Chapter VI

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Since 1960 computers have been used in library operations,
such as acquisitions, cataloging, circulation and serials. Com-
puterization is a tool to operate library procedures with great
efficiency, speed and accuracy, and at the same time reducing
clerical burdens to a minimum. It is also an aid to extend library
services into new areas as well as to better library administration.

As one of the library routines that can be automated, com-
puters take part in serials control of several libraries. Ordering
and accounting, receiving, claiming, binding, serials listings and
management reports are serials functions which can be successfully
operated with computers. The production of various lists, especially
holdings lists, is a predominant characteristic in most of operating
serials systems including those in Thailand. It is a popular method
by which libraries make their serials holdings available. Systems
that produce only listings of titles with locations, holdings, etc.
are operated in parallel with conventional manual check-in systems
do not provide the benefits of assistance in subscription renewal,
claiming, et. However, such listings are thought of as a first step
toward a more extensive automation program, such as a program for
union list of serials.

In Thailand, both the Library and Information Center of AIT
and the Library and Information Center of NIDA have computerized

public holdings lists and other useful by-products. The AIT Library
is more advance in its computerized serials control system when
compared with that of the Library and Information Center, NIDA since
the AIT Library operates the accounting control and the union lists
of serials project in addition to journal listings. There is the
Computer Center with experienced staff located at the AIT campus,
while the computer system of the Royal Turf Club of Thailand is
very far away from NIDA, and it always takes a long time to finish
each job since it is run for charity. Moreover, the librarian, who
is in charge of the computerized serials control at the Library and
Information Center, has only half a day to devote to this work. As
a result, the plan of updating the journal lists twice a year has
failed and the experiments of other computerized serials applications
have not been made. The installation of a mini computer system at
the NIDA Computer Center will accomplish the plan for updating
lists but the operations of other complicated serials applications
are difficult to be done.

The availability of the large computer system with trained
staff members at AIT should encourage its library to get benefits
from other complicated computerized serials applications, such as
ordering, receiving, binding and claiming.

Though there are only two libraries in Thailand that operate
computerized serials system, many other libraries are beginning to
computerize their serial records by participating in the union list
of serials project now undertaken by AIT with the aid of CDC 3600
computer. This cooperative use of available computer facilities

by a group of libraries will enhance the usefullness of joined data base, facilitate inter-library lending and photocopying, reduce unit cost, best utilize specialized personnel, and greatly improve the service. It is recommended that this trend of cooperative use of computer in serials control should be extended to other areas of library work such as central cataloging and processing, union catalog of books and other library materials, national and regional library networking, etc. in order to bring about a much greater benefit in computer application for libraries.