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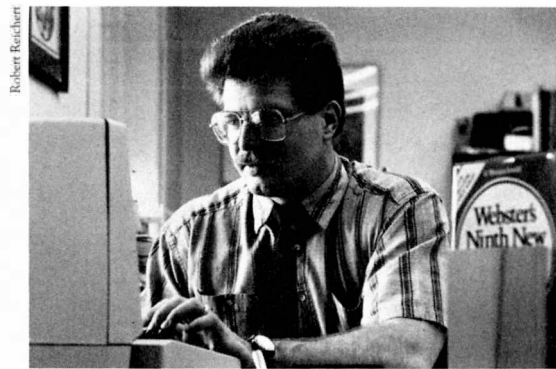
# Quiet revolution transforms workings of Rockefeller library

While its dark, wood-paneled walls still convey the dignity of tradition, the Rockefeller Library has been the scene of a quiet revolution. The paperwork that used to keep track of everything from its book and journal collection to interlibrary loans has been transformed into a microcosm of digital information.

"Book circulation was the first to be automated in 1979," said Douglas Many, the Library's systems analyst. "By 1983 we were beginning a systematic effort to computerize almost every aspect of the Library."

"Technology has changed the nature of the work here," he continued. "Our methods even 10 years ago seem archaic. Today we have a leaner staff, and almost everyone is on a terminal."

John Wilson, who is in charge of interlibrary loans, now uses a computer to search for books and journals; the DOCLINE System connects libraries as far away as California and Puerto Rico, passing



Technology has changed the nature of the work in the Library, says Douglas Many (right), systems analyst. Angela Matthews (left) is one of the librarians who is often at a terminal; she uses the computer to keep track of journals ordered and received.

requests for a journal issue from library to library until a lender is found. While Wilson still finds use for a huge tome which catalogs the location of books published before 1956, the computer is indispensable for locating more modern publications.

In the past, Library personnel

could pore over printed indexes for hours to conduct a bibliographic search, sometimes without finding anything to show for the time and effort. Now Patricia Flowers can achieve results in a matter of minutes. A modem connects her terminal to a database in the National Library of Medicine. Two commercial databases, DIALOG and BRS, provide more broad-based coverage of topics from science to business. Another, Nexis, locates items in the press and popular journals.

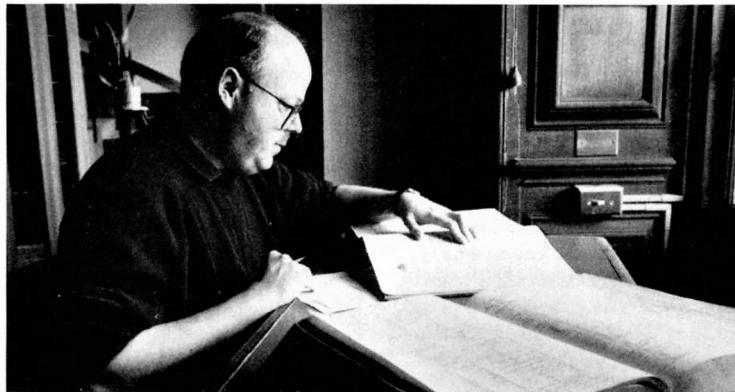
Computers also facilitate many of the administrative duties of the Library. Angela Matthews and Wilma Jacobs Dowden use the computer for journal receipt and book acquisitions, respectively. After items are entered, the computer tracks their location and automatically generates claim letters for those not arriving promptly. The computer also helps Rose Lawrence in book circulation by keeping tabs on the 500 books that

come and go from the Library each month and by printing recall and overdue notices.

"Computers save a tremendous amount of time," Many said. "But we've never let staff go because of automation; we've met our needs by reducing our staff through attrition and by retraining existing personnel. Computers do have a downside, though, and that's the price tag. Hardware, software, maintenance, and time on the mainframe are not free."

While most of the automation that the Library set out to accomplish in the 1980s is complete, the library continues to look toward the future.

"We're still reviewing ideas and suggestions," said Many. "More and more information is available electronically. But while we want to keep pace with technological progress, we also want to ensure that the Library remains accessible to individuals at all levels of computer competence."



John Wilson, in charge of interlibrary loans, still uses a hefty tome to find books published before 1956. To locate more modern books, however, the computer is indispensable.

## Potpourri

### Noon Recital

Pianist David Buechner will perform works by Joaquin Nin-Culmell, Manuel DeFalla, Henry Martin, and George Gershwin today (Jan. 10) at noon in Caspary Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the Rockefeller, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical College, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering communities.

### Birth

Dawn Bisharat-McDonald, administrative assistant in the President's Office, and her husband Bill McDonald, are the proud parents of an 8 1/2-pound girl, Alexandra Jordan, born Sat., Jan. 4, at The New York Hospital.

### Marriage

Andrea Abushady, administrative secretary in Technology Transfer,

was married to David Freiman, conductor and stage director, Mon., Dec. 30. They were the first couple to be married in Manhattan that morning.

### Appointments

**Guest Investigators:** Cornelius Van Kessel, Cohn-Steinman lab; Albertha Welmers, Steinman lab; Takeshi Kaneko, Asanuma lab; Charlotte Andersson-Fisone, Edelman-Cunningham lab.

**Postdoctoral Fellows:** Jeffrey N. Wiemann, Nottebohm lab; Harold Brown, Pfaff lab.

**Postdoctoral Associates:** Douglas Baird, Heintz lab; Gilberto Fisone, Greengard lab.

### Departures

**Assistant Professors:** Olli Janne, Population Council; Shelley Halpain, Greengard lab.

**Adjunct Faculty:** Philip Sass, Gotschlich lab; John Glushka, Agosta lab.

**Guest Investigator:** Bernard Grossman, E.G.D. Cohen lab.  
**Postdoctoral Associates:** Dave Hongbin Wang, Wilson lab; Xinyuan Fu, Darnell lab.

**Postdoctoral Fellows:** Gary Truett, Hirsch lab; Jeanne Hirsch, Cross lab.

### Lunchtime Film

The life and work of noted anthropologist Sir Edward Evans-Pritchard is documented in the 52-minute video, *Strange Beliefs: Sir Edward Evans-Pritchard*. The film chronicles Sir Evans-Pritchard's studies of witchcraft among the Azande and the Nuer tribes, of tribal organization, and of the influence that the beliefs of African peoples had on Western

theologians. The film will show Wed., Jan. 15, at noon, in Tower 305. Admission is free.

## \$95 tickets free to RU community

Tropical forests are disappearing at the rate of 100 acres a minute. Tickets to the symposium "Tropical Forest Medical Resources and the Conservation of Biodiversity" at RU Fri., Jan. 24, and Sat., Jan. 25, could vanish as fast. Tickets—which sell for \$95.00 each—are free to members of the Rockefeller community. Contact the Deans' Office, x8086, to reserve a place.