

11 colleges, hospitals to link library catalogs

By Tim Richard
staff writer

By 1991, students visiting an Oakland Community College library will be able to learn that a book is available at one of 11 other college libraries in southeastern Michigan, and check it out.

OCC's five campus libraries will be "on-line," as computer people say, with the catalogs of the network of libraries.

"Less collection, more connection," said Johanna Kobran, academic dean of OCC's Auburn Hills Campus.

The OCC board agreed, voting to pay an initial \$148,000 to join DALNET, the five-year-old Detroit Area Library Network.

ALREADY, The two-year college is investing millions to computerize teaching and library functions.

The latest step, DALNET, is a non-profit corporation to bring OCC's 38,000 students the integrated library — a catalog that not only lists what each library owns but whether it is available for use.

Current DALNET members in Oakland County are Oakland University, County Law Library, Beaumont Hospital medical library and Botsford General Hospital library.

South of Eight Mile Road, members are Wayne State University libraries, Detroit Public Library, Wayne County Community College, University of Detroit libraries, Children's Hospital medical library and

Oakwood Hospital health science library.

To the east, Macomb Community College is the 11th member.

BENEFITS SPREAD to librarians and taxpayers, Kobran said.

Libraries can coordinate buying patterns, "minimizing redundancy and enabling them to broaden the scope of their collections."

More automation will free librarians to improve and expand other services.

A large, multi-institution, multi-type library is more attractive to external funding agencies than individual library automation project.

STARTUP capital costs for the

first two years will be \$225,000; for the third and fourth years, \$200,000.

Afterward, operating costs are expected to run \$55,000 a year, she said.

DALNET will be one node in a statewide automated library network," Kobran said. Other members will be the University of Michigan campuses in Dearborn and Ann Arbor, the Oakland-Wayne Information Network, the State Library and the Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperation.

DALNET is a non-stock corporation for which Wayne State University will be fiscal agent.

HERE IS the timetable for putting the system to work:

January 1990 — cataloging

records and transferring them to the DALNET database.

March 1990 — Public access catalog in operation. "At any terminal linked to the DALNET system, a library user will be able to search, locate, know the availability of, and place a 'hold' on anything a (member) library owns," Kobran said.

March 1990 fall 1990 to spring 1991 — Circulation begins. The user can make a search by author, title, subject or key word. A library card? Your social security number will do.

Spring 1991 — Management becomes computerized: collection ordering, vendor records, check-in of received books and periodicals, purchase orders, payments and other accounting details.

Audubon honors nature columnist



Timothy Nowicki
'hot property'

Timothy Nowicki, nature columnist for Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, has been selected by the Michigan Audubon Society as its environmentalist writer of the year.

He will receive the award April 8 at Audubon's annual meeting in Traverse City.

"Our members have watched Nowicki's columns with interest for many years and have been pleased at the overall coverage of environmental issues by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers," said James P. Ludwig, vice president and chairman of the society's awards committee. The competition was statewide.

"Nowicki's consistent production of quality nature columns, his appearance on WJR routinely and many other activities in southeastern Michigan all were considered by the committee when making its award."

NOWICKI, of Livonia, is a staff naturalist at Independence Oaks, a major Oakland County park. He has taught nature appreciation courses at Schoolcraft College. He has two degrees in biology from Central Michigan University and has done post-graduate work at the University of Minnesota.

He is the second O&E columnist to receive the award. Penny Wright, then a freelancer, was honored two years ago for her Our Land features.

"Quite frankly, Nowicki is a hot property," said Tim Richard, Oakland County editor of the Observer & Eccentric, who handles the nature column and nominated the writer.

"His topics are animals, birds, insects and plants. Now, it's easy to write about nature in northern Mich-

igan, but he concentrates on topics in the urban and suburban area, driving home the point that nature is all around you, daily, not just for vacations.

"HIS INFORMATION is reliable."

"But more importantly, he writes to parents, teaching them how to help children discover nature for themselves. His columns are several cuts above textbooks that merely describe."

"Frequently he writes about parenting. From these pieces, human parents and their young'uns can absorb ideas on how they can be better parents themselves. By showing how animals adjust to an environment, he shows how humans, too, can adjust to an environment."

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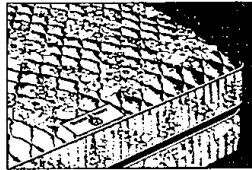
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