the printed page. Some of the consumers use DRES's two on-line retrieval systems, CAN/OLE and DIALOG, for reference purposes but there is still a strong resistance to replacing browsing by SDI or computer searches. It is interesting to note that the

strongest opposition comes from the systems and the computer types. While the consumers seem aware of the number of journals in existence, anywhere from 10,000 to 24,000 (Subremanyam, p. 34), and the reality of literature scatter they are not yet ready to face the problems.

The consumers did not agree to let 30% of their journals disappear because of literature scatter and low retrieval, or on-line retrieval, or the fact that the information staff spent a ridiculous amount of time just handling journal transactions. They made the cuts because there was no money. However, to make the cuts less painful and to keep the consumers goodwill I had to promise very good interlibrary loan service and what I envisioned is a network encompassing the six DREs, DSIS, NDHQ and all its branches and the three military colleges.

Interlibrary loans appear to be like Mark Twain's weather, we all think about them without doing anything about them. A search on my DIALOG helpmate LISA in September 1982 showed only 54 hits for Librar?(w)Loan? or Resource(w)Shar? for the years 1980 – 82. Some days I wonder if the world has passed me by without me knowing it, but a review of an unscientific sampling of the articles leads me to believe that no one solved the ILLO problems while I wasn't looking. This being the case, I would like to present the following truisms and a proposition for more efficient and effective information provision.

1. DRES cannot purchase all the journals that the consumers want.
2. Blanket interlibrary loans through CISTI will cost DRES several thousands of dollars in 1983.
3. The nearest university library to DRES is 250 km away so a network with them is not feasible.
4. Approximately 30% of the journals at DRES are also held by other DREs or NDHQ libraries.
5. The DRE and NDHQ libraries are already joined by a common telecommunications net (FAXCOM).

Therefore, it seems eminently reasonable and sensible to form an interlibrary loan network between the DREs and NDHQ. If we add the three military colleges we will increase our chances of encompassing the desired material in the net.

The first step involved would be the exchange of periodical lists between the participating establishments. From this it would be a small step to exchanging table of

contents pages of select journals which will help to combat the duplication of expensive and limited interest journals. For example, both DRES and DREO (in 1981 at least) subscribed to *Biochemical Journal (Cellular and Molecular)*. The estimated 1983 price will be $1004.72. We would send copies of the tables of contents to DREO while DCIEM would send us the contents from *Life Science Part 1* ($772.14) who would receive.....and so on. Policy could then be decided as to the scope of co-operation, the medium of transfer and the price.

There are problems, to be sure, but they are not insurmountable, that is why networks draw up policies. As Nitecki points out there will be a shift in your work flow to meet the changes in service. She also states there will be those users and those staff members who feel that they should have the material always at hand in case it might be needed (Nitecki, p. 11). There is also the need for unified and comprehensive delivery service (Russell, p. 22). A library will not necessarily have a complete holding or the journal may be out on circulation.

Perhaps I am overly optimistic but I view these problems as minor and perhaps more problems of attitude than of implementation. Of course, there will be shift in work load, but it will be expected and I doubt if the time spent in increased ILLOs will match the man hours spent wrestling with this year's periodical budget (9 man-days for the librarian at DRES and inestimable man-days for the consumers who helped) plus the sheer handling time that was spent on the 358 titles, marking them in, circulating them, claiming lost issues, replacing them on shelves, even just opening the mail. Consumers can be assured that the item will be available. We already have a FAXCOM telecommunications net and optical character scanners are not unfeasible, so the journal will not be out of circulation for more than the length of time it takes to be photocopied. The common service of circulating a journal to a set list of readers is no longer satisfactory anyway. This is a much debated question at DRES. Automatic circulation means that in many cases a journal disappears into some "black hole" the moment it starts off on its long, and sometimes precarious, journey. As for the plight of not having complete holdings, I find it hard to believe that most libraries have complete sets these days. Our journal delivery has been so erratic that some days our list of journal holdings resembles the roll of the 17th Lancers the day after Balaclava.

The major problem I foresee is one of consumer reaction. There is a great controversy over the definition of a "peripheral" journal, rather like beauty being in the eye of the beholder. There are benefits and illusionary benefits to the retention of masses of journals. One real benefit is that ideas may be retained from the scanning of articles

which are not immediately relevant. This benefit loses some of its power from the fact that scanning masses of literature is not practical today and research at DRES these days appears to be applied research to meet specific tasks. *Ergo* scanning is not work effective. Illusionary benefits are that one can note trends in research and follow the developments of ones' peers. This can be accomplished on-line or by SDI.

Problems of attitude can only be overcome by performing in a manner which will convince people that your theory is better. As I am not a fan of behavioural psychology and do not particularly want to subject my consumers to electric shock treatment the only way I see to change attitudes is to provide a better service. The benefits of a system such as this would be:

1. A more efficient use of consumer's time with a much better recall in their reading.
2. A better relevance ratio as the consumers will depend more on well planned on-line searches and SDI profiles. The information staff will have much more time to aid and guide the user as they will be able to transfer the effort of handling masses of journals to responding to the needs of the consumer.
3. Money can be spent more effectively for such items as computer time, terminals, or SDI profiles.
4. A journal on circulation may spend literally months making its way to a reader. SDI and current awareness will notify the consumer of relevant items and loans can be requested. If the policy agreed upon suggests FAXCOM or Optical Character Scanners as delivery systems then a transaction could conceivably be completed within three days.
5. DRES would be willing to provide these FAXCOM requests at no charge within the network.

I believe that such a network is sensible, feasible and full of promise. The next step is to test it. Policies must be decided upon: who is willing to participate, who will own the journals, who holds what journals, what will the method of document transmission be, will there be a charge. Complete agreement is needed on the above. Perhaps the best method of testing would be to try such a network on a limited scale monitoring the results very carefully for, say, a year and then reviewing the entire subject and amending policies if need be.

A network of this type does not seem like an unobtainable goal. There will be complaints, to be sure, from some consumers and from some information staff who will feel that they are losing autonomy. The benefits of such a network seem to be obvious. The goal of an information service should be to provide information as efficiently and effectively as possible. It is a utilitarian service now, not a personal service. The necessity to confront the four horsemen of the Library Apocalypse, time, money, manpower and attitude, is becoming acute. A periodical resource sharing network should help in the confrontation.

REFERENCES

1. Currie, John, G. and Murray, Clare. "Information Service in the Research Establishment, Present Practices and Future Needs (U)". Suffield Report No. 349, Defence Research Establishment Suffield, June 1982. UNCLASSIFIED.

2. Gore, Daniel. "Nothing Succeeds Like Excess". *Library Journal*, Vol. 107, No. 14, August 1982, pp. 1375 – 1378.

3. Harvey, R.B. and Murray, Clare. "Inflation and the Reference Library (U)". Suffield Technical Note 471, Defence Research Establishment Suffield, January 1980. UNCLASSIFIED.

4. Nitecki, D.A. "Impact on an On line Circulation System on Interlibrary Loan". *Special Libraries*, Volume 73, No. 1, January 1982, pp. 6 – 11.

5. Russell, D.R. "Interlibrary Loan in a Network Environment: The Good and the Bad News". *Special Libraries*, Volume 73, No. 1, January 1982, pp. 21 – 26.

6. Subramayam, K. *Scientific and Technical Information Resources*. Marcel Dekker Inc., N.Y., 1981.

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D
(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall document is classified)

1 ORIGINATING ACTIVITY Defence Research Establishment Suffield	2a. DOCUMENT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION z Unclassified 2b GROUP

3 DOCUMENT TITLE
Methods of Library Survival : The Journal Resource Sharing Network (U)

4 DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)
Suffield Report 359

5 AUTHOR(S) (Last name, first name, middle initial)
Currie John G.

6 DOCUMENT DATE Feb 1983	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS 6
8a. PROJECT OR GRANT NO. 64D00	9a. ORIGINATOR'S DOCUMENT NUMBER(S) SR 359	
8b CONTRACT NO.	9b. OTHER DOCUMENT NO.(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this document)	

10 DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT
UNLIMITED

11 SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	12. SPONSORING ACTIVITY

13 ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

The current situation of journal subscriptions in a Research and Development Information Centre is examined. The problems of high journal cost, literature scatter and staff-actioned maintenance duties are noted. A journal resource sharing network of similar information centres within the Research and Development branch of the Department of National Defence is proposed and its workings are illustrated.

(U)

DSIS
79-010

KEY WORDS

Information Science

Information Retrieval

Journals

Periodicals

Library Policy

Defence Research Establishment Suffield

DRES

CRAD

INSTRUCTIONS

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY Enter the name and address of the organization issuing the document.

2a. DOCUMENT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Enter the overall security classification of the document including special warning terms whenever applicable.

2b. GROUP Enter security reclassification group number. The three groups are defined in Appendix 'M' of the DRB Security Regulations.

3. DOCUMENT TITLE Enter the complete document title in all capital letters. Titles in all cases should be unclassified. If a sufficiently descriptive title cannot be selected without classification, show title classification with the usual one capital-letter abbreviation in parentheses immediately following the title.

4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES Enter the category of document, e.g. technical report, technical note or technical letter. If appropriate, enter the type of document, e.g. interim, progress, summary, annual or final. Give the inclusive dates when a specific reporting period is covered.

5. AUTHOR(S) Enter the name(s) of author(s) as shown on or in the document. Enter last name, first name, middle initial. If military, show rank. The name of the principal author is an absolute minimum requirement.

6. DOCUMENT DATE Enter the date (month, year) of Establishment approval for publication of the document.

7a. TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES The total page count should follow normal pagination procedures, i.e., enter the number of pages containing information.

7b. NUMBER OF REFERENCES Enter the total number of references cited in the document.

8a. PROJECT OR GRANT NUMBER If appropriate, enter the applicable research and development project or grant number under which the document was written.

8b. CONTRACT NUMBER If appropriate, enter the applicable number under which the document was written.

9a. ORIGINATOR'S DOCUMENT NUMBER(S) Enter the official document number by which the document will be identified and controlled by the originating activity. This number must be unique to this document.

9b. OTHER DOCUMENT NUMBER(S) If the document has been assigned any other document numbers (either by the originator or by the sponsor), also enter this number(s).

10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT Enter any limitations on further dissemination of the document, other than those imposed by security classification, using standard statements such as:

(1) "Qualified requesters may obtain copies of this document from their defence documentation center."

(2) "Announcement and dissemination of this document is not authorized without prior approval from originating activity."

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Use for additional explanatory notes.

12. SPONSORING ACTIVITY Enter the name of the departmental project office or laboratory sponsoring the research and development. Include address.

13. ABSTRACT Enter an abstract giving a brief and factual summary of the document, even though it may also appear elsewhere in the body of the document itself. It is highly desirable that the abstract of classified documents be unclassified. Each paragraph of the abstract shall end with an indication of the security classification of the information in the paragraph (unless the document itself is unclassified) represented as (TS), (S), (C), (R), or (U).

The length of the abstract should be limited to 20 single-spaced standard typewritten lines 7½ inches long.

14. KEY WORDS Key words are technically meaningful terms or short phrases that characterize a document and could be helpful in cataloging the document. Key words should be selected so that no security classification is required. Identifiers, such as equipment model designation, trade name, military project code name, geographic location, may be used as key words but will be followed by an indication of technical context.