

The Bibliotaphic Libraries of the Year 2000,

Harold Wooster, National Library of Medicine

"Thus said Mr. Gorman, online catalogs are more conducive to subject searches, and, in fact, he predicted that catalog use would increase enormously' because of the effectiveness and ease of use of online systems." (Gorman is the director of Technical Services at the U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Marcia Bates of the School of Librarianship of the U of Washington reported on a study of "Factors Affecting Subject Catalog Search Success." "She found, not unsurprisingly, that 'catalog familiarity was found to have a very significant beneficial effect on search matching success, and subject familiarity a slight, but not significant, detrimental effect!'"

Bates reported: "But with automation, we have the opportunity to introduce many access points to a given book. We can now use a subject approach - not necessarily coordinate indexing -- that allows the naive user, unconscious of and uninterested in the complexities of synonymy and vocabulary control, to blunder on to desired subjects, to be guided, without realizing it, by a redundant but carefully controlled subject access system."

the library of 2000 - "... press the SCAN key. The book is then placed on an automatic page-turning easel before a high resolution video camera and the user can browse to his or her heart's content. Pertinent excerpts, probably no more than a paragraph or so, can be transferred to the printer by underlining with a light pen."

"The serial (or journal) literature is much easier to see than the book, or monographic literature. Almost routinely all journals are submitted to the Grand Integral in machine-readable form and transcribed onto videodiscs."

"Touching the light pen to AUDIOVISUALS on the display menu connects the user to another bank of videodisc. AVLINE (Audiovisuals on Line) has grown from strength to strength. The searching and peer review evaluations have continued. Now, however, you can hear the sound over high-fidelity stereo speakers and see the pictures in full color.

"Conventional dictionaries and encyclopedias, those massive works of commercial scholarship that became obsolete the moment they were set in type, if not before, have been relegated to the history section, to be replaced by the new, on-line Dictionary/Encyclopedia."

"Encyclopedias, which had gone steadily downhill from the ninth

edition of the Britannica, with its brilliant sections written by known scholars, have been revived by electronic conferencing and the videodisc. Electronic conferencing has enabled groups of scholars at widely separated loci to write, and continuously update, their sections. The videodisc has made it possible, for the first time in the history of 'publishing' to use colored illustrations lavishly without regard to the cost of preparing four-color plates."