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Letter to William Younger regarding the Information Dynamics Corporation, June 7, 1973

Peyton Neal Jr.

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June 7, 1973

William C. Younger, Esquire
Alabama Supreme Court Library
Judicial Building - Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Bill:

As you can see from the enclosed copy of my latest letter to Pearl, I am "up to something" once again. This time, it involves a special project of the Information Dynamics Corporation organization that you will recall made a presentation at our recent Atlanta Institute.

Bill Murray was in attendance at the Boston meeting mentioned in my letter to Pearl, and he will be talking with you about this.

I hope that I can count on you to encourage Pearl to offer the IDC people a few minutes at the chapter's breakfast meeting in Seattle. And a place on the program in August at Marco Island.

Looking forward to seeing you in Seattle, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Peyton R. Neal, Jr.

FRWj/rto

enclosure
Dear Pearl:

Following the presentation by the Information Dynamics Corporation to those of us attending the luncheon on April 6 at the recent Atlanta institute on Cataloging and Classification, a number of us talked with the two IDC representatives, Mr. David P. Waite and Mr. Ken McLeod.

My discussions, and I have now learned those of several others, centered on the possibility of IDC marketing a special service for law libraries, that would provide better bibliographic data on legal materials, to aid us in selection, cataloging and classification of our materials.

After these discussions, the IDC organization invited eight of us from the chapter to meet with their management people in Boston to more fully discuss these possibilities. This past weekend, I attended such a meeting. Also present were: Igor Kavass (Duke), Bill Murray (Alabama), Ed Schroeder (Florida State), Rick Surles (Tennessee) and Jon Schultz (South Carolina). In addition, Morris Cohen and Margaret Moody were invited from the Harvard Law Library. Paul Willis (Kentucky) and Bill Johnson (West Virginia) were unable to attend.

This group, which represented academic librarians from law schools in six of the chapter states, spent at least fourteen hours in formal sessions over three days at the IDC headquarters. In addition, more than nine hours of informal conversation over meals and in the late evenings, went on.

As a result of this meeting, you will very soon be receiving a letter from Mr. David Waite, President of IDC. He will ask for an opportunity to speak very briefly about the possibility of a PILOT PROJECT for law libraries in the Southeastern region of the United States at the chapters planned breakfast meeting in Seattle. He will also request, I believe, an opportunity to come to the August meeting of the Southeastern Law Teachers, where the librarians will also be in session, in order to present more specific details of the project.

Briefly, and as I understand his proposal, the IDC organization, which now "captures" the bibliographic output of the Library of Congress
and makes that information available to libraries (Ed Schroeder is a customer at present), will now begin to "capture" the output of the Harvard Law Library as well. This data will then be available to law libraries in our chapter region on a service basis for a trial period.

I will say that Morris Cohen seems most interested in the ramifications of such a project. And I believe the Southeastern chapter would be an ideal place for the PILOT to be tested. In fact, I am also writing to Betty Taylor, because I can see ways in which the IDC organization can, with little additional difficulty, assist Betty with the present project regarding the HOLDINGS from the list of Law Books Recommended for Libraries, which she now has underway.

I would be happy to answer any additional questions for you about this proposal, as I am certain Ed Schroeder, Morris Cohen and any of the others who attended would be. I also wish to state that none of us who were in Boston at the invitation of IDC has accepted any compensation for the ideas we offered. We were, of course, reimbursed for our expenses.

I think that this may be a real opportunity for our chapter to make a signal contribution to the law library profession. I am also taking the liberty of addressing copies of this letter to Bill Younger, Leah Chanin, and Betty Taylor, and I would welcome their response.

Sincerely,

Peyton R. Neal, Jr.

cc: Bill Younger
    Leah Chanin
    Betty Taylor
    Bill Johnson
    Igor Kavass
    Bill Murray
    Ed Schroeder
    Rick Surles
    Jon Schultz
    Paul Willis
    Morris Cohen
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