ADVENTIST LIBRARY INFORMATION COOPERATIVE (ALICE)

BY CAROLYN GASKELL

Cooperation and collaboration between libraries can help reduce costs.

Today's students and faculty demand instantaneous access to full-text articles, books, and other resources. New online databases appear each year, and traditional databases expand, adding new features such as article linking. Libraries, even small ones, are expected to provide access to an increasing array of online resources. While the databases and user expectations expand each year, library budgets typically do not. Adventist college and university libraries are no exception.

Cooperation and collaboration between libraries can help reduce costs. Libraries can save money by joining consortia to share costs for cataloging books and other materials, facilitating interlibrary loans, purchasing online library systems, licensing databases and electronic book collections, along with a variety of other activities. More than 160 consortia are currently listed on the International Coalition of Library Consortia's (ICOLC) Web site,[1] underscoring the extent of cooperation between libraries.

In the late 1990s, Adventist college and university library directors began to explore ways to license databases at more advantageous prices. It soon became apparent that few were eligible to join most consortia or their database licensing projects. Clearly, Adventist academic librarians needed to form their own consortium. They had some experience in collaboration, since the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians (ASDAL) had already tackled such projects as the *Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index*,[2] the Seventh-day Adventist Obituary Index,[3] and the Adventist Resources Section Collection Development Policy.[4]

After planning sessions by Adventist technical services/systems librarians and college and university library directors, the Adventist Library Information Cooperative (ALICE) came into being on September 1, 1996. Keith Clouten, at that time library director at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, was elected ALICE's first chair.

What Is ALICE?

ALICE is a consortium of Adventist institutional libraries operating under the umbrella of ASDAL. Its purpose "is to provide Member Libraries with enhanced database access opportunities at reduced costs through collective efforts and resource sharing within the Cooperative."[5] There were 10 inaugural members.[6] Less than a year later, in a presentation at the 1997 ASDAL conference, Clouten observed that, "During its first five months in existence, the new consortium signed agreements with four vendors totalling more than $153,000, providing nine member libraries with electronic access to up to 10 databases, including two with substantial full-text."[7] He further noted that "In many cases, it provided an option which might not have been affordable any other way."[8]

Today, 17 Adventist academic libraries in seven countries and one territory are members of ALICE. The consortium seeks to extend its services both to other levels of Adventist education in North America, as well as other Adventist colleges and universities abroad.

Looking toward the future at that 1997 conference, Clouten envisioned ALICE's role as follows: "Within the sphere of Adventist higher education, a consortium such as AL-ICE may enable institutions to offer more resources for less cost. . . . More than that, though, ALICE becomes the broker of shared database licensing agreements that allow an institution to provide campus-wide access in a way that enhances student learning opportunities. And if the higher education scene includes a trend in the direction of distance education or 'at-home' learning, ALICE member libraries have built-in readiness to

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extend electronic information services to their students whether on or off campus."[9]

Eight years later, Clouten's vision has come to pass. Where licensing permits, librarians at Adventist tertiary institutions actively support their off-campus students in both distance-education programs and remote sites by using proxy servers that access ALICE-licensed databases.

ALICE oversees the licensing of 11 Web-based databases, including *Academic Search Premier*, *CGF College Source Online*, *PsycInfo*, and *ATLA*. Because licensing costs are often based upon an institution's full-time enrollment (FTE), consortia, which aggregate member FTE's, can often obtain reduced licensing costs. Vendors gain by having only one invoice to send.

ALICE typically allocates costs to its member libraries based on FTE. However, since some member institutions are quite small, a minimum or base FTE of 500 has been established. So that larger schools do not have to over-subsidize a project, licensing fees are allocated to ensure that no institution's portion is greater than if they licensed the database on their own. This policy allows the libraries from larger institutions to support the smaller ones while still being fiscally responsible. Member libraries are free to opt into and out of database projects yearly as

their circumstances change.

While consortial licensing reduces costs, the databases still cost thousands of dollars. In addition to the database licensing fees, ALICE charges an annual membership fee, and each library director must maintain his or her membership in ASDAL.

Using ALICE's databases, students can find journals online and print articles for use in research or class projects.

How ALICE Works

ALICE is a volunteer organization, managed by a council consisting of library directors from member institutions. Volunteer staff, who keep the consortium operating through the year, consist of the council chair, a project manager, and a secretary/treasurer. The project manager is not a library director but is elected from one of the member institutions. Andrews University (AU) acts as the consortium's fiscal agent. Consequently, the dean of libraries at AU functions as the group's secretary/treasurer. At present, only academic libraries are members. The AL-ICE council meets face to face once a year during the annual ASDAL conference. The rest of the year, business is conducted via E-mail, including votes on database renewals. Databases licensed by ALICE are currently English-language based. As membership has expanded internationally, it takes more time to negotiate with vendors and vote on projects.

How to Join

Currently, ALICE accepts membership requests only from Adventist institutions of higher education whose library directors are members of ASDAL. The best time to join is during the annual license renewals in the fall. Prospective members should indicate in writing to the ALICE chair and/or project manager their wish to join and identify the database projects(s) in which they are interested. (A list of databases licensed by ALICE is located on its Web site.)

Eight years after its inception, ALICE has become a vital service to Adventist academic li-

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To join ALICE, Adventist academic libraries must have

1. A stable power source;
2. A stable Internet Provider (IP) address;
3. Stable E-mail access;
4. The ability to pay in U.S. dollars, in a timely manner;
5. Membership in ASDAL;
6. Appropriate computer/technology infrastructure and personnel support; and
7. A commitment to participating in ALICE governance, E-mail voting, and other business.

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A librarian helps a student find online resources.

ALICE in the Future: The Wonderland Depends on Our Choices

BY JOEL LUTES

ALICE's tremendous accomplishments during the past decade have come through the cooperation and vision of many librarians. That vision continues to grow. Each year, ALICE identifies one or two new databases and/or services the consortium will explore. This year, ALICE is looking at online serials management services and also hopes to explore the possibilities of using a single book distributor in order to obtain higher discounts.

Another area of growth is in the addition of new member libraries. Each year, more schools outside North America join in order to increase the resources they are able to provide for their students.

At its most recent meeting, ALICE also set in place the policies and procedures necessary for elementary and secondary schools to join using their local conferences or unions as the fiscal agent. Schools will be able to subscribe to databases and achieve savings of up to 50 percent. By budgeting between U.S. $1,000-$2,000 each year, schools can use a database that includes several hundred periodicals. They will thus pay less than $6 per periodical!

ALICE has lots of databases and services yet to consider. What about working with the denomination's publishers to centralize the electronic archives of their publications in a database accessible around the world? The *Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index* is already providing citations to those publications, so why not add the archives? What about uniting the college and university libraries' reference services through the Internet to provide joint access to the many subject specialists that no one library can afford to hire? ALICE will continue to explore a variety of ways to assist Adventist libraries.

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braries and the students and faculty they serve worldwide. ✎

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REFERENCES

1. International Coalition of Library Consortia, http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/icolcmembers.html.
2. Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index, http://www.andrews.edu/library/jewel/SDAPI.html.
3. Seventh-day Adventist Obituary Index, http://www.andrews.edu/library/jewel/SDAPI.html.
4. Adventist Resources Section Collection Development Policy, http://www.asdal.org/sdare/asdalcoll.pdf.
5. ALICE Agreement, http://www.asdal.org/alice/agreement.html. Section 2.2.
6. Andrews, La Sierra, Loma Linda, and Southern Adventist universities; Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, and Columbia Union, Oakwood, Pacific Union, Union, and Walla Walla colleges.
7. Keith Clouten, "Alice in an Electronic Wonderland: Rabbit Hole or Passageway to the Future?" Presentation given at the annual ASDAL Conference at La Sierra University, Riverside, California, June 23, 1997, paragraph 2.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid., paragraph 8.

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Selected Seventh-day Adventist Historical Resources on the Web
Compiled by Carolyn Gaskell

1. MAJOR SITES
◆ **Adventist Heritage Ministry/Adventist Historic Village**
http://www.adventistheritage.org
◆ **Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University** (Photo search)
http://www.andrews.edu/library/car/index.html
◆ **Ellen G. White Estate** (Photo search)
http://ast.gc.adventist.org/
◆ **General Conference – Office of Archives and Statistics**
http://ast.gc.adventist.org/
◆ **Loma Linda University Archives and Special Collections/Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office** (Photo search)
http://www.llu.edu/llu/library/heritage
◆ **Seventh-day Adventist Periodical and Obituary Indexes**
http://143.207.5.3:82/screens/opacmenu.html
Guides to articles and obituaries in Adventist periodicals.

2. PIONEER BIOGRAPHIES AND CHURCH HISTORIES
◆ **Adventist Pioneer Library**
www.tagnet.org/apl/Gallery.htm
Gallery of photos and short biographies of early Adventist pioneers.
◆ **Seventh-day Adventist Church – South Pacific**
http://www.adventist.org.au/ws/spdlive.nsf?HomePage?openform&Entity+

South+Pacific
Under "Information," choose "Our History," and select from subsequent menu. Story of Ellen G. White in the South Pacific is included.

3. COLLEGE LIBRARIES – SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
◆ **La Sierra University Heritage Room**
http://www.lasierra.edu/library/heritage/index.html
Description of holdings plus online document file index.
◆ **New England Adventist Heritage Center—Atlantic Union College**
http://www.atlanticuc.edu/campuslife.neahc.php
◆ **Pacific Union College: Heritage Room**
http://library.puc.edu/adventist/heritage.shtml
Bibliographies of Adventist authors and materials.
◆ **Pacific Union College: Pitcairn Island Study Center**
http://library.puc.edu/pitcairn/index.shtml
Contains a bibliography of the collection and Pitcairn links.
◆ **Walla Walla College (WWC) Photo Project**
http://www.wwc.edu/academics/library/imlib/photos.php
Almost 6,000 photos relating to WWC, local camp meetings, and valley his-

tory, some films.
◆ **Southwestern Adventist University, Ellen G. White Research Center**
http://library.swau.edu/heritage_center/

4. HISTORIC SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SITES – IMAGES
◆ **Washington, New Hampshire, Church**
http://www.tagnet.org/washington/
Pioneer Photos, Sabbath Trail, etc.
◆ **Elmshaven**
http://www.elmshaven.org/
Provides photo tour and history of Ellen White's home in St. Helena, California, where she spent the last few years of her life.
◆ **Find a Grave**
http://www.findagrave.com/
Locates information on where people are buried, often includes image of cemetery and/or grave site. Oak Hill is included.
◆ **Historical Society of Battle Creek**
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/9840
Includes picture of the Battle Creek Sanitarium and biographical material on John Harvey Kellogg. ✎

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