

News

1. General

1.0. *Scholarship*

Virginia and Herbert White Scholarship in Special Librarianship

Herbert S. White, former dean of Indiana University School of Library and Information Science has, with his wife, established '*The Virginia and Herbert White Scholarship in Special Librarianship*'. The scholarship, which carries a \$ 2500 award, will be made to a student seeking a master of library science or a Ph.D. degree with emphasis in the area of special librarianship. For further information: Indiana University, School of Library and Information Science, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, U.S.A.

1.1. *Information Services*

In order to review a subject area, editors need a constant source of new information. A cost-effective current awareness service is provided by Tailored Information under the name of Watching Brief.

The Watching Brief service can keep an eye on hundreds of computer databases situated in various sites throughout the world, and then pass on relevant information to newsletter editors.

The sorts of information covered range from detailed technical topics to financial and business news.

For further information contact:

Tailored Information Ltd, 119 High Street South, Rushden, Northants NN10 ORB.
Tel. +44 (0)933 311013. Fax. +44 (0)933 410750.

1.2. *Work experience*

More students from the Department of Information and Library Studies at the University of Wales are benefiting from the University's Year in Employment Scheme this year. Under the scheme, the students take a break from their studies to work for a year in an appropriate training post.

The range of possibilities available to students is indicated by some of this year's placements. Alison Cooke has gone to work with the Department of Health Information Unit in London; Sophie Crane is putting her librarianship skills to work with the SW College of Health Studies at Plymouth; Jennifer Hall is working with the information team at the oil company Conoco (UK) Ltd in London; Sally Davies is working for Glaxo Research in Greenford and Vanessa Askey has been employed by the information unit of Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants in Birmingham.

Past students who have taken part in the scheme have all returned to complete their studies talking enthusiastically about their experiences, which help them relate the theory they learn in the lecture room to real situations.

'In a practical subject, such as information and library work, there can be no substitute for experience,' said Hywel Roberts, Head of Department. 'The Year in Employment Scheme enables our students to get the best possible experience during their course, giving them a clear edge when it comes to seeking a job after they have graduated.'

For further information please contact:

Grant Vidgen, DILS Liaison Office, Department of Information and Library Studies, Llanebadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, UK, Tel. +44 970 62 21 92.

2. Permanent courses

2.0. Joint Master's Program in Library Science: USA

Rosary College in River Forest, Ill. and the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn. have joined in a unique arrangement to offer a Master of Arts in Library Science (MALS) in the Twin Cities area.

This program will bring an American Library Association (ALA) accredited graduate degree to the Twin Cities for the first time in almost 15 years. ALA accreditation is a specific requirement for many library jobs, particularly for academic and public library positions.

Students will be able to take up to two semesters of the three-semester MALS degree at the College of St. Catherine and four courses at Rosary's GSLIS. Graduates will receive a degree from Rosary College.

Courses on both campuses will be taught primarily by full-time faculty from St. Catherine's information management and from Rosary's graduate school. Live telecommunication of some courses is anticipated in the second and subsequent years, however, the program will not depend on this technology.

Rosary's GSLIS is one of just 54 colleges and universities in the U.S. to offer an ALA accredited master's degree. The degree has been available for more than 40 years. The College of St. Catherine has offered programs in library science and information management for more than 50 years.

Further information: Anne Wolf, Rosary College, 7900 West Division Street, River Forest, Illinois 60305, U.S.A., Tel. +1 70 85 24 62 94.

2.1. Library Management: The Netherlands

The intention of the international post-graduate course in Library Management for librarians and information specialists is to broaden and update knowledge and skills through practical training in information systems, personal communication, and the use of management tools.

The course will be taught in English. The course will last four months, including a four-week internship. Participants will come mainly from developing countries and will be middle or higher level professional library staff or persons involved in the teaching and training of librarians.

For further information, contact: Haagse Hoogeschool (The Hague Polytechnic), Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS), Paramaribostraat 21, 2585 GL The Hague, The Netherlands, Tel.: +31 703 63 19 35. Fax: +31 703 56 33 02.

3. Short courses

3.0. Summer study in Britain 1993

The 21st annual International Graduate Information Studies School (IGISS) will be held during the period 26th June to 17th July 1993 at the Department of Information and Library Studies, University of Wales Aberystwyth. During this three week period students may take two courses (one in each group), or just one course (from either Group).

Group One: Management of public and academic libraries; information management; media applications in libraries and information services. Group Two: Library development planning; planning and design of library buildings; sources of information in business.

IGISS is organised by the Department of Information and Library Studies in association with the University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Science. All courses carry graduate academic credits and appropriately qualified students may use the courses as part of their MLS or advanced programmes in most Graduate Schools in Canada and the USA.

Brochures with details of the courses can be obtained from the Director IGISS, Department of Information and Library Studies, University of Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, Great Britain.

4. Meetings

4.0. EUCLID in Barcelona '93

The Board of EUCLID (the European Association for Library and Information Education and Research), meeting in Bolzano, Italy on 4/5 September, agreed that the General Meeting of EUCLID shall take place in Barcelona on 21st and 22nd August 1993.

The programme for the meeting will include

1. A session on collaboration under the European Commission's TEMPUS-programme;
2. A session on 'models of collaboration' involving case study presentations of members experiences;
3. A 'research market-place' providing members with an opportunity to find research partners for collaborative research; and
4. A business session to agree the Board's decision on membership and fees, and to plot EUCLID's future direction.

Members of EUCLID will receive further information through the organization's Newsletter. Tertiary level institutions offering courses in the field and not yet in membership of EUCLID are invited to write for information to the Chairman of the Board, Ole Harbo, The Royal School of Librarianship, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark.

5. Training

5.0. Europe

The European Commission invited information on organisations that can offer training in the use of information services to less favoured regions of the community.

The idea is to create a network of skilled trainers who can train intermediaries in those countries in how to use information services in general and electronic sources in particular.

The first step was to find a contractor to develop and carry out ten training courses, as well as produce a lecturer's manual that can be used by participants to pass on their knowledge.

All organisations involved in information provision to end-users are invited to tender.

The courses are to be conducted in the participants' own languages, with each lasting between 2–3 weeks. They give a global view of information provision, knowledge of how to use information services, and an awareness of how such services can be promoted to businesses.

The contract was due to begin in January 1993. The five countries the EC defines as less favoured are Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Fax: +352 43 01 28 47.

5.1. Packages

Research has revealed that many companies in mainland Europe send their staff to the UK for business information training. The expense of sending a number of staff to the UK is considerable.

Companies in mainland Europe can now obtain flexible in-house training packages for their information staff. These have been developed by two UK consultants, Margaret Brittin of Information Unlimited and David Mort of Information Research Network.

Any aspect of business information can be covered by a number of flexible packages which can be tailored to the needs of individual clients.

Contact +44 217 44 43 18.

6. Publications

6.0. DDC 20 workbook for beginners

A new workbook designed to help beginners learn how to use the Dewey Decimal Classification is now available from OCLC Forest Press. The DDC 20 Workbook: *A Practical Introduction to the Dewey Decimal Classification*, by Sydney W. Davis, can be used for self-instruction or in a classroom setting. The workbook aims to introduce students to the main features of the DDC and to the practical application of assigning classification numbers.

Students can use the workbook to learn how to analyze the subject matter of a work, determine the discipline, build numbers, and use the schedules, tables and index. The clear and concise explanations that accompany the examples and exercises were created to help beginners grasp quickly and easily the fundamentals of the world's most widely used library classification scheme.

The DDC 20 Workbook: A Practical Introduction to the Dewey Decimal Classification (ISBN 0-910608-47-4) was prepared by Mr. Davis for library school students in Australia and revised for a North American audience. The 58-page paperback can be purchased from OCLC Forest Press, 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, OH 43017-3395 for \$ 17.00.

6.1. *State of the modern information professional 1992*

'The State of the Modern Information Professional 1992: An international view to the state of the modern information professional and the information profession in 1992', is compiled by the FID Special Interest Group on 'Roles, Careers, and Development of the Modern Information Professional' (FID/MIP).

FID's Special Interest Group has initiated this ambitious and continuous project to monitor the state of the Modern Information Professional. FID, in its role as a international showcase to demonstrate the career and professional opportunities for practicing information professionals, intends to prepare a major publication every two years before the FID. Conference and Congress. Since FID/MIP Special Interest Group was started in 1991 it has initiated many new projects and ideas and provides a leadership role for today's modern information professional.

The first edition of 'State of the modern information professional', is a snapshot of the modern information professional from each region of the world and covers many aspects of the information field, and will serve as the baseline of future SIGs activities.

The incredibly rapid changes in information handling technologies within the past two or three decades have altered, in some cases drastically, the activities of information professionals and the functions of individual information departments within larger institutions. FID has to play its role in this important developing and evolutionary period.

The 'State of the Modern Information Professional 1992' contains excellent papers from Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Region and Africa, and provides a view to the state of the modern information professional in 1992, the needs for training of information professionals, and gives an interesting insight into questions such as 'are librarians, archivists and documentalists major or only minor players in the new or, for many countries, future information society? And, if minor, what defines the new breed of information professional?'; 'how do requirements vary from country to country?', etc.

The publication is a must for all those involved in the information profession – whether working as information professionals, educators, policy-makers, and all others with a stake in the information field.

'The State of the Modern Information Professional 1992: An international view to the state of the information professional and information profession in 1992'. Compiled by the FID Special Interest Group on Roles, Careers and Development of the Modern Information Professional (FID/MIP).

The Hague: FID, 1992, approx. 90 pages, FID Occasional Paper 4, (FID Publication number 701), ISBN 92 66 00 701 3.

Publication date will be October 1992. The publication price is NLG 90 (US \$ 57.00) including postage and handling if payment is made by banktransfer. For orders accompanied by cheque add NLG 15 (US \$ 10) for bank costs.

6.2. *Who's who in library and information science training institutions in Africa*

6.2.1. *Who's Who in Library and Information Science Training Institutions in Africa*. Edited by Dr. L.O. Aina, Archlib and Information Services Ltd., U.I.P.O. Box 20492, Ibadan, Nigeria, (June, 1991), 56 p., ISBN 978-31413-0-9.

This publication is a useful reference tool for those wishing to identify LIS expertise available in English-speaking Africa. It contains an alphabetical list of names of LIS experts and provides information on their academic back-ground, current professional activities, areas of interest, as well as publications authored.

The publication includes a list of all the training institutions in English-speaking Africa where librarianship, archives and information science courses are offered. Details of entrance requirements, programmes and duration of the courses are also provided.

6.2.2. *Librarianship and Information Work Worldwide 1991: An Annual Survey*. Consultant Editor, Maurice B. Line. Editors, Graham Mackenzie and Ray Prytherch, 1991, Bowker-Saur Ltd., 233 p., ISBN 0862916276.

Articles include:

- *Librarianship and information work in context*. By Charles Oppenheim.
- *Academic libraries*. By Colin Steele.
- *Information for business and industry*. By Elisabeth Simon and Angela Abell.
- *Public libraries*. By Melvyn Barnes.
- *National libraries*. By Peter Scott.
- *Collections*. By J. Vickery.
- *Access to information*. By Janet Mitchell.
- *Services*. By Colin Harris and J. Blunden-Ellis.
- *Cooperation*. By Bernard Naylor.
- *Management*. By I.R. Winkworth, and,
- *Education and training*. By Ian Johnson.

The aim of this book is to review what has been happening in information practice throughout the world in the previous year, mainly but not entirely by coverage of what has appeared in the literature. It is the first in a series of annual volumes. An index and author index are included.

6.3. *Pioneering Welsh indexers*

Recently, the first printed thesaurus to a computerised database was published in the Welsh language. In fact, this thesaurus could well be the first example of its kind to be produced in a minority language. The publication of this volume, *Thesawrws Cymraeg NERIS*, demonstrates clearly that the Welsh language has a role to play in computerised information retrieval systems.

The aim of the thesaurus is to produce a controlled vocabulary and a network of references between terms in order to facilitate the work of indexing Welsh language documents for inclusion in the NERIS database. Also the construction of such a thesaurus should enable searchers consulting NERIS to retrieve items which match their needs with improved efficiency. The printed thesaurus could also prove to be a very useful tool for school librarians who wish to index materials in their collections in the Welsh language. The thesaurus was constructed between 1989 and 1992 by Anne Till and the late Eiddwen Edwards, Research Assistants, under the supervision of Gwilym Huws, Senior Lecturer, Department of Information and Library Studies, University of Wales Aberystwyth with Welsh Office funding. The Welsh Office also funded the publication of the thesaurus.

The main challenge facing those involved in its construction was the fact that, for some concepts, particularly recent technological developments, no single term had yet been adopted as the agreed standard amongst Welsh speakers. For example, at least three different words are used which correspond to the English term 'database'. Although it was not always possible to adopt a term which meets with everyone's blessing, every effort was made to consult widely with a large number of educational establishments and individuals in Wales in order to adopt the most appropriate form as the preferred term.

NERIS was established in order to enrich the learning experience of pupils and to support teaching staff across the curriculum by providing a single access point to a wide range of educational resources through a computerised database. Initially the database consisted of only English language materials but since 1989 it has been extended to include Welsh language resources. At present there are 2,500 Welsh records but this number is increasing rapidly. The highlight of the work involved in developing a Welsh language dimension to the database was the publication of the printed thesaurus as a key to all the valuable information available in the database at the touch of a button.

A copy of the Welsh language thesaurus will be distributed to all primary, secondary and special schools in Wales towards the beginning of December. If you require more information about NERIS or the Welsh language thesaurus contact Ms. Eira Jones, NERIS (Wales), 5 Cwrt y Parc, Parc Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff. Tel. +44 222 76 68 99 or Jamie Medhurst, Department of Information and Library Studies, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, Tel. +44 970 62 21 52.

7. Software

7.0. Data conversion

7.0.1. Custom conversions

Tailored Information announces the release of a new service product called *Custom Conversions* aimed at busy search intermediaries and end-user searchers. A *Custom Conversion* is a simple and effective way to change the presentation of electronic reference data into an alternative, more valuable format.

Librarians, information scientists and end-users are increasingly faced with reference information in electronic form, originating from on-line or CD-ROM searching, in-house databases or data purchased in bulk on tape or floppy disc. To store it in an in-house text retrieval system, or just improve the appearance before printing, means it must be reformatted. Too often this requires commissioning or writing conversion programs, or long hours at a word processor or data entry system.

A set of Custom Conversions will relieve searchers of all these problems. Selectable from a simple interface, each converts data from a specific source into one chosen format. Operation is simple because there is no configuration stage to worry about. The user simply supplies the utility with the name of the file containing the target data, and presses go!

Custom Conversions are invaluable for:

- loading data routinely into a *favourite* retrieval package (not just one of the few with in-built importing facilities),
- providing information to clients in a specially customised document format.

Every set of Custom Conversions is produced specifically to meet the needs of an individual or organisation. They represent incredible value at only £ 75 for up to 25 routine conversion jobs.

Tailored Information are practitioners in informatics – software for processing bibliographic reference data. Other products in the series are *RefWriter*, a universal reference reformatter, and *SearchStation*, a set of utilities for managing search results. Searchers wishing to discuss their requirements for *Custom Conversions* should contact Alan Jackson, *Tailored Information Ltd*, 119 High St South, Rushden, NN10 ORB, tel. +44 933 31 10 13.

7.0.2. Catalogue factory

Software which allows batch searching across four major sources for librarians has become available in an enhanced version of the *Catalogue Factory*.

This package already helps librarians to construct catalogue records from four other commercial databases. The new ones are *BLAISE*, *BNB on CD-ROM*, *Book Data's BookFind*, and *Whitaker's BookBank*.

Users enter a search batch of ISBN numbers – either keyed in or read with a light-

pen – then choose the databases to be searched and the order of searching. The software carries out the actual interrogation.

Results are downloaded into a file, with successful search terms being deleted from the batch after each database is searched, to avoid duplications. Finally, the downloaded records are converted from each database's different format to one specified by the user, such as UK or LC Marc, for uploading into the local catalogue.

In addition to the eight databases now supported by the program, OCLC and the French Electric-Biblio are soon to be added.

The *Catalogue Factory* costs £ 350 and is available from its creator, Peter Butcher. Tel. +44 931 53 08.

8. Databases

8.0. World database project

Information Automation Limited has acquired the services of a medical specialist on its World Databases Project. This is a major work to document every database distributed worldwide in any form other than on paper – online, CD-ROM, optical, magnetic tapes and diskettes, fax, wire, or databroadcast. Working as database manager, Mrs Sandy Astin will contribute considerable subject knowledge to the first directory, *World Databases in Medicine* which is scheduled to appear early in 1993. The series of directories produced from the master database will be published by Bowker-Saur.

The project involves a substantial amount of work to record details of the 4,500 plus online databases, nearly 3,000 CD-ROM products and the many diskette-based and other products which are now appearing, as records will include full details of each database as provided by the producers, including a very full description and such information as indexing policies, thesaurus used, scope, coverage, language of records, and domain. Secondary records will detail the database image as held on each host or medium so that it will be possible to compare the coverage in years, the cost, or the up-to-dateness, for instance. For the first time users will have – in a single volume – full details on every database in their subject area.

Contacts: Geraldine Turpie (Publisher), Bowker-Saur Ltd, 60 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DA, Tel. +44 714 93 58 41; and Chris Armstrong (Managing Director), Information Automation Ltd, Penbryn, Bronant, Aberystwyth SY23 4TJ, Tel. +44 97 42 13 02.