

M-I-C-K-E-Y M-I-C-R-O

Frank Newton

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The long, arduous process of automating operations in Davis Library took a dramatic turn recently with the acquisition by the Acquisitions Department of a state-of-the-art Mickey Micro BS 77 terminal. The Mickey Micro is a dedicated terminal hooked into the Remote Wireless Card-board Network and running on Microslink Whiz software. The deceptively simple interface belies a wealth of features long dreamed of by library workers but unavailable until now.

The Mickey's sophisticated olfactory software permits it to detect and respond to any of thirty-seven MARC flavors including USMARC, Vanil-laMarc, frankincense, myrrh, unscented MARC, and the notorious "forbidden fragrance" outlawed by the MARC Flavor Ratings Committee in the wake of AACR2.

A galaxy of search keys permits easy access to any book, no matter how inept and inarticulate its title page. For title searches, there is the cha-cha mode (three words forward, one word back) and for author searches the fuzz mode. Fuzz mode allows

one to type in Smothers and retrieve items by Smothers, Smithers, Crothers, Carruthers, Dith-ers, and Joyce Brothers, while a search under Huckabee retrieves items by Huckabee and by Larrabee, and vice versa. (This is the feature of the software that was especially singled out for praise by Steve "Pearly" Gates in his laudatory review of the Mickey in *Myte*.) In a revolutionary new approach, all rare and medium-frequency words—an undisclosed number in excess of 100,000—have been declared stopwords. It is rumored that the next release will consolidate all title searches into three: *Pro, of, th, a*; *sym, of, th, b*; and *his, of, th, c*.

The Mickey has the capability to produce many categories of statistics useful to administrators, such as call number averaging, comparative frequency of different initial articles, and the statistics on the relationship between ISBN and price that were so difficult to compile manually. It can round off OCLC numbers to the nearest hundred or thousand. And it comes with the famous Kit of Tools utility programs, including the cataloging code decryptor and the cessation fore-caster (two months' advance notice for serial ces-sations, one week for publishers going out of busi-ness). When not networked, the Mickey folds up into a paper cutter or folds out into a mass deacidi-fication facility (rewiring instructions included.)

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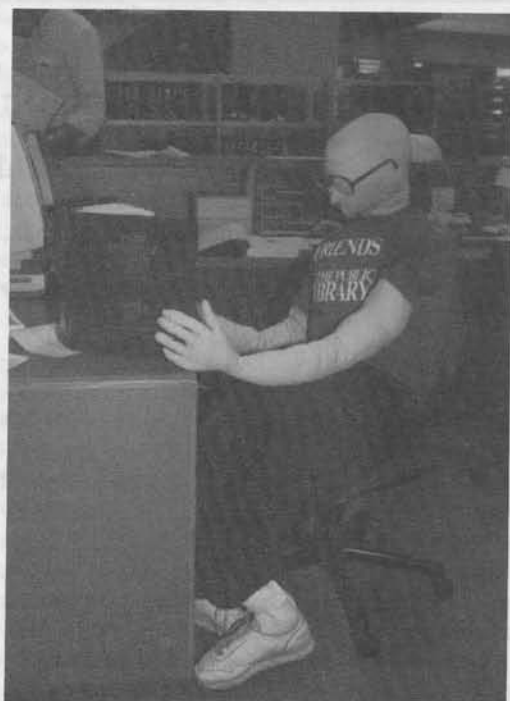
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