STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

MEDICAL RECORD TECHNOLOGY student Tikila Morgan (foreground) helps BCC Librarian Sharon Gore (background) as bar-coding of the entire library collection continues.

On-Line Catalogue, Circulation Making BCC Library Easier To Use

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College's library is going high-tech this summer.

By making the library easier to use, the move to automated or "on-line" catalogue and circulation is expected to benefit the entire school community, students most of all.

The on-line card catalogue is already available, and has been well received.

"The best reason for automation is the very positive comments we're getting from the people who are using it," librarian Sharon Gore said. "The students thought the microfiche card catalog was a royal pain and it was hard for some of them to use."

The conversion project will eventually save staff time and reduce their workload. Now though, it is very time-consuming. This week, the library staff and medical record technology student volunteers are bar coding the library's entire collection—approximately 10,000 volumes, so that they can be "read" or identified by machine. The students are getting extra credit for the work, since it provides them with experience in a type of record management.

If all goes well Gore hopes the library will be checking out books after students register for summer quarter.

"We could run into some problems that we don't know about, but that's our target," she said. "We may not have all the books bar-coded by then."

The summer term will serve as a trial run, a chance to work out any glitches in the system before fall quarter.

The system will be easier—and faster—to use than the manual approach.

Information about the library's entire collection has been stored in a computer data base. From two public computer terminals, library users can quickly find out if material by a certain author or on a specific subject is available, and its location on the shelves. All they need to do is type in a few key words, following the instructions on the monitor screen.

Starting in June, check-out will be simpler—no signing or stamping of cards. The bar code assigned each item in the library means that it can be "read" or identified by computer, the same way food stores electronically scan packages at the checkout counter.

Patrons will use identification cards that also have bar codes. When the books and cards are scanned, a computer record is made of each transaction. That will make it easy to check any time to see what items are in circulation, or are overdue, and who borrowed them. Automation will make it possible to generate other reports as well, such as what items are being circulated, and which aren't being used at all. It should also speed inventory-taking, since the library has a portable scanner.

Students and faculty will also benefit in other ways. For example, the library will now be able to quickly provide instructors with a bibliography of books available on a certain subject.

A major reason for automation is gaining the capability to network with other libraries. With additional funding, BCC's library will be able to link with other community colleges across the southeastern region, sharing card catalogues, making interlibrary loans and sharing other resources. Spearheaded by Carteret Community College, a coalition has applied for a grant to do just that, and is also exploring other sources of funding.

"We're all schools in the same region, of similar size and with some of the same problems and challenges," said Gore.

Automation of the college library "took a little cooperation on everyone's part," she said, involving the college, the Brunswick Community College Foundation and the BCC Student Government Association. The effort began a year ago, with a presentation to a receptive BCC Foundation, which provided more than $10,000 to match BCC funds. The SGA bought the hardware needed to create the cards, which for students and employees will also serve as BCC identification cards.

Community patrons (the library's collection and services are available to the public) will also need an identification card to borrow materials. A fee of $2 per card will be collected to cover the cost, said Gore.

The project is costing approximately $20,000, and has been a learn-as-you-go experience for library staff, "but it's worth it," said Gore.

Automation of the BCC library will leave the Brunswick County Public Library system one of the few in the region without automation, and one of only a handful of public libraries in the state with manual operations. Brunswick County high school libraries are already on-line, as are other college and public libraries in the area.

BCC Auditorium Status Uncertain

Construction crews are still working a regular work schedule on the Odell Williamson Auditorium site, though the project is approximately five months behind schedule.

"The contractor is still not putting the manpower on the job we'd like to see," Ken Phelps of Boney Architects told Brunswick Community College trustees last Wednesday. "They're still working a 40-hour standard week."

Phelps estimated the project is three to four weeks from a "semifinal" inspection. After that it will be "three to four weeks or however long it takes to complete" any work that remains or needs correcting.

Phelps said a new project superintendent on the job has been good at catching needed repairs before they are pointed out by the architect, which should help shorten the completion time.

BCC is still uncertain of the project's status since declaring the contractor in default in mid-April. As of last Wednesday, said board chairman David Kelly, the bonding company is still "not acknowledging" BCC's notification and the original contractor, Hatcher Construction Co. of Fayetteville, is still on the job, though a new project superintendent is on site. All correspondence is being routed to the bonding company, ITT Hartford, with repairs pointed out "on the spot" and through the architect's correspondence.

At a particular point in the construction schedule, a day or more of "silence" (possibly over a weekend) will be required on the site to accommodate the acoustical technician. "Silence" is perhaps a misnomer, since the technician wants no construction noise, but does want to bring in a live "audience" into the facility so that the acoustics can be properly adjusted. Rigging and theater technicians also need time in the facility.

In other business trustees:

■approved the hiring of Porcia Starks as library technical assistant at a salary of $16,288. She is presently a library assistant with the Columbus County Schools;

■accepted the resignation of Glenn Barefoot, resources development officer and executive director of the Brunswick Community College Foundation.

■set their June 16 meeting at the Southport annex on North Lord Street, so as to look over recent building renovations;

■accepted a $3,545 bid to build an overflow parking lot for the Williamson Auditorium;

■learned that BCC's state audit was without exception, as anticipated, with only brief mention of the physical inventories since auditors were not on campus for that; a 10,000 gallon underground fuel tank has been moved; the greenhouse at the Brunswick Interagency Program was nearing completion; and that federal auditors were recently on campus for only the second time since BCC opened, with a report due within the next several months following a "good" exit interview.

■heard from BCC President W. Michael Reaves that he is preparing proposed list of members for both an Odell Williamson Auditorium Board and a separate advisory group, to be presented to trustees in June.

BCC SUMMER QUARTER

Registration For Summer Begins Tuesday

Registration for summer quarter curriculum classes at Brunswick Community College begins Tuesday, June 1, on the main campus north of Supply.

Registration will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., said public information officer Anne Marie Bellamy.

Returning students are required to see their curriculum advisor first, while new students should contact the Office of Student Services for assignment of an advisor.

Late registration is Wednesday, June 2, and Monday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Late registration and drop/add are available Thursday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students can select classes in these areas: air conditioning; heating and refrigeration; general education; automotive mechanics; business administration; cosmetology; welding; general education; general office; business computer programming; electronic engineering technology; administrative office technology; and real estate.

The student services office can be reached at 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203.