LIB 607: Computers and Library Automation

Instructor: Geraldene Walker

No prerequisites, 3 credits

Summer 1982

Course description

A survey of computer hardware and software, and their application to library administration, technical services, information services, document delivery systems and information processing.

Course objectives

1. The student will become familiar with the uses of computers in libraries, including a consideration of such issues as autonomy versus cooperation, turnkey systems versus independent development, and the formulation of standards. Many decisions in automation hinge not on technical issues, but on ethical questions or value judgements.

2. Students should be able to read and understand a substantial body of automation literature appearing in basic journals such as Journal of Library Automation or Program. This entails the command of a considerable range of "jargon" associated with this field.

3. Students should be able to communicate technical requirements to programmers, systems analysts and other non-librarians, and to demonstrate an understanding of work flow and systems analysis.

Textbook: Tedd, L.A. An introduction to computer-based library systems
           Philadelphia: Heyden, 1977

Method of Instruction

Lectures, seminars, assigned readings and practical sessions

Method of Evaluation

Final examination - 30%
Mid-term test - 30%
Practical assignment - 40%

A grade of B will be given for student performance which meets all course requirements and is judged to be satisfactory at the graduate level. Other grades will be determined in relation to the standard of the B grade.

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