

News

1. General

1.1. Professor Peter Havard-Williams

Professor Peter Havard-Williams died on August 16, 1995.

In 50 years of an outstanding career, first as a teacher of music and French, then as an academic librarian and, since the mid-1960s, as a professor and head of library and information science departments, Peter made an extraordinary contribution to our field. Few places in the world show no evidence of his talent, through his own achievements or those of his former students.

When many would have preferred to enjoy the quietness of their homes, he took the challenge, after retiring as Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies of Loughborough University, to become the Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies of the University of Botswana. His leadership contributed to making it one of the most active and renowned institutions for LIS education in Africa.

Peter was born July 11, 1922. He planned to retire next year. Our field, especially the development of information in less advanced countries, will miss his contribution.

His family, his friends, colleagues and students will deeply feel his absence. But all will find in his energy, talent, vision and commitment, an inspiration and a model.

Michel J. Menou, CIDEGI, 129A VP Vaillant-Couturier, F-94250 Gentilly, France.
(Based on an obituary distributed on biofid@mailbase.ac.uk, 21 August 1995.)

1.2. Celebrating FID's centennial

As a part of the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Federation, the Education and Training Committee (FID/ET) has produced a leaflet which briefly describes FID's main achievements during the past 100 years and presents a selective bibliography about its history. The aim is to emphasise the historical aspects of our profession and to pay a tribute to the founders of FID. By promoting the international and historical perspectives of the field, the FID/ET Committee hopes to provide the "young generation" of professionals and the "newcomers" a chance to learn about the pioneers of scientific and technical documentation, as well as to see the ongoing developments in an evolutionary perspective.

The leaflet is intended for distribution to major LIS schools and professional organi-

sations globally, with an appeal to their Deans and Presidents to arrange for the commemoration of FID's 100th anniversary in 1995 at their institutions and organisations. The purpose is to provide today's students and members with information about FID and its history as one of the oldest international professional organisations in the ever-changing field of information.

FID considers dynamism and flexibility of paramount importance to a professional federation. FID initiates, develops and facilitates global and integrated information programmes, activities and networks, recognising that information is a *critical resource* that is needed by all levels of society.

In recent years FID has changed its professional programme and membership structure, adjusted the activities within the committees and the SIGs, and is currently focusing its energies on creating new opportunities for all members.

If you want to obtain more information about the revitalised FID, contact: FID General Secretariat, P.O. Box 90402, 2509 LK The Hague, Netherlands. Tel: +31 70 314 0671; fax: +31 70 314 0667; e-mail: Secretariat@FID.NL

2. Research

2.1. Ph.D. Fellowships

Indiana University, School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) announces opportunities for suitably qualified individuals keen to pursue doctoral studies in the rapidly evolving domain of information science. Strategically aimed at the development of researchers capable of advancing the field, a number of three-year Ph.D. fellowship awards, funded through the Department of Education's Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) and HEA Title II-B programs, are now available.

Fellowship recipients will receive an annual cash stipend (up to £14,400, based on demonstrated financial need) plus full fee remission. As part of their doctoral program, fellows will receive teacher training and teaching experience.

The School is focusing a major research effort in areas of information science that will shape the development of more user-centered and socially acceptable information technologies. Specific research themes include human-computer interaction, the design and evaluation of innovative multimedia information systems, networked information resources, and collaborative work. Fellowship recipients will be active participants in this research endeavor.

A full-time faculty of 20, with backgrounds in cognitive science, communications, anthropology, computer science, sociology, and information science, have strong links to other departments on campus. The School's facilities include a fully-equipped observation laboratory for the study of human-computer interaction and two networked computing laboratories supporting multiple platforms. A cluster of high-end micro-computing workstations allows students to work with Internet resources, software and database development tools, and scanning and image processing tools. Indiana Uni-

versity is a technology-intensive environment, so that opportunities for learning and working with information and communication technologies are numerous.

Applicants for the GAANN and HEA fellowships should possess impressive academic credentials, a strong interest in the nature and use of information, and a commitment to acquiring and applying the theoretical and methodological skills necessary to perform scientific research in this domain. Academic background is less important than a demonstrable interest in understanding and contributing to the knowledge base of the field.

Requests for additional information and application materials should be addressed to: Verna L. Pungitore, Director of the Doctoral Program, Indiana University, School of Library and Information Science, Main Library 011E, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA. Phone: +1 812 855 2018; fax: +1 812 855 6166; e-mail: pungitor@indiana.edu.

The School also maintains a World Wide Web server (available at URL <http://www-slis.lib.indiana.edu/>) with information about its programs, courses, and faculty.

2.2. OCLC 1995 research grants awards

The OCLC Office of Research has awarded four Library and Information Science Research Grants to university researchers for 1995.

The grant recipients and their projects are:

- Dr. Rebecca Green, assistant professor, University of Maryland at College Park, “A Relational Thesaurus: Modeling Semantic Relationships using Frames”: This research will develop the core of a general-purpose, frame-based thesaurus of semantic relationships, the frame having been shown by previous research to be representative of the best means available for expressing complex relationships. Frames will be based on the argument structure of mid-to-high frequency verbs, as grouped by semantic fields and will be organized hierarchically.
- Dr. Stephen P. Harter, professor, Indiana University, “The Impact of Electronic Journals on Scholarly Communication: A Citation Study”: This research examines the impact of electronic journals on the scholarly communication system in two ways. First, a sample of peer-reviewed scholarly e-journals will be selected and references of articles within the sample examined. Second, a cited-work search will be conducted on the Institute for Scientific Information’s citation indexes. Through an examination of these data, the extent to which electronic publications are being cited in scholarly, peer-reviewed journals, both print and electronic, will be assessed. The study will also examine the forms in which scholars cite e-journals, the accuracy and completeness of citations to e-journals, and practical difficulties faced by scholars and researchers who wish to retrieve e-journals through the networks.
- Dr. Xia Lin, assistant professor, University of Kentucky, “Graphical Table of Contents for Electronic Documents”: The objective of this research is to explore a new form of content displays for information retrieval – the graphical table of contents (GTOC). GTOC is functionally analogous to the table of contents; it can be gener-

ated automatically for a book or for a set of documents in a database; it will show both contents and semantic structures of the documents it covers. In this research, an experiment will be conducted to compare a GTOC prototype to the original table of contents (TOC). Several hypotheses related to information access with GTOC and TOC will be tested in the experiment. Results of this research will provide a better understanding of how the concept of the table of contents should be extended to digital books and used in digital libraries.

- Dr. James H. Sweetland, associate professor, and Dr. Judith J. Senkevitch, assistant professor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “Analyzing the Viability of Using Peer Group Holdings as an Evaluation Tool”: This proposal will test hypotheses suggested by the authors’ 1993–94 OCLC-funded study. The present project will compare a list of the approximately 400 adult fiction titles most widely held by OCLC member public libraries in 1995 with a comparable list produced by OCLC in 1994 to determine the degree of change over one year. This study will: (1) contribute to the understanding of the nature of adult fiction collections in public libraries; (2) provide insight into the nature of a “classic” work of fiction; and (3) clarify the potential utility of an OCLC-generated list of adult fiction classics for public library collection evaluation.

The OCLC Library and Information Science Research Grant program awards grants of up to \$10,000 to help foster quality research by faculty in schools of library and information science. Projects are generally completed within one year, and findings are published in the *Annual Review of OCLC Research* and in the public domain. Application materials for 1996 will be available this November. For more information, contact the Office of Research by phone at +1 614 764 6061 or by e-mail at bhawk@oclc.org.

2.3. Records management at a distance

Lesley King has been appointed as a part-time Research Assistant in the Department of Information and Library Management at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle (UNN) to undertake from 1 September 1995, a 6 month research project on “Continuing Professional Development for Records Managers by Distance Learning”.

Funding for the project comes from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as part of their Continuing Vocational Education (CVE) Initiative and the aims of the project are to:

- identify training needs of people working in the field of records management,
- plan and develop training programmes to meet these needs.

This research project complements other developments within the Department relating to distance learning for records management.

For further details contact: Catherine Hare, phone: +44 191 271 3771; e-mail: catherine.hare@unn.ac.uk; Julie McLeod, phone: +44 191 271 3771; e-mail: julie.mcleod@unn.ac.uk; or, Lesley King, phone: +44 191 271 3771; e-mail:

lesley.king@unn.ac.uk, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Department of Information and Library Management, Lipman Building, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST, UK. Phone: +44 191 227 4917; fax: +44 191 227 4572.

2.4. Aberdeen – The intelligent city?

A team of researchers at The Robert Gordon University's School of Information and Media is currently looking into the potential of new telecommunication systems for upgrading the provision and use of health and safety information by companies in Aberdeen. The research project, funded by the British Library's Research and Development Department is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

For further information, contact Ian Johnson (262951) or Rita Marcella (283839), Faculty of Management, School of Information and Media, The Robert Gordon University, Hilton Place, Aberdeen, AB9 1FP, UK. Phone: +44 1224 283837; fax: +44 1224 492608.

3. Internet services

3.1. US Information Agency

The United States Information Agency has put its own WWW and gopher sites online to help explain and advocate US policies in terms that are credible and meaningful in foreign cultures, and to bring the benefits of international engagement to American citizens and institutions by helping them build strong long-term relationship with their counterparts overseas.

Resources include information about the Fulbright Scholar programs, student exchanges, international broadcasting, press announcements, and a foreign media reaction section. American and overseas scholars seeking short and long-term grants will find it especially useful for learning about opportunities for travel abroad and travel to the US.

For further information contact: Mary H. Watson, Director, Grants and Contracts, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698, USA. Phone: +1 912 333 7837; fax: +1 912 245 3831; <http://www.usia.gov>; gopher to: gopher.usia.gov.

3.2. Internet Public Library

The IPL Moo is a part of the Internet Public Library at the University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies. Our Moo is an interactive virtual environment for librarians, information professionals, and the Internet community at large.

A few of you may have already heard about MOOs. For those unfamiliar with the concept, a moo is a text-based real-time environment accessible by telnet. Once connected to the moo, many people from all over the world can meet, talk, and work together. This interaction takes place on a moo in a variety of "rooms" – in the case of the

IPL Moo, a model library. The moo can be used for meetings, classes, and informal conversations.

Soon, we will begin to explore the practice and implications of providing reference service on the IPL Moo. However, right now we are trying to create a space on the Internet for a community of information professionals, including anyone interested in issues such as distance education, collaborative learning and remote reference services. Our moo is a work in progress and we would like your input and feedback as we develop the IPL Moo.

We would like to invite you to join us on the IPL Moo and take a look around. The IPL Moo is being built expressly for the librarian and information professional community.

The URL for the IPL Moo is: <telnet://ipl.sils.umich.edu/> login: iplmoo

Telnet to: [ipl.sils.umich.edu](telnet://ipl.sils.umich.edu/) and login as: iplmoo and you will enter the IPL Moo. First, you must type: connect guest. The Moo will prompt for your name, and you will be given a moo-name. To enter our introductory tutorial: type: @tutorial intro.

If you would like more information, you can visit some Moo documentation, including explanations of commands and basic instructions, it is available on the World Wide Web at the Internet Public Library. URL: <http://ipl.sils.umich.edu/ref/MOO>.

Please feel free to contact the IPL Moo group at ipl.moo@umich.edu with any questions or comments.

Schelle Simcox, for the Internet Public Library Moo Group, ipl.moo@umich.edu; <http://ipl.sils.umich.edu/ref/MOO/>.

3.3. *The Commonwealth of Learning*

There is an organization called The Commonwealth of Learning whose mission appears to be promoting distance learning in commonwealth countries – an obvious interest, given their geographical spread. They have got a strong Web presence at <http://www.col.org/0/html/col.htm>, including a link to their strategic plan. Their general e-mail address is info@col.org.

3.4. *LISSPS*

LISSPS, Library and Information Studies Students and Prospective Students, has a permanent home at UKOLN, the UK Office for Library and Information Networking.

The new information file about LISSPS is included below.

Welcome to the LISSPS mailing list!

If you ever want to remove yourself from this mailing list, you can send mail to "majordomo@ukoln.bath.ac.uk" with the following command in the body of your e-mail message: unsubscribe lissps.

Here is the general information for the list you have subscribed to, in case you do not already have it:

1. 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 for a term?” or maybe “Does anyone know where I can find X for the essay due in tomorrow?” If your library does not have it, someone else might ...

2. 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.
3. “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, as I hope everyone will at some time, send your message to this address and it will be distributed to all members; LISSPS@ukoln.bath.ac.uk.

If you have any problems with posting messages to the list, please send an e-mail explaining your problem.

How do I JOIN the list? You have already managed this, but in case you move e-mail address or you know someone else who would like to join, here it is again for the record: Send an e-mail message to this address: majordomo@ukoln.bath.ac.uk.

The subject line may be left blank. The message should be subscribe [lissps](mailto:LISSPS@ukoln.bath.ac.uk).

World Wide Web Page. LISSPS also has its own World Wide Web Page. This is based at UKOLN also. It can be accessed using a WWW browser such as Netscape at: <http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/lissps/lissps.html>.

Andrew Brown, LISSPS Administrator, Graduate Trainee, Warwick University Library.

3.5. *Electronic conference to identify future activities of FID*

This is to promote discussions on the future activities of FID in order to establish the identity of the federation and the followings are items proposed for our consideration.

Any comments, opinions, proposals concerning any specific item or over all scope, are quite welcome.

Information infrastructures. Primary information – collection, review, selection, classification; resources – selforganization for semantic description; management with semantic understanding of information; new model and methods for multimedia vehicle and resources; new methods of processing and utilization semantic relationship; UDC, thesauri, dictionaries, taxonomies; IFID (original papers) and conference proceedings; texts, handbooks, guidelines, etc.; directory of information resources.

Utilization of information. New functions in addition to IR, numerical analysis, deduction, simulation, estimation, elucidation etc., such as analogy, induction, abduction, association, and idea creation for problem solving, decision making, and critical evaluation.

Development of application systems. Domain specific new problem solving systems; intellectual interface; proposals of internationally coordinated projects for value generating information systems; guidelines of new software engineering, hardwares, and communication via network.

Services. Education and training; tutorials; news bulletin; guidelines for providers, retailers, brokers, consultants, and domain oriented information specialists.

Global policy. Proposal and preparations of international organization for information to promote constructions, utilization and transfer, as well as standards, protocols, and legal and social arrangements or systems and other matters related to information.

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