

News

1. Library/Information Schools

1.1. *The Robert Gordon University*

The responsibilities of the School of Librarianship and Information Studies at The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen have been extended from 1 January 1995 to include teaching Communications and Modern Languages. The units teaching these subjects were initially established to provide support for courses throughout the university. However, they have recently developed jointly a new undergraduate degree programme in Communication with Languages, and it is now generally felt that the units and their course (which has a strong base in information transfer) would best develop within the academic environment of the School. This reorganisation almost doubles the size of the School, which will have 29 full-time and 13 part-time academic staff, seven full-time research staff, and six administrative and technical staff. A new name for the enlarged School is under discussion. Ian Johnson will continue to be Head of School.

In a coincidental move, the University's Academic Council also recently approved changes in the titles of two of the School's courses to reflect the changes in the discipline. The former BA/BA (Hons) and Postgraduate Diploma and linked Master degrees in Librarianship and Information Studies both now carry the new title "Information and Library Studies".

For further information contact Ian M. Johnson, Faculty of Management, School of Librarianship and Information Studies, The Robert Gordon University, 352 King Street, Aberdeen AB9 2TQ, UK. Tel.: +44 1224 262951; fax: +44 1224 262969.

1.2. *Electronic mail list for student*

All Library/Information Studies students and those applying this year to Library/Information Studies courses: as of today, you have your own e-mail discussion list. The list is based at Warwick University and is called LISSPS: Library and Information Studies Students and Prospective Students.

Who can join the list? The list is aimed at two main groups:

The first is students who are currently on a Library/Information Studies course. This includes both undergraduates and post graduates. Most importantly, the list is intended to be *international* in scope. So if anyone is reading this from outside the UK and is on a Library/Information Studies course, please join!

The second target group for the list is those who are applying to a Library/Information Studies course for the coming academic year. This will include both SCONUL and NON-SCONUL trainees, in fact *anyone* applying to an information related course, again including those outside the UK.

At the moment, anyone outside the two above mentioned groups will not be able to join the list. Later, the members of the list may decide by vote to widen the scope of membership. Until then, we will of course welcome postings to the list from the rest of the profession. See section below entitled "How do I post messages to the list?" for our e-mail address.

Aims of the list

- A chance to get in contact with those in similar situations and to stay in contact via the list and via private e-mail. Sorry, that sounds a bit formal, but I think you get the drift ... I mean things like "How many essays a term do I have to do at Sheffield"? or "Is it easy to get accommodation at UCL and how much is it a term"? or maybe "Does anyone know where I can find X for the essay due in tomorrow"? If your library doesn't have it, someone else might ...
- A chance to exchange thoughts, views on issues and problems we face. "What training does anyone else get in their institution?" Maybe you want to know in a nutshell what the Follett Report is all about without having to read the whole thing (!). *Participation* is the key if the list is to work well.
- "e" publishing ... I hope that when things get going, some people might feel inclined to write a small piece on part of the profession that interests them, or even set up a regular monthly feature ... please post ideas to the list for discussion when you join. Humour is welcomed!

How do I post messages to the list? If you wish to contribute to the list send your message to this address and it will be distributed to all members: LISSPS@libris.lib.warwick.ac.uk.

If you have any problems with posting messages to the list, please send an e-mail explaining your problem to: LYLISSPS@libris.lib.warwick.ac.uk.

How do I JOIN the list? Send an e-mail message to this address: maiser@libris.lib.warwick.ac.uk. *Leave the subject line blank.* Then where you would normally type your message type: subscribe LISSPS ... and send it! You will then receive a message welcoming you to the list ... please read it.

Andrew Brown, Graduate Trainee, Warwick University Library Coventry, England.

2. Research

2.1. School of Information and Library Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

This is an exciting time at the School of Information and Library Studies (SILS) at the University of Michigan. With the assistance of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, SILS has

embarked on the Kellogg Coalition on Reinventing Information Science, Technology, and Library Education (CRISTAL-ED), a five-year project to reinvent such education to meet the changing needs of information professionals. Determined to radically change its instructional program, SILS plans to facilitate development of an international, multidisciplinary consortium of schools to define new areas of professional specializations to serve society's needs for information access and use.

To garner a wide range of opinions, exchange ideas, and learn from others involved in comparable activities, SILS will begin a moderated LISTSERV named CRISTAL-ED on Friday, January 20, 1995. Initially, the LISTSERV discussion will focus on the vision of the new information and library studies (ILS) education, and then target planning, prototyping, and implementing new core curricula for such education.

This is the right time for Kellogg CRISTAL-ED. It is a time of both unprecedented need and opportunity to provide individuals and organizations with access to information. We recognize the growing need for information professionals who can:

- Grasp a holistic view of information systems; that is, professionals who understand users of information, are committed to information organization and preservation, and can use and shape current and emerging digital systems technologies.
- Commit themselves to the organization and preservation of information; that is, professionals who can lead in hybrid environments that feature both print and digital technologies.
- Transform organizations with the aid of information technology. Graduates of the new educational program will introduce technology into information-intensive organizations for the purpose of fundamentally transforming the organization's processes, products, and services.

We aspire to educate a professional with broad competency and a holistic view of information systems. To accomplish this, the Kellogg CRISTAL-ED Project has the following objectives:

1. Reinvent the core curriculum for information and library studies.
2. Define new ILS specializations.
3. Create a distributed community of faculty and practitioners (collaboratory) to deliver the new professional education.
4. Build "living" laboratories in information-intensive organizations to serve citizens, faculty, and students. These pilot projects will provide realistic learning experiences for students, faculty, and practitioners, and will provide the basis for larger-scale digital libraries and collaboration systems.

We invite you to join the Kellogg CRISTAL-ED LISTSERV discussion and work together to discover the knowledge and skills for a new academic program that is committed to producing leaders who will create, organize, manage, and apply new forms of libraries and information environments to meet human needs. Not only will we feature discussions that parallel project activities, but we will devote time to promising ideas that arise during focused discussions. Feel free to subscribe and unsubscribe from the

LISTSERV as time permits or to follow topics in your areas of expertise or interest. SILS faculty will post course outlines and lists of questions to stimulate the discussion of new topics.

A calendar of LISTSERV discussions follows:

- Jan. 20 to 30: Envisioning information-intensive environments in the year 2015.
- Jan. 20 to Feb. 13: Identifying the knowledge and skills that graduates of ILS schools must have to effect change and transformation in future information-intensive environments.
- Feb. 14 to 28: Identifying components of a core curriculum for ILS programs.
- March 1 to 13: Organization of Information Resources in the core curriculum.
- March 14 to 28: Information Technology in the core curriculum.
- After March 28: To be announced.

To support the discussion of the first area – envisioning information-intensive environments in the year 2015 – we will extract pertinent passages from the proposal to the Kellogg Foundation and post a list of questions. To familiarize yourself with Kellogg CRISTAL-ED generally, we invite you to visit the CRISTAL-ED Home Page. (The URL is <http://sils.umich.edu/Publications/CRISTALEd/KelloggHomePage.html>.)

For participants who have no access to World Wide Web documents, we will feature Home Page information in LISTSERV postings and make lengthy documents available through LISTSERV transactions and FTP. New topics that emerge in the course of the listserv discussion that do not directly pertain to the scheduled topic for discussion will be introduced to the discussion when activity on the scheduled topic wanes. They may also be added to the calendar to a later date. SILS will evaluate the listserv in early summer 1995 to determine the future of its direction and content.

To subscribe to the CRISTAL-ED LISTSERV, send the following message on the first line of an electronic mail message: To: majordomo@sils.umich.edu.

The body of your electronic message should contain the following phrase: subscribe cristal-ed.

We hope you will become a participating member in the Kellogg Coalition on Reinventing Information Science, Technology, and Library Education – an international, multidisciplinary collaborative consortium to define new professional specializations to serve society's needs for information access in the rapidly merging age of digital data, information and knowledge. We look forward to your participation.

Daniel E. Atkins, Dean, SILS; Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092, USA. Tel.: +1 313 747 3576; fax: +1 313 764 2475; e-mail: atkins@umich.edu; URL: <http://sils.umich.edu/People/atkins.html>.

Karen M. Drabenstott, Associate Professor, SILS, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092, USA. Tel.: +1 313 763 3581; fax: +1 313 764 2475; e-mail: karen.drabenstott@umich.edu; URL: <http://sils.umich.edu/~ylime/HomePage.html>.

2.2. Decision-making in European libraries

The Department of Library and Information Studies at the Manchester Metropolitan University is to coordinate a European Consortium to develop a library management Decision Support Module, with a grant of 225,000 Ecus from the Commission of the European Communities. The DECIMAL [DECISION-MAKING in Libraries] Project will commence in February 1995 and last for two years.

The Project will provide a cross-cultural perspective on decision making in libraries and allow library managers in Europe to identify their requirements for the development of library management systems. Three European Library Schools will undertake a programme of collaborative research to investigate the decision-making needs and practices of library managers in a range of organisations. Based on the research findings, Inheritance Systems Ltd. will design, develop and implement an integrated Decision Support Module. The Module will integrate with the Heritage management system and should be adaptable for use with other library systems.

The Consortium comprises Inheritance Systems Limited (Oxford, UK), developers of the Heritage library system; the Library at University College, Oxford; the Escola Universitaria de Biblioteconomia i Documentació at the University of Barcelona (Spain); and the Instituto di Biblioteconomia e Paleografia at the University of Parma (Italy). The Project Director is Tony Oulton, Department of Library and Information Studies at the Manchester Metropolitan University.

Further information from: Tony Oulton, DECIMAL Project, Department of Library and Information Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University, All Saints, Manchester, M15 6BH, UK. Tel.: +44 161 247 6139; fax: +44 161 247 6351; e-mail: decimal@mmu.ac.uk.

2.3. Help for computer users

More and more people are dependent on using computers, and on the support available from computer helpdesks in their organisation or operated by the producers of software or online database services. However, little has been done to review expertise in this area, and to identify best practice.

To begin to make good this gap in IT Systems managers' knowledge Rita Marcella and a team from the School of Librarianship and Information Studies at the Robert Gordon University have been awarded a grant of £20,700 by the British Library Research and Development Department to investigate the key factors affecting the effectiveness of Computer helpdesks. Ian Middleton has been appointed as Research Assistant in the project.

For further information contact: Rita Marcella, Faculty of Management, School of Librarianship and Information Studies, The Robert Gordon University, Hilton Place, Aberdeen, AB9 1FP, UK. Tel.: +44 1224 283800; fax: +44 1224 488548.

3. Courses

3.1. University of London

3.1.1. *Electronic media in distance education*

Available by distance learning for students in any country; cost 518 pounds; includes registration, materials (study guide, course reader, 3 set texts, audio-cassette and video), tutoring and assessment of course work which can count as a half-credit towards a Diploma/MA in Distance Education if wished). Prepared for London University by the Open University.

For further information contact: Lesley Duncan or Bernadette Robinson. Tel.: +44 171 580 4372; fax: +44 171 323 0325.

4. Publications

4.1. *Electronic call for papers*

4.1.1. *The Katharine Sharp Review*

(This information can also be found at <http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/~review>.)

Welcome to The Katharine Sharp Review, the peer-reviewed e-journal devoted to student scholarship and research within the interdisciplinary scope for library and information science. The review, named in honor of the founder of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Katharine Sharp, is now accepting submissions for its premiere issue, due to be released in Summer 1995.

Purpose. The Katharine Sharp Review exists as a journal to present articles by student authors who are concerned with topics relevant to library and information science and can consist of work that has been both prepared for coursework and through independent study. The purpose of the review will be to 1) prepare an opportunity for other students to examine work that is being performed by their peers; 2) provide an opportunity for students to take part in the publishing process through submission of their own works; and 3) showcase and recognize significant student effort in an academic journal. Recognizing the breadth that library and information science encompasses, submission may cover a wide variety of topics in the field, and be represented in many forms: research findings and their application, analysis of policies and practices within the industry, thematic textual review, to name but a few.

Call for papers. The Katharine Sharp Review is currently seeking submissions for its premiere issue to be released in Summer 1995. All submissions should be received by Friday, May 15, 1995. Although it is not required for submission, we would appreciate an abstract (of 150–200 words) or indication of intention to submit. Submitted articles must be accompanied by an abstract of no more than 200 words.

Preparation of manuscripts. All manuscripts must be received in machine readable form. This can be in one of two ways:

- As an ASCII text file submitted via e-mail to: sharp-review@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu;
- Contained on a 3.5" computer disk, formatted for IBM or compatible. We can accept disks produced with a number of various word processing packages and any files that have been converted to ASCII format. Please provide the name and version of the word processing package used. Disks can be mailed to Kevin Ward, The Katharine Sharp Review, Publications Office, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 501 E. Daniel Street, Champaign, IL 61820-6211, USA.

Figures, diagrams, and other graphical forms must also be provided in electronic format. This can be in any of the standard graphic formats (.gif, .jpg, etc.). If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please e-mail the Review.

Editorial guidelines for authors. Use a recognized standard form and style, preferably according to the Chicago Style Manual (14th Edition).

If submitting in ASCII format, please use underscoring to indicate italics and asterix to indicate bold face. This will allow for more accurate formatting upon receipt.

Footnotes should be kept to a minimum, if at all.

If citing from a journal that is found in electronic format, please include its site address (i.e., ftp, gopher, etc.).

Copyright: The Katharine Sharp Review will not hold copyright permissions for any published article but does reserve the right to grant reprint permissions to non-profit organizations. The submission of any article to the Review is done so in agreement with this provision.

Correspondence. All submissions and correspondence regarding The Katharine Sharp Review should be directed to the editor, Kevin Ward. Receipt of all articles will be acknowledged and authors contacted upon acceptance of their contribution.

Any questions or comments? Please direct them to The Katharine Sharp Review (sharp-review@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu).

For more information regarding the Review, please visit our homepage at: <http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/~review>.

4.1.2. Library-oriented lists and electronic serials

This document is a compilation of electronic discussion lists, distribution lists and electronic serials which are of interest to library professionals and staff. It is intended to assist the user of networked information resources by: 1) providing the names and addresses of the selected electronic lists and serials; 2) giving brief directions for obtaining access to these resources; and 3) providing a subject index to the resources.

To retrieve this document by e-mail: send the following e-mail message to listserv@uhupvm1.uh.edu: GET LIBRARY LISTS F=MAIL. Do not include any other text in the message.

To retrieve this document via gopher: point your gopher client to info.lib.uh.edu, port 70, follow the path:

- Looking for Internet Tools and Information;
- Information about the Internet;
- Library-oriented lists and electronic serials.

To retrieve this document via www browser: `gopher://info.lib.uh.edu:70/00/tools/netinfo/library`.

If you need more information please contact: Ann Thornton (AThornton@uh.edu), Systems Librarian, University of Houston Libraries, or Steve Bonario (SBonario@uh.edu).

4.1.3. KURS DIREKT

KURS DIREKT is the worldwide largest database for vocational training and further education. Presently it contains more than 230,000 detailed descriptions of training offers held in the Federal Republic of Germany and abroad.

The information about the individual training offers is collected by the Bundesanstalt für Arbeit (Federal Labour Office), Nuremberg, and is made available by the IW via an online database or as a CD-ROM. The data collection continually takes place at all public and private training centres. They are requested to update the information about their offers and send it on to Nuremberg. Up to 31 fields of information describe the training courses in terms of content and structure of the course, registration date and length, address of training centre, etc.

KURS DIREKT is a service available to employees at all company levels, in particular to those responsible for personnel and training. Other target groups are Chambers of Commerce, unions, business associations and training centres.

There are two ways of access to KURS DIREKT: online by telephone and modem via Datex-P- or Datex-J-network on the one hand or using the CD-ROM-version on the other hand. Researching in KURS DIREKT at a most comfortable level has been made available by KOMPASS, a PC programme for MS-Windows 3.1 offering an easy to use search menu.

There is no charge for researching online in KURS DIREKT. The PC programme KOMPASS can be obtained for 95 DM. The price for one KURS DIREKT CD-ROM package is 825 DM plus 15 per cent VAT. One package comprises the current CD-ROM, three updates and the manual.

For further information please call or write to: Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln, Postfach 51 06 69, D-50942 Cologne, Germany. Contact: Christiane Flueter, tel.: +49 221 376 55 41; fax: +49 221 376 55 56.

4.1.4. Network Training Pack

Unit 3 of the Network Training Pack is now available. This unit deals with electronic mail, services based on e-mail such a discussion lists, also Usenet News, and other forms of communicating with people via the network, e.g., video-conferencing. It seeks to explain, in a general way, how these tools work and to show the ways in which they might be used and the benefits they offer. It is about how they enable the Internet user to

reach out to people and information via the networks. The unit also covers aspects of network etiquette.

This unit is not meant to be an introduction to e-mail for beginners, but rather an exposition of the possibilities for those who have some basic proficiency in using e-mail. It could complement basic training in the use of an e-mail package.

Like the previous two units of the Network Training Pack, Unit 3 consists of a presentation, information handout, and a set of workshop exercises. The material is made available free, provided that the source is acknowledged and that it is not sold on, or used for commercial gain. Trainers should feel free to take the materials and adapt them to their own local requirements.

Please provide feedback to the Project on your use of the Network Training Pack. It helps when revising the material to know what people find useful, and what is superfluous. E-mail me with your comments, reports on use and adaptation, etc. Specific-purpose adaptations of any of the Training Pack material will find a welcome home on the Network Training Materials Gopher.

The Network Training Pack is produced by the Network Training Materials Project, funded up to now by ITTI (Information Technology Training Initiative). The Project comes under the umbrella of Mailbase at the University of Newcastle, and is directed by Jill Foster at Newcastle. The Project has been extended for another five months with funding from JISC (Joining Information Systems Committee).

Availability details for Unit 3. The material in Unit 3 can be accessed in the following ways:

- By anonymous ftp: [ftp.ncl.ac.uk/pub/network-training/trainpack/unit3/](ftp://ftp.ncl.ac.uk/pub/network-training/trainpack/unit3/). (You must conduct the transfer from a machine with a valid DNS registration – if not, your ftp across request will be rejected.) (URL:[ftp.ncl.ac.uk/pub/network-training/trainpack/unit3/](ftp://ftp.ncl.ac.uk/pub/network-training/trainpack/unit3/)).
- Or via the Network Training Materials Gopher: You can select this gopher from the list of UK Gophers which is available on many gopher menus, or point your client to: trainmat.ncl.ac.uk. From the top-level menu, select: Network Training Pack, Unit 3, (URL:<gopher://trainmat.ncl.ac.uk:70/11/NetTrainPack/Unit3>).

Note that the PowerPoint presentation file is available only in unencoded form on the [trainmat](mailto:trainmat.ncl.ac.uk) gopher, but is available as straight PowerPoint in the ftp archive.

Please direct any enquiries about the material to Margaret Isaacs, Network Training Materials Project, Department of Computing Science, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK. Tel.: +44 141 330 5314; fax: +44 141 330 4913; e-mail: mmi@dcs.gla.ac.uk.

4.1.5. Information Skills CAL package

Glasgow University's TLTP project TILT (Teaching with Independent Learning Technologies) now has a number of Information Skills CAL packages ready for distribution. Due to popular demand we have developed Toolbook versions of the original Guide packages which require no additional software to run them. These have been evaluated

and reviewed by a number of HE institutions with positive and encouraging results, and we have already sent out a large number of orders.

The Information Skills packages have been developed for the PC platform with Toolbook 1.53 software which runs under Windows 3.1. The requirements are:

- *Hardware*: 386 or (preferably) 486 PC with 4MB RAM and VGA graphics (16 colours). The packages will also run with an SVGA (256 colours) display, although they will of course appear in a smaller window rather than full screen. They can also be delivered successfully over a local area network.
- *Software*: As the packages will be distributed with their own Toolbook run-time files, only Windows 3.1 is required.

The following packages are now available:

1. *How to Choose Books and Journals*. This package deals with the evaluation of books and journals. Questions are posed throughout to encourage the development of critical thinking, and cover the areas of scanning, skimming, analysing and assessing according to their needs. Exercises and examples are included to further emphasise the main points.
2. *Library Search Skills (Business)*. This package, originally developed in Robert Gordon University for Business Studies students, deals with the whole search strategy including how to use reference works, highlight keywords, find synonyms and related terms, and generate broader or narrower terms.
3. *Library Search Skills (General)*. As above, but with more general, wider-ranging examples.
4. *Computer Sources*. The tutorial deals with the general principles of using electronic sources rather than specific technical details of individual databases. A simple database simulation has been attempted, and it reflects the style already developed for the previous modules, using the analogy of a treasure hunt with appropriate graphics engage the user's interest. The areas covered include keywords, Boolean, truncation, controlled vocabulary and citation searching.

Ordering: Orders may be sent (details below), and a nominal charge of £25.00 will be made for each package to cover copying costs (£35.00 to those establishments not covered by the HEFCs), after which the packages may be copied freely. Invoices will be sent out with the disks.

Further information on the TILT project can be found on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.elec.gla.ac.uk/tilt/tilt.html>.

For further information contact Linda Creanor, TILT Research Assistant, Glasgow University Library, Hillhead Street, Glasgow G12 8QE, UK. Tel.: +44 141 339 8855/6290; e-mail: l.creanor@lib.gla.ac.uk.

4.2. Printed publications

The *British Education and Training Listing Services* (BETLists) were launched in January 1995 to provide customised information about the contents of British education, training and management literature.

Registered individuals with interests in aspects of education, training and management are now receiving monthly listings containing succinct information about recently published literature on their elected topics. Listings are despatched by mail, e-mail or fax. The services promote awareness and use of expertise and research documented in over 300 journals and sundry other publications.

For further information and free sample listings, contact: British Education Index Office, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK. Tel.: +44 113 233 5525; fax: +44 113 233 5524; e-mail: libgss@leeds.ac.uk.