

These pages make AES library

DOBIS links to 2 million sources

This summer the AES library (Downsview) signed on with DOBIS, the versatile new Canadian Government on-line library management system.

Developed in West Germany as the Dortmunder Bibliothekssystem, DOBIS has been modified to suit Canadian needs: for example it has become bilingual and it has been expanded to serve 12 federal libraries so far, using almost 300 terminals.

Adoption of DOBIS means user libraries have access to over two million source records from the National Library in Ottawa and the Library of Congress, to many records from participating libraries and to the comprehensive Canadian Union catalogues for locating both books and serials.

The first step in allowing the AES library to join DOBIS occurred in June with the delivery of a new ALLCOM terminal. This replaces the old batch mode ELIAS cataloguing system.

According to Judy Mills, acting cataloguing librarian, the DOBIS system should benefit the AES library in the following ways:

- It will enable library staff to greatly increase cataloguing production.
- Its products include a general monthly microfiche catalogue also useable in the Canadian Meteorological Centre library and in AES regional libraries. In addition, a monthly AES accessions list is provided.
- In the near future ELIAS records, catalogued between 1976 and 1982 will be added to the DOBIS file.
- DOBIS will enable reference staff to perform subject searches in a large and growing data base and find Canadian locations for items requested on inter-library loan.

Commenting on the DOBIS system, Janice Glover, acting chief librarian, says it is exciting, after seven years of batch mode operations to have instant updates to cataloguing records and direct data entries as major functions of the system. She adds, "We are encouraging AES personnel to approach library staff for a demonstration and inquire about future developments in library automation."



Lilita Stripnieks assists inquirer at reference desk.

Enquiries cover currency, disasters

The Reader Services Unit in the Downsview Library responds not only to queries from AES personnel but also to those from other government departments, private companies and individuals. The information needs of enquirers vary, and range from fairly straightforward questions like verifying a symposium, journal title, bibliographic citation, or association address, or coming up with a chemical formula or list of Royal Commissions, to more complex enquiries involving research on the lives of meteorological pioneers or in-depth literature searches.

Literature searches for AES headquarters and regional staff have been conducted on meteorological and non-meteorological topics, and have included ice accretion on marine structure, iceberg deterioration and drift, verification of precipitation forecasts, volcanic effects on climate change and atmospheric pollution, fog dispersal and cloud seeding techniques, federal guidelines for environmental impact assessment, project management, interior climate of domed stadiums, historic currency exchange rates and disaster planning.

Among outside enquiries, engineering firms need observational data for non-Canadian locations, particularly solar radiation and wind data for the Near East, travel agencies require data for Caribbean and Pacific islands, oil companies and boat manufacturers are interested in wave heights on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, marketing agencies use past and present data to correlate weather sales trends.

In addition, the general public consults the library on personal questions such as the effects of climate on asthma or wind data for Mediterranean and Pacific sailing vacations. Historians seek information on the use of weather discs on railway cars in the 1880's, the climate during the French Revolution or the role of the Meteorological Service in Canada during World War II.

All in all, the unit receives many hundreds of enquiries a year from all parts of Canada and manages to come up with most of the answers.

For assistance on reference services or inter-library loans, please call (416) 667-4891; circulation enquiries: (416) 667-4880.

news come to life for you

Regions have same sources

The main AES library is located in the Downsview headquarters building, but all AES employees in the regions have equal access to library services. For those unable to consult a librarian personally, here is a brief summary of library services available to regional staff.

1. All regional directors' offices (except Ontario region) and the Canadian Meteorological Centre receive union catalogue microfiches (author, title, subject lists of all AES/DOE library material since 1976, with AES western region and CMC material included).
2. The loan period for personnel in the regions is four weeks, with extensions allowed if there is no waiting.
3. Reference help is available (between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EST) by calling the reference librarian at 416-667-4500. (For kinds of service available, please see item on reference services).
4. You can make use of on-line information retrieval services with access to over 100 subject data bases. The reference librarian can help you with your search and will send print-outs when the search is completed (usually the same day). Lengthy print-outs will be printed off-line and sent directly to you from the source computer.
5. The monthly acquisitions list receives wide circulation in regional and weather offices. Attached to each list is a loan request form allowing regional staff to request any listed item. If you do not see the list, please contact us.
6. Ways to help you purchase books for your own office collection are the same in the regions as in Downsview.
7. If you need a library title not in our possession, we can get it for you on interlibrary loan.
8. In 1982 we published a library manual of AES library services. Every two years we also publish a list of serials to which we subscribe. For a copy of either, please contact us.

Morley Thomas donates works



Acting chief librarian Janice Glover smiles as Morley Thomas donates a leather bound edition of his written works to the AES library (Downsview).

The latest works to join the AES library's rare book collection are a two volume edition entitled "The Selected

Writings of Morley K. Thomas, 1948-1982."

The red, leather-bound books were presented to the library this spring by Mr. Thomas a couple of months after his retirement from AES as director general of the Canadian Climate Centre. They were the second set of a pair of the collected works given Mr. Thomas by Gord McKay, now acting CCDG during the retirement ceremonies.

Mr. Thomas is keeping the first set as a souvenir of his more than 40 years association with Canada's weather service. (The first item is a series of climate studies on selected meteorological stations done with C. Boughner for the Department of Transport in May 1948 and the final item is an article written by MKT for the McGill Climatological Bulletin in October 1982.)



Library users in all AES branches can do quiet research on their own in the library.

AMC approves collections policy

The AES library now has an official collections policy approved by the Atmospheric Environment Service Management Committee (AMC).

The new written guidelines will help the library maintain a high level of service to AES personnel during a time of financial restraint and the policy underlines the library's responsibility to maintain its national resource collections in meteorology which includes intensive collections of English, French and foreign language monographs and serials, AES and WMO publications, world climate data and archival materials to support historical research on Canada's weather service.

While formulating the collections policy and after thorough consultations with AES directorates and branches, the library was strongly recommended to strengthen its acquisitions in long range transport of airborne pollutants, toxic substances, telecommunications, computer sciences, project management and office automation. In addition, all subjects were given intensity ratings to help library staff make future decisions re acquisitions and weeding. These ratings were also developed to prevent unnecessary overlap with collections of other federal libraries, particularly those in the DOE network where the AES Library plays a key role.