News

1. Conferences

1.1 Sixth International ISKO Conference

The International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO) will conduct its 6th International Conference (ISKO 6) in Toronto, Canada, July 10–13, 2000. The theme of the conference is:

Dynamism and Stability in Knowledge Organization

Papers addressing Dynamism and Stability in Knowledge Organization from any of the following interrelated perspectives are invited:

– Cognitive and Linguistic Foundations
– Theories of Knowledge and Knowledge Organization
– Information Policies and Management of Knowledge Structures
– Information Systems: Concepts, Design and Implementation
– Culture, Language and Communication in Knowledge Organization
– Knowledge Organization of Universal and Special Systems
– Global Users and Uses of Knowledge and Knowledge Organization
– New Information Technologies for Knowledge Organization

Theoreticians, researchers and practitioners involved in knowledge organization are invited to submit abstracts of between 500 and 1000 words by September 30, 1999 to Professor Clare Beghtol, Programme Chair (see contact information below; electronic submissions welcome; please include ISKO in the subject line). In preparing your abstract please relate your topic to the theme of the conference and indicate the category above to which you believe your paper belongs. An international programme committee will review the papers, and authors will be notified of decisions by December 1, 1999. The deadline for submission of papers for the printed conference proceedings will be March 1, 2000.

Venue of the conference
Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. Conference Chair: Nancy Williamson. Programme Chair: Clare Beghtol. Mailing address: Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street, Toronto, Canada M5S 3G5. Fax: +1 416 971 1399; E-mail: isko@fis.utoronto.ca

1.2 Third International Conference on Information Seeking in Context

The third International Conference on Information Seeking in Context is due to take place in August, 2000 in Sweden. We would like to take this opportunity to present the web-site for the conference and to invite researchers within the field to take part in the event. If you would like to be kept informed of our progress please let us know by subscribing to our distribution list: ISIC2000@hb.se

You will find further information and the Call for Papers at the following address: http://www.hb.se/bhs/bibvet/isic/Index.htm. The final submission date for abstracts is October 1, 1999.

Frances Hultgren
Conference secretary

1.3 Sixth Annual Reference Research Forum

The Sixth Annual Reference Research Forum, The Research and Statistics Committee of the Management and Operation of User Services Section of RUSA will be held at the 2000 American Library Association Annual Conference, July 6–10, 2000, Chicago, IL.

This is an opportunity to present and discuss your research project covering the broad area of reference services such as user behavior, electronic services, reference effectiveness, and organizational structure and personnel. Both completed research and research in progress will be considered. All researchers, including reference practitioners from all types of libraries, library school faculty and students, and other interested individuals are encouraged to submit a proposal.

The Committee will utilize a "blind" review process to select a maximum of three (3) projects for 25-minute presentations, followed by open discussion. The selected researchers are expected to present their papers in person at the forum. Criteria for selection are:

– Significance of the study for improving the quality of reference service
– Quality and creativity of the methodology
– Potential for research to fill a gap in reference knowledge or to build on previous studies
– Previously published research or research accepted for publication by December 1, 1998 will not be acceptable.

Please submit a one-page proposal by December 1, 1999. Notification of acceptance will be made by March 15, 2000. The submission must consist of no more than two pages. On the first page, please list your name(s), title(s), institutional affiliation, and address (including your mail address, fax number and e-mail address).

The second page should NOT show your name or any personal information.

Instead, it must include:

– The title of your project
– An explicit statement of the research problem
– A description of the research methodology used
– An explanation of the significance of the research to reference services

Please send submissions to: Marie L. Radford, Ph.D., (Chair, RUSA/MOUSS Research and Statistics Committee), School of Information & Library Science, Pratt Institute, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205-3897, USA. Fax: +1 718 636 3733; E-mail: mradford@prodigy.net

1.4 49th FID Conference and Congress

INSDOC hosted the 49th FID Conference and Congress in New Delhi from October 11 to 17, 1998.

The Congress whose theme was: "Towards the New Information Society of Tomorrow: Innovations, Challenges and Impact", generated 88 papers under four sections:

1. Research, Technology and Education
2. Economic, Societal, Ethical and Cultural Issues
3. Modeling, Analysis and Systems
4. Policies, Regulations, Laws and Copyright.

The volume was edited by a team of eminent professionals drawn from several Bangalore-based institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore University, the Indian Statistical Institute, and the Indian Space Research Organisation.

The Congress Proceedings cost U.S. $70.00. Kindly make the payment in advance by bank draft/pay order on New Delhi in favour of Director, INSDOC and we'll send you the publication by air mail.

For further information: (Ms.) A. Shrivastava, Asstt. Head; E-mail: mcs@del3.vsnl.net.in

2. Grants

2.1 OCLC Research Grant announced

The School of Library and Information Science, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, announces that Professors James H. Sweetland and Judith J. Senkevitch have been awarded a Library and Information Science Research Grant for 1999–2000 by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc. of Dublin, Ohio).

Senkevitch and Sweetland's study, "Tracking the Viability of an Evaluation Tool for Public Library Adult Fiction: the Five-Year Mark," will use the nearly forty-

million records of library holdings within OCLC's computerized Online Union Catalog to examine the rate of change in public libraries' adult fiction collections over the five-year period 1994 through 1999.

According to Dr. Mohammed M. Aman, Dean of the School of Library and Information Science, "The project builds on the research and expertise of Drs. Senkevitch and Sweetland. Dr. Sweetland is an expert in collection management; Dr. Senkevitch is an expert in evaluation and public library development." This study is another step forward in their long-term research effort to increase understanding of the nature and management of adult fiction collections in public libraries. It will also help them develop practical tools to assist librarians in evaluating their fiction holdings and in improving services to adult patrons.

According to Senkevitch and Sweetland, public librarians are very interested in evaluating the quality of their collections, and yet many public libraries are small and lack the staff and financial resources to engage in elaborate assessment processes. Librarians are often reluctant to discard a book that might later become a "classic" title. The results of this study could significantly improve the management and evaluation of adult fiction collections, and will provide additional insights into the nature of a "classic" work of fiction.

For further information, contact Dr. James H. Sweetland (sweetlnd@uwm.edu) or Dr. Judith J. Senkevitch (senkevit@uwn.edu) by telephone at +1 414 229 4707 or by fax at +1 414 229 4848.

2.2 Mellon Awards grant for Academic Image Exchange

Washington, D.C. – The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a grant to the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to support the development of the Academic Image Exchange (AIE), a project of the Digital Library Federation (DLF) and the College Art Association (CAA).

Making images available electronically will greatly benefit teaching and research in art history and architecture. Students will be able to study images on their computer screens at their convenience, rather than being expected to review a single set of slides placed on reserve. Digital images can be placed side-by-side for comparison and enlarged for close examination. Instructors, however, are likely to face challenges in finding appropriate images to offer electronically, since copyright restrictions prohibit the reproduction of images that appear in textbooks or of slides that are obtained commercially.

The AIE will enable scholars to share images, to which they own the rights, of works referenced in the major art history textbooks. It will offer students, teachers, and the broader public curriculum-based sets of monitor-sized digital images for their free and unrestricted educational, nonprofit use. The images offered by AIE are chosen on the basis of their proximity to traditional course selections. An online concordance will link images to standard art history survey books. This concordance-index will serve as one of the entry points to the image database, allowing

teachers and students access to a wider variety of images than is available in any single textbook.

The Digital Library Federation and the College Art Association are currently creating a prototype of the Academic Image Exchange. The development team is composed of art librarians, art and architecture historians, visual resources curators, photographers, and specialists in digital imagery and in systems design. Members and staff of the DLF, the CAA, the Society of Architectural Historians, and the faculty of the Imaging Systems Laboratory of Carnegie Mellon University are contributing to the AIE prototype development effort. Grant funds will support project management, the development of software for the project, and cataloging of images.

The Digital Library Federation is a partnership of research libraries dedicated to maintaining, expanding, and preserving a distributed collection of digital materials accessible to scholars and to a wider public. It operates under the umbrella of CLIR, which works in partnership with libraries, archives, and other information providers to advocate collaborative approaches to preserving the nation's intellectual heritage and strengthening the many components of its information system.

Founded in 1911, the College Art Association is committed to the highest standards of scholarship, connoisseurship, criticism, and teaching of the history of art, as well as the highest levels of creativity and teaching in the visual arts. To this end, it serves a community of 14,000 individuals and 2,000 institutional members around the world. CAA organizes a comprehensive annual conference and publishes two scholarly journals, a bimonthly newsletter, and an online journal of reviews.

2.3 IMLS grants funds for Frye Leadership Institute

Washington, D.C. – The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded a grant to the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to support the recruitment of 20 individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds to attend the Frye Leadership Institute during the first two years of its operation.

"Data show that the current leadership of library and information services on American campuses is not as diverse as the general population, nor as the available labor pool," notes CLIR President Deanna Marcum. "This is a serious national problem, and I am very pleased that, with IMLS support, the Frye Institute can begin to redress this deficiency."

In collaboration with Emory University and EDUCAUSE, CLIR has established the Frye Leadership Institute to effect fundamental change in how universities manage their information resources in the digital era. The Frye Institute will provide opportunities for continuing education to individuals who currently hold, or will one day assume, positions that make them responsible for transforming the management of scholarly information in the higher-education community. The first class will begin in June 2000 with an expected enrollment of 50 to 60 participants. Over the next decade, the Frye Institute will train a cadre of more than 600 professionals.

In announcing the awards, IMLS Acting Director Beverly Sheppard said, "Libraries and museums are more important than ever in this age of information, helping Americans navigate information resources and find meaning in an increasingly complex world. We are proud of these forward-thinking National Leadership projects that will increase access to information and help libraries and museums better serve the public."

The IMLS is a federal grantmaking agency in Washington, D.C., that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting museums and libraries.

The Council on Library and Information Resources works in partnership with libraries, archives, and other information providers to advocate collaborative approaches to preserving the nation's intellectual heritage and strengthening the many components of its information system. It works to support institutions as they integrate audiovisual and digital resources and services into their well-established print-based environments.

3. Schools of Library and Information Science

3.1 Danube University Krems, Austria

Library and Information Management Course
In October 1999, the Danube University Krems, Austria, starts with a new Library and Information Management Course. After the 4-semester course, the degree of 'Master of Advanced Studies in Information Science' is awarded. It is possible to specialize in operational Information Management or Library Management.

Apart from the methodical qualifications in knowledge management, information transfer, and information technology, special emphasis is put on library automation as well as planning, structuring and professional use of information systems, data bases, and digital libraries/files. In addition, the course provides essential management competencies such as project management, economical aspects, controlling, personnel management and development, copyright regulations, relevant standards and their application, information ethics, and information politics.

Duration: 4-semester occupation-accompanying course: 1080 hours, blocked, incl. in-service training.

Permission requirements: academic degree and/or sufficient professional experience, knowledge of the German and English language. Study fee: ATS 25 000 (1816.82 Euro) per semester.

For further information, please contact: pircher@donau-uni.ac.at. Http://www.tim.donau-uni.ac.at/lgbib/eindex.html. Tel.: +43 2732 893 2306; Fax: +43 2732 893 4300. Richard Pircher, Danube University, Dr. Karl Dorrek Str. 30, A-3500 Krems, Austria.

3.2 Florida State University, USA

Florida State University School of Information Studies establishes Information Use Management and Policy Institute.

Tallahassee, FL – August 17, 1999 – The School of Information Studies at Florida State University announced today that it has established the Information Use Management and Policy Institute. The Institute's mission is to conduct applied and basic research in information use and policy and to provide evaluation and usability analysis of information services and products. The goal is to make useful contributions to improving the quality and effectiveness of access, storage, and retrieval of information for a range of current and potential users.

Charles R. McClure, Ph.D., Florida State University's first Francis Eppes Professor, has been named Director of the Institute. Jane B. Robbins, Ph.D., Professor and Dean of the School of Information Studies, is the Institute's Associate Director for Research. Myke Gluck, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the School of Information Studies and Director of the FSU Usability Center, is the Institute's Associate Director for Usability and Evaluation. Bruce T. Fraser, J.D., doctoral candidate at the School of Information Studies, is the Institute's Assistant Director and Managing Research Associate. Other members of the faculty, and faculty from other university departments, will also participate in Institute activities.

The Information Institute will address key elements of Florida State University's mission. It will contribute to graduate and professional education in information studies and policy by encouraging and supporting faculty and graduate student research in information policy, access, and services and products. It will also contribute to public service in its focus on information policy and access issues in both the public and private sectors.

"The Information Institute will make unique contributions in research, teaching, and public service," McClure said. "No similar institute exists in the State University System of Florida, and we intend to provide world-class research and services for our clients and for the university." He also noted that the Institute plans to participate in a range of federal and state information policy studies in the immediate future.

The Institute's research will focus on the information user, and the interaction of the user and information products, services, technologies, and organizations. Research will concentrate upon policy issues at all governmental levels related to accessing information in electronic forms as well as other media. Systems that impact information and information access will be analyzed and evaluated from a policy perspective.

Services will focus on evaluation and usability analysis. The Institute will provide assistance in the public and private sectors with planning, design, and evaluation of information and library services, programs, and products. Evaluation services include assisting libraries and other information centers in strategic planning,

measuring performance, and assessing their collections and automated information systems. Usability analysis services are designed to help clients develop useful and usable information products and services. Usability analysis services include equipment, software, and expertise for testing and evaluating information software and services, existing software enhancements, paper and electronic documentation, and training programs for the use of information products and services.

The Institute's activities will address a broad range of questions important to government, business, information providers, and the public. It aims to create partnerships of inquiry between researchers, users of research, and public and private policy makers and practitioners. The Institute is committed to translating research and development findings into practical solutions and policies for improving information policies, standards, products, and services.

For further information: Bruce T. Fraser, Assistant Director, Information Use Management and Policy Institute, School of Information Studies, Florida State University, 226 Louis Shores Building, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2100. Tel.: +1 850 645 3328; Fax: +1 850 644 9763; E-mail: bfraser@lis.fsu.edu. Http://www.fsu.edu/~lis/ or Pam Hurston, Graduate Advisor, School of Information Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2100, http://www.fsu.edu/~lis. Tel.: +1 850 644 5772; Fax: +1 850 644 9763; E-mail: hurston@lis.fsu.edu

3.3 Dominican University, USA

Dominican University is pleased to announce the establishment of an interdisciplinary Center for Knowledge Management beginning in the fall of 1999.

"The signals are clear. The information sector in the 21st century will be broad-based, market-driven and global in context. As knowledge management professionals, we have positioned ourselves well to understand the big picture", so states Dr. Kanti Srikantaiah, newly-appointed director of the Center and Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University. Srikantaiah is also chief editor of the new book," Knowledge Management for the Information Professional".

In addition to a series of workshops that will be offered by the Center, a certificate program in Knowledge Management begins in September, 1999. This certificate has been designed and developed by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science and the Graduate School of Business to meet the need of the information community/information professionals in for profit and not for profit sectors mainly in the Chicago metropolitan area. The three-course certificate provides the foundation for gaining knowledge management concepts, developing and implementing knowledge management systems, and creating a knowledge management culture within the organization. It is anticipated that a full Master's degree in Knowledge Management will be offered in the fall, 2000.

For further information send an e-mail to ckm@email.dom.edu or contact Elisa

F. Topper, Assistant Dean, GSLIS, at 708-524-6848. Information on Dominican University may be found on our website at www.dom.edu.

3.4 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) announces that it has been awarded a $53,600 grant for 1999–2000 to study the effectiveness of Internet (web-based) courses in delivering for-credit education in information and library science. The project, "Comparing Web-Based and Classroom Instruction: An Assessment Project Studying Effects of Integrating Technology into the Curriculum," is funded by the University of Wisconsin System's Learning and Information Technology initiative.

Under the direction of SLIS Associate Dean Judith J. Senkevitch, the project will systematically compare the student learning outcomes and perceived effectiveness of SLIS's for-credit courses offered via the Internet with traditional on-campus sections of the same courses. The study will provide greater understanding of such issues as: the appropriateness and effectiveness of Internet (web-based) courses for library and information science education; which technologies and approaches work best from both students' and instructors' perspectives; how students can best be prepared to participate in web-based classes; how faculty can best be aided in developing and implementing such classes; and cost and time factors related to developing and delivering web-based courses.

According to Dr. Mohammed M. Aman, Dean of the UWM School of Library and Information Science, this study reflects the School's long-time commitment both to distance education for adults and to educating information professionals in effectively using current information technologies to enhance library service and benefit library users. Dean Aman states, "The project builds on the expertise and research work of Dr. Senkevitch, and her co-investigators: Dr. Dietmar Wolfram, Dr. Hong (Iris) Xie, and Professor Elizabeth Buchanan. The results of this study can yield important new insights that can help campuses interested in developing or expanding web-based courses for distance education."

For further information, contact Dr. Judith J. Senkevitch (senkevit@uwm.edu) or Dr. Dietmar Wolfram (dwolfram@uwm.edu) by telephone at +1 414 229 4707 or by fax at +1 414 229 4848.

3.5 Texas Woman's University, USA

Under the direction of Jeffrey T. Huber, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, Texas Woman's University has received an HIV/AIDS Information Outreach Award from the National Library of Medicine. The award will facilitate HIV/AIDS information access in Dallas, Texas. The project is a collaborative effort involving Texas Woman's University, the AIDS Resource Center of Dallas, and the Dallas Public Library.

4. Professional Associations

4.1 Special Libraries Association

The Special Libraries Association is pleased to announce that the results from the Library and Information Studies Survey Programs Survey are now available on the SLA website (http://www.sla.org/professional/competency/index.shtml). The survey of library and information science programs throughout the world was conducted in cooperation with the Association of Library and Information Science Educators (ALISE) and the Medical Library Association (MLA). The goals of the survey were to provide a benchmark of information studies curricula and to identify competency areas better served by continuing education programs offered through professional associations. The basis for the survey was SLA's Competencies for Special Librarians of the 21st Century and MLA's Platform for Change, which established core personal and professional competencies for the future of the library profession. Those studies are also available on the Internet (www.sla.org/professional/comp.html) (www.mlanet.org/education/platform.html).

Among other findings, the survey revealed that master's-level university programs teaching library and information science have an opportunity to expand their curricula into information technologies and government information policies. Of all courses (1,909 total) taught by universities in the area of library and information science at accredited programs in Canada and the United States, 18 percent are devoted to the study of information systems and technology. A closer look found that, of the 350 information systems and technology courses offered, only 13 percent are part of the core curricula. The survey also showed that ten percent of all courses cover information policy, 18 percent of which are core courses. Further, more than a quarter of the programs surveyed do not require courses in either of these competency areas.

For more information, contact Valerie Taylor, SLA's Professional Development Director (valerie@sla.org; 202-939-3667) or Ruth M. Arnold, SLA's Research Director (ruth@sla.org; 516-679-3746).