

S Y S T E M S   A N D   P R O C E D U R E S   E X C H A N G E   C E N T E R

# Flyer 217

## Electronic Reserves

### Transforming Libraries 1: October 1996

#### Introduction

THE ARL Office of Management Services (OMS) Systems and Procedures Exchange Center has launched a new publication series, *Transforming Libraries*, which focuses on how libraries are using technology to transform their services and operations. Each issue serves as an environmental scan, addressing how institutions and individuals are pioneering in a particular subject area, often times introducing the reader to a whole new way of thinking. The first issue of *Transforming Libraries* is *Issues & Innovations in Electronic Reserves*.

Unlike other ARL/OMS publications, *Transforming Libraries* takes a reportorial approach to its topics, seeking out libraries that are trying new applications of technology and highlighting their experiences while they are still innovative. The Systems and Procedures Exchange Center (SPEC) will also develop a web-based resource center to accompany each issue, facilitating continued learning on each topic. Each site will include additional documentation, updates, and links to related sites. Both print and electronic versions are designed to work in tandem to provide as much current information as possible about each subject.

#### Library Reserves Systems

The evolution of electronic reserves systems in libraries epitomizes the triumph of technology over the barriers of time and space. Not many years ago, virtually all academic libraries were struggling with exclusively paper-based reserve systems. These systems are still maintained, even by libraries that offer electronic reserves. In addition to books from their own collections,

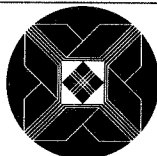
most libraries still place on reserve photocopies of journal articles and course-specific materials such as syllabi, problem sets, past exams, and lecture notes.

Such systems are fraught with chronic problems of workload management, timing, and supply. Since all courses in a specific term of instruction start at roughly the same time, nearly all requests for reserves come flooding into the library during a two or three week period. Faculty, busy with their own preparation for courses, are often late with reserve submissions; more than half of reserve reading lists submitted by faculty arrive at ARL libraries after the first day of classes. Students, the principal users of reserve collections, do not understand resulting service delays.

#### Reports From the Field

This publication highlights some of the innovative measures being taken by libraries and product vendors in the area of electronic reserves. Reports on electronic reserves systems at pioneering institutions and organizations inside and outside of ARL are included, such as:

- Colorado State University Library
- Copyright Clearance Center
- Duke University Library
- Northwestern University Library
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- San Diego State University
- Santa Clara University
- UMI
- Virginia Tech
- Washington Research Libraries Consortium



Also showcased are collaborative efforts such as a project with Marist College and IBM, where a model electronic reserve system is under development. The editor also takes a look to the future, identifying several trends among the reports included. Additionally, issues associated with the development of electronic reserves systems are addressed, such as:

- Will the library continue to manage virtually all electronic reserve operations?
- What access restrictions will be implemented?
- How will copyright be handled?
- What will it cost?

*Transforming Libraries* is issued as a sub-series of the OMS SPEC Kit series and will also be available for sale on an individual basis. OMS plans to publish four issues per year. Future topics under consideration for this series include: distance education, geographic information systems (GIS), and licensing electronic resources.

*The SPEC Kit was written by George Soete, Transforming Libraries Editor, with editorial advice from Jeff Rosedale, Head, Access and Technical Support, Lehman/Social Work Library at Columbia University.*

The electronic component of this issue can be found at <http://arl.cni.org/transform/eres/eres.html>.