NEWS

Courses

The following courses have been arranged for 1983 by the United Kingdom Serials Group.
- November 9 and 16
  Serials automation. For senior staff.
  Limit 25. Cost £30.
  Location: Edinburgh.
- November 23 and 30
  (As above)
  Location: London.
- December 7 and 14
  Finance and serials control. For senior staff.
  Limit 25. Cost £30.
  Location: Loughborough.

1984
- March 26–29
  8th Annual Conference and AGM. University of Surrey, Guildford, England.
  Details to be announced.

Details of all above from:

D.P. Woodworth,
Publications and Education Officer UKSG,
School of Library and Information Science, Technical College,
Loughborough, Leicestershire,
England, U.K.
Tel. 0509-215831 ext. 48.

Research award

Use of new technology in teaching librarianship and information science

Following a survey carried out in 1979 [1] on the teaching of online cataloguing and searching and the use of new technology in United Kingdom schools of

librarianship and information science, the British Library Research and Development Department decided that this information should be updated and a directory of the use of new technology in teaching librarianship and information science be compiled. A questionnaire was sent to the UK library schools in late January 1983. This was in two parts; the first covered hardware aspects (terminals used, microcomputers used, mainframes/minicomputers used, videotex facilities, etc.) and the second asked for details of all software packages used. When the questionnaires are returned and checked, the information will be stored on two separate databases on an RML 380Z microcomputer at Newcastle-upon-Tyne Polytechnic. Some of the information will be extracted and made available on Prestel. It is envisaged that the information will be updated approximately every 6 months.

The work is being undertaken by Joan Day and Alasdair Kemp of Newcastle Polytechnic and Lucy A. Tedd.

Further details are available from:

Ms. J. Day,
School of Librarianship and Information Studies,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Polytechnic,
Lipman Building,
Sandyford Road,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 8ST,
England, U.K.

Reference

1. L.A. Tedd, *The teaching of online cataloguing and searching and the use of new technology in UK schools of librarianship and information science.* London: British Library, 1981. BLRDD report no. 5616.

Use of OCLC Europe by United Kingdom Library Schools

OCLC services are currently being used by four UK Library Schools: The Queen's University of Belfast; the University of Sheffield; the Polytechnic of North London and the College of Librarianship Wales.

The OCLC services of *cataloguing, serials control, interlibrary loan* and *acquisitions* are available for teaching purposes.

Further details about the use of OCLC Europe can be obtained from:

Mr. David Buckle,
Director, OCLC Europe,
2nd Floor,
Lloyds Bank Chambers,
75, Edmund Street,
Birmingham B3 3HA,
England, U.K.

Teaching aids

Online searching

INFOTAPE 1: a self-teaching tape programme for online searching with Pergamon Infoline (produced by University of London Central Information Service). London: Pergamon Infoline, 1983. 1 sound cassette (30 min.) and 1 booklet. Cost £5.50.

The tape is designed to be used when online to the Pergamon Infoline information retrieval system. The tape commentary guides the user step-by-step through the program referring the user to the manual for explanations and illustrations. Part 1 (a second part is due to be available in summer 1983) is intended for beginners and explains online systems and their operation together with instruction in the basic Infoline commands.

Library instruction: 'Self-help' library education package using a microcomputer

A microcomputer-based 'self-help' library instruction package aimed at new library users is being developed in the Andersonian Library, at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

The basic hardware requirements for running the system are a BBC microcomputer (model B), a colour television or monitor, and a disc-drive for backup storage capacity.

The first of the programs in the package – a 'library location finder' – is at an interim stage of development. It is designed to help users find specific areas or services in the Andersonian Library, which has four floors or 'levels' (levels 2–5). The user is presented, first of all, with a general index, and is asked to choose the area or service required by pressing one numbered key in the range 2–9. If numbers 6–9 are pressed, intermediary indices are presented which, in turn, ask the user to choose between numbers 2–5. The effective choice at the general index level is thus between numbers 2–5, the numbers of the library levels. Numbers are assigned to library areas and services according to which library level they are on, and pressing the number assigned causes a plan of the corresponding level to be plotted on the screen (e.g. if 4 is pressed, level 4 is plotted).

Level plans are colour-coded to highlight individual locations, and are displayed on the right of the screen, with a 'local' index on the left. A typical local index offers several options:

For:	*Press:*
Catalogue	1
Information board	2
Seminar room	3
Serials list (up to 8 items)	4
Class numbers	9
General index	0

Pressing keys 1–4 (or 1–8) causes the location of the required area or service to flash. Pressing key 9 causes the local index to be replaced by sub-indices which allow classification numbers to be located to the nearest row of shelves. Pressing key 0 returns the user to the general index.

Further details available from:

Dennis Nicholson, Sub-Librarian
Andersonian Library, University of Strathclyde,
Glasgow, U.K.

Patent information

The outcome of an eighteen-month research project, financed by the European Economic Community (EEC) and carried out by J. Stephenson of Newcastle Polytechnic, United Kingdom, has been the production of a training package in patent information. 'Patents Europe', aimed at junior management, engineers, students and technologists with little or no knowledge of patent use, will instruct them in the techniques of retrieval and searching, making the whole process much quicker and easier. The packages contain video-cassettes, tape/slide programmes, handbooks, charts, diagrams and instruction in computer use.

One finding of the research was that the general level of patent information use is very low. Many firms have no idea of how to find such information and others are discouraged by the complicated procedures involved. Bearing this in mind, 'Patents Europe' has been constructed as either a basis for teaching or as a self-instructional programme.

The videos, *Inventing the patent, Patents today* and *Patents on-line,* give a comprehensive picture of patents from ancient times to the present day. They can be bought separately, as can the other components of the package. The accompanying handbooks give instructions for both students and instructors. Any configuration of the course, including an illustrated lecture, is explained in full. Case studies, how to read and understand specifications, computer programs, European patents and how to apply patent information to daily work, form only a part of the detailed information provided.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. C. Holland, Press Officer,
Newcastle-upon-Type Polytechnic,
Ellison Building,
Ellison Place,
Newcastle-upon Tyne NE1 8ST,
England, U.K.

Library User Education Roundtable, U.S.A.

The New York Library Association has formed the Library User Education Roundtable (LUERT). A newsletter has been published and workshops, etc. have been organized on a statewide basis.

For further information, contact:

> Betsy Elkins,
> Moon Library,
> State University of New York at Syracuse,
> Syracuse, NY 13210,
> U.S.A.

Information technology in the library/information school curriculum: an international conference, Cunard International Hotel, London, December 8, 1983 and Royal National Hotel, London, December 9–10, 1983

Preliminary programme for international conference announced

Thursday, 8 December 1983
- UK Library Schools education package exhibit.
- Education session – contributed papers session at International Online Information Meeting.
- *Chairman*: Margaret O'Hare (British Library Research and Development Department).

Friday, 9 December 1983
- Session 1. Keynote address.
  Chairman: Margaret O'Hare (British Library Research and Development Department).
  Speaker: Blaise Cronin (Aslib, UK).
- Session 2. International review.
  Chairman: Dr. Toni Carmo Bearman (National Commission of Library and Information Science, USA).
- Session 3. Today's horizon – UK/US.
  Chairman: Douglas Anderson (Robert Gordon Institute of Technology, UK).
  Speaker: Lucy A. Tedd (Independent consultant, UK).
  The UK scene – report from the discussion group on new technology in library/information schools.
  Speaker: José Marie Griffiths (King Research Inc., USA).
  The US scene – new directions for library and information science education.
- Session 4. Today's horizons – critical evaluation.
  Chairman: José Marie Griffiths (King Research Inc., USA).
  Panel: E.M. Keen (College of Librarianship Wales, UK);

R. Kuhlin (University of Konstanz, FDR);
Annette Pearson (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa).
- Session 5. Broadening horizons.
  Chairman: John Eyre (Polytechnic of North London, UK).
  Speaker: F. Reiner (Mediatheque, France).
  Other speakers to be announced.
- Session 6. Beyond the horizon.
  Chairman: Stella Keenan (Loughborough University, UK).
  Speaker: C.R. Clough (ICI, UK).
  Summary

Papers

Delegates from outside the UK are invited to contribute brief written papers on the conference theme. These will be published in the conference proceedings and time will be allocated for discussion at the conference.

Places for the conference should be reserved by October 1st. After this date reservations may have to be restricted. The conference has been specially timed to link with the 7th International Online Information Meeting and special rates are available for those attending both conferences.

For further information please contact:

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