

Covenant Theological Seminary Library Automation: Brief Retrospect

April 1998

1992

Joined OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, an international U.S.-based electronic network among libraries; OCLC began as a service for sharing cataloging, but has added and greatly facilitated such functions as Interlibrary Loan and the searching of huge databases)

Retrospective conversion underway (rendering all bibliographic records into "machine-readable" electronic form, as well as enhancing them)

Introduced a CD-ROM catalog, replacing a mix of microfiche and card catalogs

1993

Completed retrospective conversion

Computerized portions of acquisitions

Added OCLC's Interlibrary Loan module

Added OCLC's FirstSearch database services

Automated religious periodical index searching (CD-ROM modes)

Implemented Missouri Union Catalog on CD-ROM

Joined certain regional library networks (although the reasons related primarily to resource-sharing, automation was somewhat involved)

1994

Placed barcodes in all books, audio & video-cassettes, microforms, etc.

Expanded/enhanced office computerization, number of CD-ROM public catalog access points, and religious periodical index searching

1995

Brought up automated Circulation (barcoding had laid groundwork)

Introduced 3M automated security gateways

Upgraded office computerization

1996

Set up second periodical index workstation, and added one more index

Completed security strip placement in book collection, a project begun in 1995

Began regular Internet access from Library office

1997

Selected a new, much finer and fully-integrated library automation system to replace CD-ROM catalog, link all automated operations, provide more direct access by students to outside resources, and provide access *from* the outside to our Library catalog and other services, but...

Decided instead to await Common Library Platform (among MO academic libraries)

Winter and spring 1998

Purchased new server, CD-ROM tower, plus more; added student access to Internet

Replaced CD-ROM catalogs with new system that improves the catalog through daily updating and a new Windows environment, links it with circulation to reveal check-out status, and provides an automation "bridge" needed prior to construction and while we await better things.