

Kilgour F G, Long P L, Landgraf A L & Wyckoff J A. The shared cataloging system of the Ohio College Library Center. *J. Libr. Automat.* 5:157-83, 1972. [Ohio College Library Center, Columbus, OH]

This paper is the first published description of an operational, integrated, computerized, online library network designed to increase availability of library materials to individual users, while at the same time reducing the rate of rise of per-unit costs. From the technical point of view, it was probably first to integrate telecommunications and computers. [The *Science Citation Index*® (SCI®) and the *Social Sciences Citation Index*® (SSCI®) indicate that this paper has been cited in over 35 publications, making it one of the most-cited papers published in this journal.]

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The principal goals of the Ohio College Library Center in 1967 (and still today) were to increase availability of library materials throughout Ohio to library users at individual institutions and at the same time to reduce the rate of rise in per-unit costs in academic libraries. In the late 1960s, information retrieval from computerized files had as its goal total recall combined with total relevance; 20 years later, the majority of retrieval research is still lusting after these objectives. For library cataloging, it was necessary to design a system that would operate

cost-beneficially and retrieve a single entry swiftly and accurately from a large file.

The retrieval technique developed employed derived, truncated search keys,¹⁻⁴ which worked efficiently in the first online catalog of 400,000 entries and, with some emendations, still works efficiently in the present online catalog of 12,500,000 entries. The young engineers who coauthored the cited paper produced an efficient, pioneer design that integrated terminal, telecommunications, and central-site computerization. This initial system increased cataloging productivity in libraries by 25 to 40 percent.^{4,5}

The OCLC online system encountered a variety of obstacles but began operation with one library, that of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, on August 26, 1971. That night, lightning struck the central site and burned out one of the computer core banks, which seemed to me to be carrying Luddism much too far. Nevertheless, the three coauthors rallied around the next morning, regenerated the system in the two remaining core banks and had it operating online by 10:15.

OCLC has expanded rapidly. At the end of its first full year of operation (1972-1973), total revenues were \$935,506. A dozen years later, for the year ending June 30, 1985, total revenues were \$69,069,000. This success has been very kind to me, for I have received 14 awards and citations, including 4 honorary doctorates.

1. Kilgour F G, Long P L & Leiderman E B. Retrieval of bibliographic entries from a name-title catalog by use of truncated search keys. *The information conscious society: proceedings of the American Society for Information Science, 33rd Annual Meeting*. 11-15 October 1970, Philadelphia. Washington, DC: ASIS, 1970. p. 79-82.
2. Long P L & Kilgour F G. A truncated search key title index. *J. Libr. Automat.* 5:17-20, 1973.
3. Landgraf A L & Kilgour F G. Catalog records retrieved by personal author using derived search keys. *J. Libr. Automat.* 6:103-8, 1973.
4. Yoakam L L, ed. *Collected papers of Frederick G. Kilgour. Volume 2: OCLC years*. Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Online Computer Library Center, 1984.
5. Kilgour F G. Increased productivity of catalog production in a computerized network. *Increasing productivity through library automation: Essen Symposium, 11-14 October 1982*. Essen: Gesamthochschulbibliothek, 1983. p. 101-12.