

5. OTHER RELATED NEWS

a) The Linked Systems Project

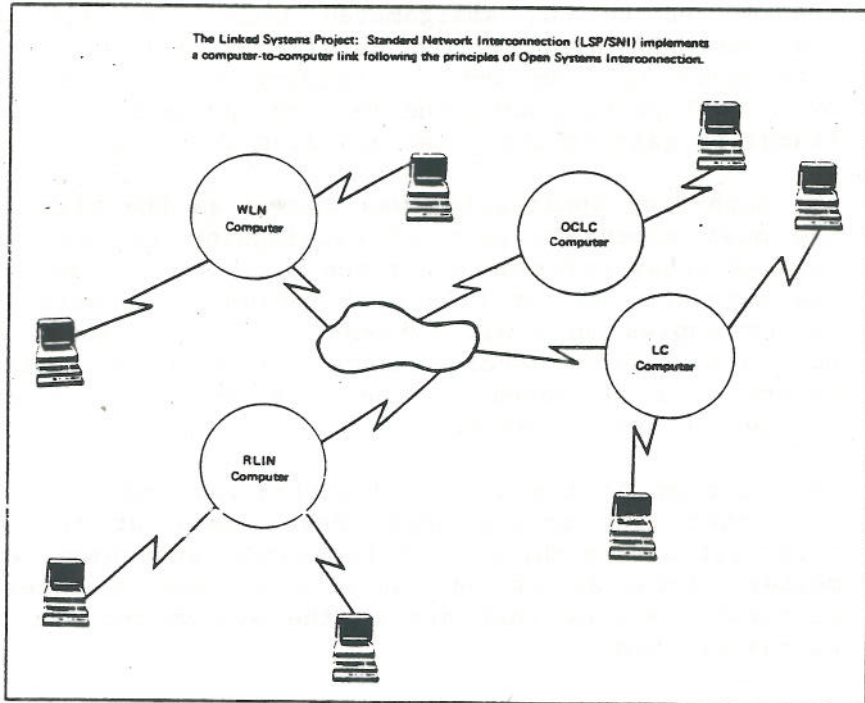
Two decades ago, the Library of Congress (LC) MARC Project provided the means for sharing bibliographic data, in machine-readable form and the impetus for library networking. Following closely the development of MARC, the Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC) implemented its system, providing the viability of a shared online system for library operations.

By the mid-1970, the then Bibliographic Automation of Large Library Operation Using a Time-Sharing System (BALLOTS) and the Washington Library Network (WLN), now called the Western Library Network, were developed which, with OCLC, resulted in three major bibliographic utilities, each with its own tailor-made systems, database and membership. Although the membership of each utility shared the resources of that utility, there still existed costly duplication of cataloguing and conversion since the utilities had no way to share resources among them.

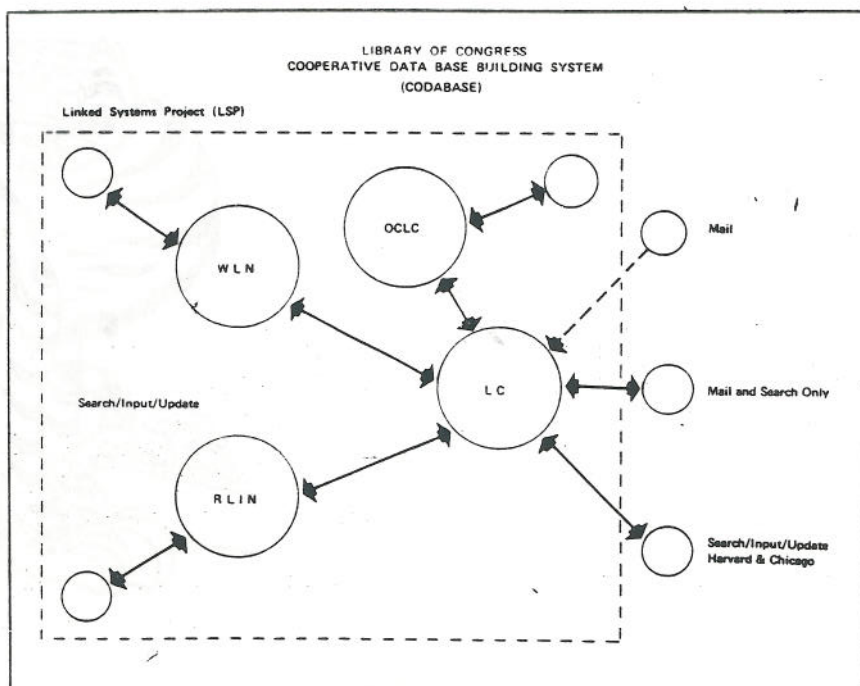
Staff of the Council for Library Resources (CLR) with support from those of LC defined a five-year program, which would result in linking the bibliographic utilities and LC. Under the leadership of Warren T Haas, president of CLR, the program document was used to successfully obtain funding from several foundations. WLN, RLG and LC agreed to link their three systems. By this time RLG had selected BALLOTS as its system and the augmented version of the system has become known as the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). Later, OCLC decided to join the utilities and LC in the authority implementation of the linking project. The approach was to build a facility that (1) does not require modification of the existing application programs on the different computer systems; (2) is expandable to add new participants without impact on existing members; and (3) is composed of two major components, (a) the communications link hospitable to the transmission of any kind of data (bibliographic, authority, location, text), and (b) the application processing programs which interface the host application programs with the communication link.

The total project, known as the Linked Systems Project (LSP), is made up of two elements. The first is the Standard Network Interconnection (SNI), the communication facility. The second is the application programs, e.g. the sharing of authority data and the sharing of bibliographic data, CLR is largely funding the development of the SNI and the first application, that for authorities sharing.

The SNI is based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Reference Model as follows:



The first application being developed for the LSP is the sharing of authority data. The design of the authority implementation was predicated on an already established system at LC. The Name Authority Cooperative Project (NACO) as follows:



NACO permits selected libraries to contribute records for name and series headings to LC for inclusion in the LC authority file. These headings, established by the participating libraries are transmitted to LC, amalgamated into LC's file, and distributed via the MARC Distribution Service to all subscribers. When LC catalogues an item and the heading has already been contributed by a NACO participant, the heading is used by LC. Thus, LC also stands to gain in the joint building of the authority file.

The authority application was chosen as the first for LSP because the most expensive part of cataloguing is creating headings and related cross references for the building of consistent catalogues. The authority master file will reside at LC with LSP participants having copies on their systems. LC cataloguers will search the LC files. If a record exists, it will be used; if not, a new record will be added to the file and distributed via the link to the LSP participants.

In addition to the record distribution and contribution modules, the other link module under development at the present time is intersystem searching. Intersystem searching will permit the member libraries of one utility to search other utilities for authority records that are in the system and are not part of the LC master file.

(Excerpted from an article
by Henriette D. Avram in
Library Resources & Technical
Services, January/March 1986)



5. b) International Congress for Asian and North African Studies

The 37th International Congress for Asian and North African Studies will take place in Hamburg, West Germany from August 25-30, 1986. Reduced registration rates are available until April 30. For full information about the Congress and registration, write XXXVII ICANAS, Hamburg Messe und Congress CMBH, Congress Organization, Postfach 30 24 80, D-2000 Hamburg, 36, West Germany.

5. c) International Symposium on Asian Studies

The 8th International Symposium on Asian Studies will be held at the Hotel Furama, Hong Kong from 11th to 14th August 1986. It will be organized by the International Center for Asian Studies, a division of Asian Research Service, which is the publisher of a bi-monthly international journal, Asian Profile.

The Symposium is open to all who are interested in Asian Studies. Participation may be on attending or non-attending basis; a participant may present a paper in person at the Symposium or submit a paper for publication in the Proceedings without attending the Symposium. Paper topics may deal with China, Japan & Korea, Southeast Asia, South and Southwest Asia, or Asia and other regions. They may also deal with "Tradition and Modernization in Asia" for presentation in a plenary session.

Panel organizers and paper contributors should submit abstracts of 500 words by March 11, 1986. The full paper in reproducible form for publication must be submitted by July 11, 1986. For information on fees, guidelines for papers, and registration forms, contact Asian Research Service, GPO Box 2232, Hong Kong.

5. d) Japanese Film Conference

The University of Hawaii's Council for Japanese Studies, and Summer Session Office, in cooperation with the East-West Center and the American Film Institute will sponsor a Conference on Japanese Film, "Cinema as a Window on Japanese Culture", August 7-9, 1986, for scholars of Japanese Studies in the humanities and social sciences.

5. e) International Conference on Tun-Huang Studies

The Resource and Information Center for Chinese Studies of Taiwan in cooperation with the National Central Library and the Association of the Studies on Tun-Huang will sponsor an "International Conference on Tun-Huang Studies" August 1-3, 1986 at the National Central Library. Scholars from the US, Australia, Canada, England, France, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan will present 15 papers on the studies of Tun-Huang. The results of the conference are being planned for publication as a special issue of "Chinese Studies" published by RICCS. The Tun-Huang Scrolls Collection of the National Central Library will be exhibited at the conference site. For further information, write to the Liaison Division, RICCS, 43 Nanhai Road, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC.

5. f) International Conference on the History of Chinese Science

The 4th International Conference on the History of Chinese Science will be held at the University of Sydney from 16 to 21 May 1986. The conference is being organized jointly by the Centre for Asian Studies and the Department of Oriental Studies of the University of Sydney.

The theme of the 4th International Conference in Sydney will be Science and Technology in China : Past and Present. In addition to the archaeology and history of science and technology in China, the conference will also be devoting attention to the development of science and technology policy in contemporary China and the training of scientists. For further information, please write to : The Secretary, 4 ICHS, Centre for Asian Studies F04, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia.

5. g) International Conference on Chinese Information Processing

The 1987 International Conference on Chinese Information Processing sponsored by the Chinese Information Processing Society of China will be held on 4-6 August 1987. Topics to be discussed include: a) Input/Output and man-machine interface, b) Chinese information processing system, c) design and implementation of Chinese application system, d) Theoretical basis of Chinese character processing technology. For further information, please write to the Secretary, China Computer Technical Service Corporation, P.O.Box 4708, Beijing, China.

5. h) International Conference on Chinese Computing

The 1986 International Conference on Chinese Computing to be held on 21-22 August 1986 is sponsored by the Chinese Language Computer Society, the Institute of System Science of the National University of Singapore, Singapore Computer Society and IEEE Computer Chapter, Singapore section.

The conference theme is methodology, hardware and software technology used for achieving computer processing of application in these languages. Further information can be obtained from Professor Hsu Lohe-Soo, Department of Information Systems and Computer Science, National University of Singapore, Singapore.