Libraries to change cataloging system to Library of Congress classification

By Al Green

MIT libraries have decided to change their cataloging system in order to adhere to Library of Congress (LC) author and subject headings. This change is part of the standardization policy started in 1963 by the adoption of the LC classification. It means that the subject title and title subject entries under which books are cataloged will now follow the LC system.

Effective January 1, 1965, two catalogues were established in each library. Catalogue cards for all books acquired since the first day of the year will be filed in the new catalogues according to American Library Association filing rules. In addition, the library hopes to file cards for all books cataloged since 1963 (that is, all books with the LC classification).

The new catalogue as soon as funds become available. Author cards for the remainder of the MIT collection, those titles classified under the Dewey Decimal System, will be revised and typed under the LC main entry headings over a period of several years. The library will have to spend the approximately $40,000 necessary to facilitate the change.

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It was emphasized that, during the period of changeover from LC to

main entries and subjects, library users will have to consult both catalogues to be sure of getting all the material in the library collection on the subject.

Although the change creates a temporary inconvenience to the reader, library officials said that this is an effort to facilitate library use. The new system will be codified. This means that books can be processed by non-professionals under professional guidance.

An Annual Military Ball

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