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PALS User Group Newsletters

M. Louis Salmon Library

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## **PALS Users' Group Newsletter 1990**

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Vol. 2  
No. 2  
June 1990

# PALS

## USERS' GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

### AGENDA--UNISYS PALS USERS' GROUP

Friday, June 22, 1990

2:00-4:30 PM, McCormick Place, Room M6A

- 2:00 Introductions
- 2:15-2:30 MPALS Update  
John Stromquist,  
Chicago Board of Education
- 2:30-3:00 Review and update of the  
Unisys PALS Information  
Sheet (see page 3).  
Discussion to incorporate  
any suggested changes that  
reflect the growth and scope  
of the present status of the  
User's Group.
- 3:00-4:15 Review of the current  
procedures in prioritizing  
the RFC process. Report of  
the RFCs reviewed during the  
January-April 1990 period.  
Discussion on implementation  
of new scheduling and  
distribution of RFC packets.
- 4:15-4:30 Review of PALS development  
and support.  
Dale Carrison, MSUS/PALS

#### BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Saturday, June 23, 1990

9:00-12:00 noon, UNISYS Office  
324 S. Michigan Ave., First Floor

- 9:00-10:00 Informal discussions by type  
of library, centering on the  
implementation and use of  
PALS in the community college  
library, the academic and  
graduate school library, and  
the public library.

10:00-11:00 PALS Circulation System

Dr. Pamela Cravey,  
Georgia State University  
Users are encouraged to  
bring brief presentations or  
applications and innovative  
uses for the circulation  
module as well as specific  
written questions which will  
be presented to and answered  
by the participants. The  
goal of shared solutions  
will highlight this hour.

11:00-12:00 Developing Self Reliance  
With PALS

Dr. Patricia Libutti,  
Fordham University  
Three modes of library  
intervention with the user  
and the OPAC are examined  
from an instructional design  
perspective. Each mode  
(Bibliographic Instruction,  
Self-Instructional  
Tutorials, Work-Station  
Signage) present the user  
with different ways to be  
effective with PALS. The  
presenter will conclude with  
a focus on student input in  
design of these three modes.  
Bring your ideas and help  
initiate a PALS LOEX!

Please send any suggestions or  
additional information to Lynne Karen,  
College of New Rochelle, Gill Library,  
New Rochelle, NY, 10805. Telephone  
(914) 654-5343; FAX (914) 654-5554.



#### FROM THE CHAIR

A reflective moment . . . It was just five years ago that the PALS Users' Group met for the first time around a breakfast table. Only a handful of librarians, Dale Carrison from MSUS/PALS, and one or two vendor representatives were present. At most, we were a group of ten members, eager to share our PALS experiences and curious about one another. Due to the usual sparseness of time at ALA, these breakfast meetings lasted no longer than sixty minutes--just about enough time for a brief introduction and a "hello, how are you?" If we were lucky we would meet again twelve months later to learn about PALS.

There has been a tremendous growth of the PALS Users' Group during the last few years. We have emerged from the small embryonic breakfast club to a viable membership of nearly fifty participants at the past mid-winter meeting. There are at least twenty-seven UNISYS 1100/2200 PALS customers, all at different stages of planning, installation and production of five different modules within the integrated system. The Users' Group has met as a formal body to pass by-laws, initiate motions to promote vendor reliability, prioritize RFCs and set development directions.

I would like to initiate another period of growth during which the User's Group can expand at an informal level. I would like to provide a forum, during both the annual and mid-winter meetings, for us to become better acquainted with one another as librarians. I think that we need time to share our trials and tribulations as well as our joys and successes as PALS users. I am hopeful that the expanded PALS sessions planned for the June meeting will be such a forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

The newsletter is another means to this end. It is indeed a forum through which we can share our experiences as

well as get to know one another. Please feel free to forward any information, concerns, suggestions or complaints to me or the editor. We are eager to help.

As I look to the future of PALS, I am challenged by the rapid expansion of the past. The growth potential for the next five years will bring formalized changes to the present structure of the group. As PALS sites increase, so will the need for a committee presence within the Users' Group. I am hopeful that during 1990 we will be able to lay the foundation for a decade of successful cooperation and understanding.

--Lynne Karen  
Chair

#### UNISYS NEWS from Donna Gurdak

Unisys, PALS Program Management, recently mailed to our users a packet of information outlining the events happening during the Summer ALA Conference. The packet includes information regarding Unisys sponsored events, User Group activities, a summary of user votes on the January Request for Changes (RFCs), as well as a packet of new RFCs that have been received since the Winter ALA meeting.

We welcome our new "PALS"--Schenectady County Community College, NY; Instituto Mexicana del Petroleo, Mexico; Ferris State University, Michigan; SUNY-Fredonia, NY; and two additional universities which will be signing PALS contracts in the next 30 days. We hope to meet these new "PALS" in Chicago and welcome them into the Unisys family.

As our mailing indicated, the Unisys consolidation to Atlanta continues to move along smoothly. All PALS personnel will be in place in Atlanta upon their return from the ALA conference.

(cont'd on page 4)



DRAFT  
UNISYS PALS USERS' GROUP  
Information Sheet

Purpose:

The purpose of the UNISYS PALS User's Group is to provide an opportunity for the library users of the PALS software to interact officially with UNISYS in discussing PALS, including the setting of priorities for action and development of the PALS system.

Meetings:

The UNISYS PALS User's Group will meet on the Friday before the start of the ALA Midwinter meeting and the Friday before the start of the ALA Annual meeting in the summer, at a time and location to be sent to all libraries eligible for membership.

Forum:

All meetings shall be open meetings, with an agenda distributed to the members prior to the meeting. Additional items may be added to the agenda upon approval of the members present at the meeting. The meeting is open to all PALS involved persons, including librarians, computer center personnel, UNISYS personnel, and any other interested persons. Voting is limited, however, in the basis as defined under membership.

Membership:

All libraries using PALS in a full-time, online environment are considered to be members and shall have one vote in user group decisions. This shall include libraries who are currently considered UNISYS users, and shall also include MSUS-PALS users as they become integrated into the PALS Users' Group.

Officers:

A Chair-Elect shall be elected as the last item on the Midwinter meeting agenda and shall assist the Chair during the following year. Each position shall be for a period of one year from the end of the Midwinter meeting until the end of the next Midwinter meeting. The

Immediate Past Chair, the Chair, and the Chair-Elect shall be the Executive Committee for the year.

Newsletter:

A PALS User's Group Newsletter has been started. However, support dollars, personnel, and printing and postage costs have yet to be covered.

Costs:

No costs have yet been assessed to the membership. Incidental costs have been assumed by the institutions of the Officers. Costs for future activities, including the newsletter, will be determined and a source of funding identified. If a source of income is not identified, an assessment may have to be made to the membership to defray those costs.

01/06/89

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PALS AT WALDO:  
BRINGING TOGETHER DIVERSE RESOURCES

Westchester Academic Libraries Directors' Organization, or WALDO, is possibly the most unique PALS user. This consortium of a variety of libraries centered in and around Westchester County, New York, includes the county archives, 16 academic libraries, a public library, and the school libraries of three school districts. The WALDO organization has been using PALS since 1988. Its online catalog is distinctively known as MPALS.

MPALS, which means Multi-PALS, was devised by Westchester County government for its vast bank of UNISYS computers and a host of informational and administrative processing requirements. The County installed the original library catalog module, familiar to PALS users, at Westchester Community College in 1985. Shortly thereafter, negotiations and plans got underway to

(cont'd on page 4)



WALDO cont'd...

expand and network the online catalog among participating WALDO libraries. Recognizing the informality of WALDO, which exists without a charter, the County contracts for the use of its host computers with individual members.

Through MPALS any WALDO library can access its own machine-readable records, the records entered by any other participating library, or the holdings of all libraries in the consortium. As of February 1990, over 2,000,000 records of WALDO libraries were available to users through MPALS. As many as 60% were unique to the region.

MPALS itself is evolving into a "second generation" catalog including databases and files other than the libraries' bibliographic records. Two major resources, namely ERIC (Education Resources Information Center) and GPO (Government Printing Office) databases, are accessible to all WALDO libraries on MPALS and can provide users numerous sources of reports and studies conducted by professional and governmental agencies. Plans are underway to lease additional commercial databases of interest to libraries. WALDO libraries will share subscription costs.

Building on the spirit of sharing engendered by the cooperative MPALS

catalog venture, the libraries have granted reciprocal borrowing privileges to members' full-time faculties and extended on-site use to students. WALDO members are: College of Mt. St. Vincent, College of New Rochelle, Concordia College, Fordham University, Iona College, Manhattan College, Manhattanville College, Marymount College, Mercy College, Pace University, Sarah Lawrence College, St. Thomas Aquinas College, SUNY-Purchase, The King's College, Westchester Community College, White Plains Public Library, Westchester County Archives, and the school libraries of Putnam/Northern Westchester, Southern Westchester, and the Yonkers Public School Systems.

--Harry Walsh

Manhattan College Libraries

UNISYS NEWS cont'd...

Unisys personnel will be available to meet with you during ALA to discuss planning for the new 90.01 Authority Control module. You may want to take advantage of the conference to meet with some of the vendors who can provide authority processing services, such as Blackwells, MARCIVE, UTLAS, and LTJ.

We look forward to seeing you during the conference, and invite you to call us if you would like to set up individual meetings.

Library

The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
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