Calvin's Library Goes Computer

Goodbye, card catalogs. No more filling out little reservation cards at the counter.

The Calvin College library is now computerized.

On November 1, 1990, computer automation at the library, a long-time goal of library director Marvin Monsma, began in earnest.

The computerization of the library is occurring in a number of stages, says Glenn Remelts, systems librarian at the college. A major step has been completed.

"In November, the cataloging and public terminals were functional, "reports Remelts.

Remelts says the benefits to the Calvin community are many.

"First, the information in the electronic card catalog database is now accessible through many more pointers. Author, title, and subject are the standard ways of accessing a physical card catalog. The automated system, in addition to these three, has call number searching and allows one to search by any significant word in a title or subject heading."

Another benefit lies in the

Calvin library holdings are now on computer for easier access.

computer's ability to combine terms in the search for reference material.

"Combining terms is a very powerful feature," says Remelts. "For example, all records that deal with children and poverty could be found by simply typing the words 'children poverty' at the command line."

Remelts also notes the system's database is more accurate and consistent, and that the library will now be able to organize the tremendous re-

sources in the building in an orderly fashion.

Stage two, scheduled for February completion, called for the circulation module to be operational.

"Patrons of the library will note the changes," predicts Remelts. "Every book has a bar code and every library user's I.D. card will have a code, too. We'll simply wand the book and the user's card to enter the reservation."

Remelts admits there is one downside to the new system

for users—a faultless overdue book fine record.

"Yes, I'm afraid book fines will be set in stone," he laughs. "Once the fine kicks in on a record you can't remove it until you pay."

Stage three in the automation project will allow for access to the library network from faculty, student, and staff terminals across campus.

And the final stage will allow for dial-up access via modems.

"I'm excited about the dial-up access," says Remelts. "Anyone with a modem— wherever they are in the country—will be able to see what's in our library. That will be meaningful to researchers, especially when we get Heritage Hall and Meeter Center material logged in."

"Calvin's library has thousands and thousands of unique resources," states Remelts. "Soon we will be able to share them far and wide."

Before coming to Calvin in the summer of 1990, Remelts was the head of reference and computer research services at Kansas State University.

Calvin College Campus Choir

Spring Tour 1991

Howard Slenk, Conductor

Friday, March 29 – 7:30 p.m.
First Christian Reformed Church
1633 S. Halleck St.
De Motte, IN

Sunday, March 31 – 7:30 p.m.
Central Presbyterian Church
7700 Davis Dr.
Clayton, MO

Monday, April 1 – 7:30 p.m.
Peoria Christian Reformed Church
Rural Route #2, Box 73
Pella, IA

Tuesday, April 2 – 7:30 p.m.
Christ Chapel at Northwestern College
Orange City, IA

Wednesday, April 3 – 7:30 p.m.
First Christian Reformed Church
110 Sixth Street
Prinsburg, MN

Thursday, April 4 – 7:30 p.m.
Pease Christian Reformed Church
Box 97
Pease, MN

Friday, April 5 – 7:30 p.m.
Calvary Christian Reformed Church
8901 France Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN

Sunday, April 7 – 7:30 p.m.
Bethel Christian Reformed Church
410 S. West St.
Waupan, WI