Marine Science Information: an International Commodity
(eds) Grundy, Ford & Beardsley
IAMSLIC. 1986.

THE PROGRESSION OF AUTOMATED CARD PROCESSING AT CENTER FOR WETLANDS RESOURCES AT LSU

Rowena Hill
CWR Information Repository
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

ABSTRACT

A description of automation processing of the cataloging systems of Center for Wetland Resources Library.

The author has gone from manual handling and typing of cards to an easy screen orientation of data entry with a few commands typed on a terminal to print and duplicate the cards.

INTRODUCTION

In 1967, when I joined Coastal Studies Institute at LSU, I had little idea that over 15 years later, I would still be indexing and cataloging the entries to the Center for Wetlands Resources collection.

The core of the collection was begun by Dr. R.J. Russell, one of the pioneers of the Department of Geosciences at LSU. He was world renowned as a geomorphological researcher,and held many awards for his writings and contributions to geographic research and education. In the early 1950s, he secured the first contracts with the Office of Naval Research to begin Coastal Studies.

Other institutions and universities, both foreign and domestic, who had contracts with ONR exchanged technical reports generated by ONR funds. Thus, the collection grew and became a very valuable source of materials on the coasts of the world.

Dr. Russell's card collection (Fig. 1) was very simply done, usually handwritten, by himself, his wife, children and students. You can imagine the hours of time spent at this task.

When I first started, I at least had a manual typewriter, but, still I entered each record singly, by title, author, geographic area and as

Gifford, Edward Winslow 242
Clear Lake Pomo Society
U. of Calif. Pub. in Amer. Archaeology and Ethnology. 18:287-390, 1926.

Garrett, J.B. 243
The Hackberry Assemblage - An Interesting Forminiferal Fauna of Post-Vicksburg Age From Deep Wells in the Gulf Coast.
Jour. of Paleontology 12:309-317, 1938.

Figure 1. Samples of Dr. Russell's handwritten card file.

many subject fields as were noted on a larte ditto page (Fig. 2) included with each paper.

SUBJECT: Major fields of research disciplines

Aerial Photography; Sensing
Agriculture
Anthropology
Astronomy
Bibliography
Biography
Biology
  Botany
Cartography
Census
Chemistry
Climate
  General
  Classification
  Factors
  Precipitation
  Temperature
  Atmosp. Moisture
  Pressure & Winds
  Storms
  Miscellaneous
  Variation
    Life
    Land Forms
    Soils
  Regional Studies
  Climatic Data
  Paleoclimatology
Conservation
Data Processing
Ecology
Education
Engineering
Estuaries
Fisheries
Forestry
Geochemistry
Geography
  General
  Content & Method
  Economic

Geomorphology
  General
  Weathering
  Transportation
  Caves & Ground Water
  Karst
  Erosion, Streams
  Erosion, Surface
  Winds
  Submarine Valleys
  Alpine, Polar
  Flood Plains
  Deltas
  Terraces
  Arid Regions
  Saline Flats
  Glaciation
  Periglaciation
  Avalanches
  Changes of Level
  Shorelines
  Beach Studies
  Fiords
  Beach Rock
  Dunes
  Mass Movement
  Reefs, Atolls
  Shore Processes
  Soils
  Quantitative
Geology
  General
  Crust
  Economic
  Historical
  Mineralogy
  Petrology
  Turbidities
  Petrography
  Igneous
  Structural

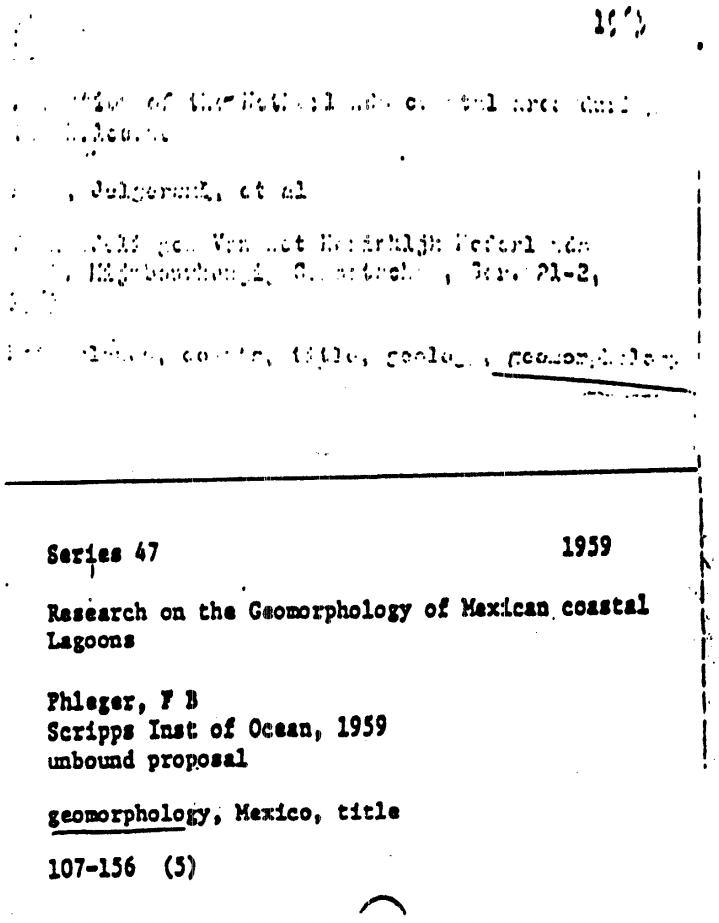
  General
  Floods
  Stream Patterns
  Processes
  Meandering
Irrigation
Isostasy
Land
  Processes
  Settlement
  Utilization
  Classification
Laser, etc.
Limnology
Manufacturing
Meteorology
  General
  Dynamic
  Observations
  Storms
  Instruments
  Weather & Life
  Marine
Mining
Natural Resources
Oceanography
  Continental Shelf
Paleontology
  General
  Vertebrate
  Invertebrate
  Paleobotany
  Palynology
Petroleum
Pollution
Physics
Population
Radiocarbon Dates
Isotope Dates
Sampling
Sea Coasts

Transportation
Vegetation
  General
  Marsh, Bog & Swamp
  Desert & Arid
  Peat
Waste Disposal
Waves
X-Rays, etc.
Zoology
Book Reviews
REGIONS:
General
North America
United States
  New England
  Mid Atlantic
    NY PA DE NJ MD VA
  Southeastern
    NC SC GA FL AL
  Southern
    MS TN KY AR
  Louisiana
  Southwest
    TX OK NM AZ
  North Central
  Great Plains
  Rocky Mts.
  Great Basin
  California
  Northwest
  Alaska
Canada
Mexico & Cent. America
South America
  General
  Ecuador, Col., Venez., Guiana
  Brazil
  Peru & Chile
  Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay,
West Indies & North

Figure 2. Part of the ditto page of subject fields.

This is not the entire paper, as it was too long to enlarge on a transparency.

A few years later, another special librarian at the School of Forestry and Wildlife Management, who was facing the same problem as I, succeeded in obtaining permission to use the card duplicating machine at the ISU Library. Needless to say this increased the speed of processing. But, there were still other problems: the copies were not always legible (Fig. 3), and I had to bring the master cards and card stock with me to the library once a week. Since parking place on the campus are extremely rare, many times I had to walk far carrying a rather heavy load.



Series 47 1959

Research on the Geomorphology of Mexican coastal Lagoons

Phleger, F B
Scripps Inst of Ocean, 1959
unbound proposal

geomorphology, Mexico, title

107-156 (5)

Figure 3. Sample of duplicated cards-note quailty.

When I moved to Wetlands Information, I began using a Magnetic Word Processor. These cards were very legible (Fig. 4), but this method was much slower than duplicating at the library.

Series 54 1971

A baroclinic prognostic numerical model of the
circulation in the Gulf of Mexico

Wert, R.T. & R.O. Reid

Texas A & M, Dept. of Meteorology, to ONR, TR 71-3-T
AD 723 200

Gulf of Mexico, Texas

physical oceanography, meteorology, circulation,
numerical models

series 54 1971

A baroclinic prognostic numerical model of the
circulation in the Gulf of Mexico

Wert, R.T. & R.O. Reid

Texas A & M, Dept. of Meteorology, to ONR, TR 71-3-T
AD 723 200

Gulf of Mexico, Texas

physical oceanography, meteorology, circulation,
numerical models

series 54 1971

A baroclinic prognostic numerical model of the
circulation in the Gulf of Mexico

Wert, R.T. & R.O. Reid

Texas A & M, Dept. of Meteorology, to ONR, TR 71-3-T
AD 723 200

Gulf of Mexico, Texas

physical oceanography, meteorology, circulation,
numerical models

Figure 4. Sample of card from Magnetic Word Processor.

With each of the previous methods, I indicated each field, by marking with a colored marker, so student helpers could help with the filing.

When our programmer saw the problem, she created a SAS Program with a screen for entering the card data (Figs. 5 & 6).

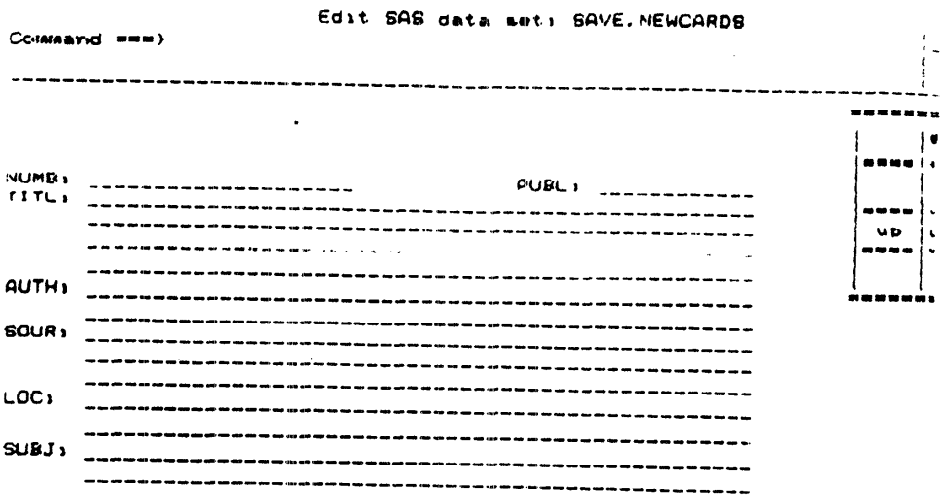


Figure 5. A blank SAS screen.

I had, at one time, three working files, OLDCARDS, which is the backlog of reports, monographs, reprints, etc. in the collection; RJRCARDS - Dr. Russell's card catalog; and NEWCARDS - the incoming, new acquisitions, arriving daily. With the latter, I had a SCRIPT file which printed the cards on continuous-feed stock for filing, and each field was indicated at the top of the cards.

The RJRCARDS have been completely done, and are now on a database, searchable with LSU logonids. As of now, over 8000 records have been entered into another database from the combined OLDCARDS and NEWCARDS. These, too, can be searched on the campus.

Just this month, we are starting a new process using PEACHTEXT word processing on a PC. We will be able to eliminate any problems encountered by down time at the LSU computer center, as well as cutting the cost of CPU time.

Eventually, we will no longer need to file the cards, because it is more time saving to search on the terminals.

The automated catalog processing technology has come along so rapidly in recent years, and information is proliferating at such a speed, that only through databases and on-line searching can any

special collection, library or other information center hope to keep abreast of the times.

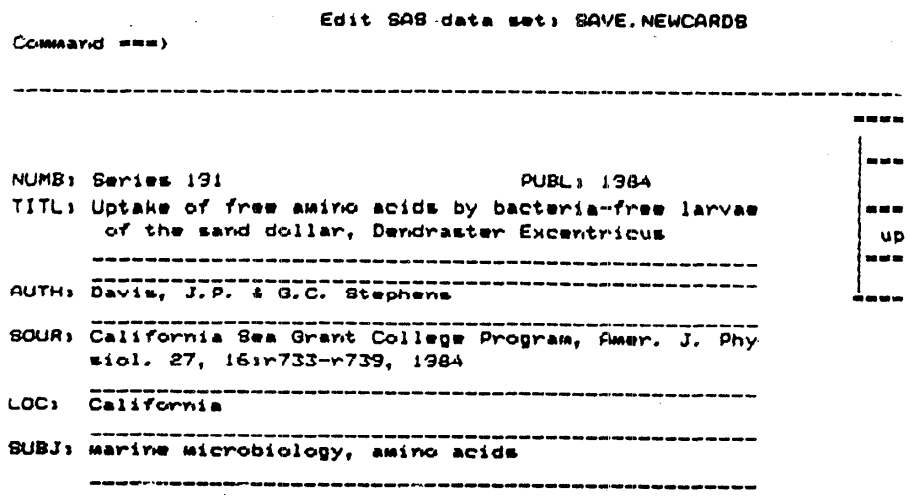


Figure 6. A SAS screen filled in.

There are many such collections as this one, with many valuable resources, needed by researchers. They are useful **ONLY** if they are **USED**. If my efforts help in any way, that will be reward in itself.