# News

## 1. Institutions

### 1.1. Library and Information Schools

#### 1.1.1. The School of Information Management, the University of Brighton

Within the University of Brighton the former Department of Library & Information Studies and the information systems division of the former Department of Computing have come together in the establishment of a School of Information Management.

In bringing together on the University's Moulsecoomb campus staff and students previously separated by both geographical and departmental boundaries, the new School will provide a broad platform from which to address the increasingly complex and dynamic environment of the information professional.

One measure of the breadth of that platform is the School's staffing establishment, comprising over 30 teaching and research staff, and its student body, which will number over 500 individuals studying for a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate awards accredited by the Library Association, the Institute of Information Scientists and the British Computer Society. The Head of the School of Information Management is Dr Peter Enser, who had been Head of the former Department of Library & Information Studies since 1992.

The School of Information Management is one of two schools into which the Faculty of Information Technology has been restructured, the other being the School of Computing & Mathematical Sciences. Both schools share a brand new suite of computing laboratories installed in a large area previously occupied by the University's Moulsecoomb library, which has moved into an impressive new building.

The new School of Information Management comes into being in time to act as the focus next year of the half-centenary celebration of Brighton's association with the discipline of Library & Information Management.

Contact points: surface mail: The School of Information Management, Watts Building, Moulsecoomb, Brighton BN2 4GJ, UK. Tel.: +44 1273 600900; Fax: +44 1273 642405; Email: P.G.B. Enser@bton.ac.uk; WWW: lis.it.bton.ac.uk (to be amended).

*1.1.2. LEEP, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is now accepting applications for the 1997 class of LEEP, the School's distance education scheduling option for the M.S. degree. Courses combine brief periods of on-campus instruction with independent learning and instruction using a variety of new information technologies including groupware and Web-based teaching. LEEP is directed toward students who give evidence of ability to learn independently, who have strong technological support from their workplace or their own resources and who are willing to collaborate with GSLIS faculty in designing and refining new ways to deliver instruction.

LEEP is unique among schools of library and information science. It provides significant advantages to its students, who are entering a field increasingly involved in organizing and using electronic information. The faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science see these new forms of course design leading toward new ways of thinking about instruction and ways in which knowledge is taught.

Key elements of the LEEP scheduling option include:

- Instruction combines intensive on-campus meetings with use of communication/computer technologies for delivering instruction.
- Course and admissions requirements are comparable to those of the traditionally delivered program.
- Regular GSLIS faculty are fully involved in teaching.
- Educational opportunities are expanded to those who are working fulltime or have other commitments in locations outside Champaign-Urbana.
- Students are paired with professional mentors near their homes.
- Students use new technologies not only to learn from faculty but also to work collaboratively with other students.
- A placement and outreach coordinator assists in developing internships and practicum experiences to supplement classroom instruction and expand professional opportunities.
- The program provides strong human and capital infrastructure support to design instruction and facilitate learning without undue frustration, failed equipment or other problems that often plague new technological applications.

For further information (application packets, admissions information, costs), consult the LEEP3 homepage at http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/leep3 or email us at leep@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu, or write: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 501 E. Daniel Street, Champaign, IL 61820, USA, Tel. +1 800 982 0914; Fax: +1 217 244 3302.

Kevin Ward, Asst. to Dean for Publications, Library and Information Science, University of Illinois; email: ward@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu, http://edfu.lis.uiuc.edu/~ward.

## 1.2. Research centres

### 1.2.1. Centre for Informetric Studies

The Centre for Informetric Studies is launched by the Royal School of Librarianship, Copenhagen, Denmark, on July 1, 1996.

The Centre is based on the long-established tradition of the School in conducting bibliometric studies and on the more recent research results generated in subject areas such as: information retrieval theories and methodologies, research evaluation, trend analysis and business and social intelligence. The Centre is aimed to function as an interdisciplinary unit of the School where scholars from the different departments can carry out cooperative research based on the use of quantitative, bibliometric and scientometric methods.

*Informetric Studies* signifies the new approach of the Centre to the scientific study of information flows – the improved bibliometric methods are applied not only to scientometric studies and research evaluations of science and technology (S&T), but also to the analysis of their mutual societal, industrial or other specific relations. By the utilisation of advanced knowledge and skills in the retrieval of facts and data from databases, and combined with bibliometric methods and S&T indicators, this novel approach will explore and promote the use of databases and networks as modern analytical tools in strategic planning and policy making.

Planned activities are: research and consultancy; the development of educational programmes for graduate, MA and PhD students; the establishment of contact and links with relevant national and international professional organisations and networks.

*Researchers associated with the Centre*
Finn Hjortgaard Christensen, Reader, Cand.mag.; He has an MA degree in Mathematics from the University of Copenhagen and has been affiliated to the Royal School of Librarianship for nearly 25 years. His research activities in recent years have been mainly concerned with the methodological problems in bibliometric analysis, especially in the field called online bibliometrics.

Peter Ingwersen, Head of Department, Ph.D.; He received his doctoral degree in Informatics from the Copenhagen Business University, Faculty of Economics in 1991. 1980–84 he worked for the Online Service Division of the European Space Agency (ESA/IRS) at Frascati, Italy, and has been visiting professor at universities in the USA and Japan. He is Head of the Department of Information Retrieval Theory, and his main research interests are focused on information retrieval interaction, cognitive and social aspects of information and scientometric methods using online retrieval tools and databases. He has carried out several scientific trend analyses and studies of online bibliometric methodology.

Irene Wormell, Head of Department, Fil.Dr. (Head of the Centre); She is educated in Sweden in the field of Informatics with General Systems and Cynernetics. Her doctorate work at Lund University was focused on the development of new

forms and methodologies for subject representation in online catalogues. Since 1985 she has been affiliated to the School as Head of the Department of Design and Implementation of Specialised Information Services. Her research field is information management in business organisations, with special emphasis on how to gain business and social intelligence. The focus is on the use of databases as analytical tools in strategic decision-making processes and policy developments.

## 2. Conferences

### 2.1. Knowledge Organization for Information Retrieval

Organized by FID/CR and University College London, in association with ASLIB, Classification Research Group and International Society for Knowledge Organization. 16–19 June 1997, Conference Chairman: Dr. I.C. McIlwaine, School of Library, Archive and Information Studies, University College London, Gower Street, London WC 1E 6BT, UK. Tel. +44 171 3807204; fax: +44 171 3830557.

There is a suggestion that the evolution of information management as understood by computer professionals and by librarians and information scientists is seeing a convergence. A simplistic yet valid comparison can be made between the tree-structured classification schemes most evidenced by the Dewey Decimal Classification – but duplicated in countless coding schemes used in computer applications – and the first hierarchical database management systems, notably IBM's IMS.

Faceted classification and indexing lend themselves to more flexible access through relational database management systems, now being applied to corporate and library data alike.

Classification issues are being revisited in the moves to object-oriented systems design and software development which some are seeing as a backward step in respect of thinking for information retrieval.

In mainstream information retrieval research the concentration on automatic retrieval techniques has put work on thesauri and classification into a back seat. However, the user interface, so recently moving from the command line to the Window, promises to revive approaches which utilize knowledge structures that can provide enhanced interfaces to large document or data collections.

Classification never really went away even though natural language and keyword are beginning to challenge the more traditional methods of information retrieval. In any event we can examine what works and what is being used, to see that for the most successful databases (e.g., MEDLINE, EMBASE, WPI) there is no move to do away with knowledge structures.

The 6th International Study Conference will be held in University College London.

The themes that the conference will explore include:

- The role of classification in the management of information;
- Classification research for retrieval of information published electronically;
- Automatic methods of classification;
- The researcher and the real world;
- Tools for classification and classification as a tool; and
- Data modelling.

### 2.2. The 1996 JUGL (JANET User Group for Libraries) Annual Conference 2–4 July 1996

*Education on the Net*
This is a synopsis of the training given by the Netskills and Mailbase Teams at this conference. A full report of the conference has recently been published in the electronic version of Ariadne Issue 4 at: http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/ariadne/issue4/.

This year's JUGL Annual Conference and General Meeting was held at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. The theme was one of particular interest to all library and information staff who are involved in raising awareness about the Internet and who provide training on how best to exploit the enormous range of services on the Internet.

Nearly 70 people registered for the conference and about half took advantage on the first day of the pre-conference training provided by the Netskills Team.

The first training session was an Introduction to the Internet which began with a short presentation introducing basic networking skills and tools, mainly the WWW. The hands-on session using Netscape enabled the attendees to become acquainted with the World Wide Web and some of the services available via the Web, such as NISS.

After coffee, with toast and croissants which was very welcome, Elaine Blair gave a talk on Mailbase – "A Better Way to Communicate", telling us about the services Mailbase offers and the mailing lists related to library and information services subject area.

Hands on exercises continued until lunch, looking at the different searching facilities available on the Internet for finding quality information.

For more information: Emma Wright, Trainer, Netskills, University Computing Service, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, UK. Tel. +44 191 222 5002; fax: +44 191 222 5001; URL: http://www.netskills.ac.uk; email: Emma.Wright@newcastle.ac.nk.

### 2.3. Communication and Information in Context: Society, Technology, and the Professions

The June 1997 conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science/ Association canadienne des sciences de l'information (CAIS/ACSI) will be held at the Learned Societies Congress in St. John's, Newfoundland, 8–10 June 1997.

*Conference theme*

Dedicated to the study of information – its production, organization, distribution, value and use – CAIS/ACSI '97 will make a significant contribution to the theme of the Learned Societies Congress of 1997: Communications. Research papers for *Communications and Information in Context: Society, Technology, and the Professions, CAIS/ACSI '97* are invited on a wide range of approaches to the study of communication and information. Papers are solicited in three broad areas that will appeal to academic researchers and information professionals alike: (1) social studies of information and communications; (2) technological issues and quantitative analyses; (3) the role of research in the information and communication professions. CAIS/ACSI '97 will provide the opportunity for creative contracts and fruitful collaborations not only among association members, but also between CAIS delegates and members of cognate associations meeting at the Learned Societies Congress, among them: Consortium for Computers in the Humanities, Canadian Semiotic Association, Association for Bibliotherapy in Canada, Film Studies Association of Canada, Association for the Study of Canadian Radio and Television, Canadian Association of Public Data Users, Canadian Communication Association, and others.

*Topics for CAIS '97*

*Session A: Social Studies of Information and Communications*: Critical Approaches to Social Studies of Information and Communication; The Political Economy of Communication and Information; Cultural Studies of Information and Communication; Communication as Culture and Social Structure; Legal Issues in Information and Communication; Information Seeking, Communication and Use; The Information Society: Myth or Reality? Information Policy; Media Studies.

*Session B: Technological Issues and Quantitative Studies*: Statistical Methods in Studies of Information and Communication; Mathematical Models of Communications and Information Systems; Quantitative Approaches to the Internet and World Wide Web; Design and Performance of Information Retrieval Systems; Quantitative Methods in Information Management; Hypertext System Design and Performance; Bibliometric and Informetric Analyses.

*Session C: Research for the Communication and Information Professions*: The Use and Value of Research for Communication and Information Professionals; Research in Education for the Information and Communication Professions; The Information Professional as Researcher.

The deadline for abstracts (250 words) is 15 October 1996. Final papers (3,000–4,000 words) must be received in electronic form (ASCII or WP 5 or higher) by 15 January 1997. Address submissions to: Bernd Frohmann, CAIS '97 Conference Chair, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Western Ontario, London, ON N6G 1H1, Canada. Tel.: +1 519 661 3542; fax: +1 519 661 3506; email: frohmann@julian.uwo.ca; WWW: http://www.uwo.ca/gslis/faculty/frohmann/.

## 3. Databases

### 3.1. Datapro Daily advisory service covering worldwide IT industry

Datapro Information Services Group announced *Datapro Daily*, a daily advisory service covering global events in the information technology industry. Designed for executives in the IT and investment community, *Datapro Daily* is the only information service currently available that offers worldwide coverage on a daily basis. Unlike other news service offerings, *Datapro Daily* provides expert-based opinion on what those events mean.

Datapro Information Services Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, has been tracking the global IT industry for 28 years. With an international staff of researchers and analysts, Datapro provides timely and accurate information and analysis of the full spectrum of IT products, vendors, technologies, and markets.

For more information contact: Americas: Eric Block, Datapro, tel.: +212 512 2951; email: blockea@mcgraw-hill.com. Europe: Mike Brading, Datapro, tel.: +44 1628 773277; email: bradingm@mcgraw-hill.com. Asia/Pacific: Nora Yusoff, Datapro, tel.: +65 5384432. Datapro homepage: http://www.datapro.com.

## 4. Websites

### 4.1. FID website operational

*Creating the FID Knowledge Forum*
FID is pleased to announce the creation of its Website which is hosted by the FID National Member for Chile, Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica (CONICYT). The FID Website forms part of the FID Knowledge Forum which will enhance the FID infrastructure and will aim to bring together the collective expertise of the membership, the knowledge assembled in the different regional commissions, committees, special interest groups and other working groups and to make this knowledge available to the membership and the international information community.

Creating the FID Knowledge Forum builds on what FID already is – a widespread international network of experts and organizations involved in the information sector. It also builds on the general FID vision and corporate statement and should fulfill FID's commitment to be at the leading edge of developments in the information sector.

The FID Network is expanding with new members from all sectors of the information and knowledge arena. The operation of the Knowledge Forum will greatly expand the opportunities of all FID Members.

The FID Knowledge Forum has the following objectives:

- Present relevant information to the professional information community and information users in the best possible way;
- Provide relevant and new information services to the FID Membership community;
- Provide a bridge and infrastructure to the FID professional groups, participating (member) organizations, corporations and individuals, thereby adding value to "belonging" to the FID Community;
- Improve the quality and accessibility of communications within the FID Community;
- Create new opportunities for Members.

The FID Website and Knowledge Forum are a dynamic information source with constant updates. We would hope that users will visit the site regularly.

For information on FID or its Membership, please contact: FID General Secretariat: P.O. Box 90402, 2509 LK The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel.: +31 70 3140671; fax: +31 70 3140667; email: fid@python.konbib.nl; FID website: http:/fid.conicyt.cl:8000.

## 4.2. *Project Aristotle (sm) automated categorization of Web resources*

I am pleased to announce the establishment of Project Aristotle (sm), a clearinghouse or projects and research devoted to the automated categorization of Web resources. The URL for Project Aristotle (sm) is: http://www.public.iastate.edu/~CYBERSTACKS/Aristotle.htm

For each project, its name, if known, principal investigator, project description, and relevant citations are provided. A hotlink to an available demonstration or prototype is also provided, if available. Entries are organized alphabetically by the name of the organization with which the principal investigator is affiliated.

I am greatly interesting in developing this clearinghouse further and would very much appreciate the name, email and/or URL of similar projects or investigations.

Presently, I am only interested in projects and prototypes that have applied filtering systems, text extracting and/or categorization, or agents, robots or machine learning to the categorization of Web resources. I am not presently interested in work that reviews these approaches or technologies in general.

I am particular interested in current efforts which employ applicable data discovery and mining approaches to Web categorization.

All additional projects and studies will be integrated within the Project Aristotle (sm) site after review.

Gerry McKiernan, Curator, CyberStacks (sm), Iowa State University, 152 Parks Library, Ames IA 50011, USA. Email: gerrymck@iastate.edu; http://www.public.iastate.edu/~CYBERSTACKS/.

## 5. Meetings

*5.1. Global Information Alliance meeting held in Helsinki, Finland, 15–16 July 1996*

On 15 and 16 July 1996 the second implementation meeting of the Global Information Alliance was held in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting was organized by the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) and was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of Finland. The meeting was supported by the Alko Group Ltd. and the City of Helsinki.

The meeting was opened by his Excellency Claes Andersson, Minister of Culture for Finland. In his Opening Address he emphasized the importance of the need for organizations and people to cooperate in the networked Information Society of today and the future. Furthermore he outlined the Finnish national policy on the impact of the progress in information technology on culture.

The agenda for the second Global Information Alliance Implementation meeting considered the coordinating mechanism which are to be put in place to contribute to the success of the Global Information Alliance. Collective projects and actions were considered for implementation by the group as a whole or as a collaborative effort between several of the members. The members agreed to an action programme which will be implemented in the period between now and the next meeting which should be held in the second half of 1997.

Several papers were presented during the meeting which have a perspective on the way in which the organizations could cooperate and a view to the Information Society. The full report of the meeting and selected papers presented at the Helsinki meeting will appear in the *FID News Bulletin*, July/August 1996.

For the time being, FID has agreed to act as the focal point for the GIA activities and has set up a GIA Homepage for news and actions of the Alliance. The Homepage can be reached at http://fid.conicyt.cl:8000/giaopen.htm.

For information on FID and the Global Information Alliance, please contact: FID General Secretariat: P.O. Box 90402, 2509 LK The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel.: +31 70 3140671; fax: +31 70 3140667; email: fid@python.konbib.nl; FID website: http:/fid.conicyt.cl:8000.

## 6. Research grants

*6.1. OCLC awards 1996 research grants*

Dublin, Ohio, July 19, 1996 – The OCLC Office of Research has awarded three Library and Information Science Research Grants to university researchers for 1996.

"We are pleased to be able to support these projects", said Terry Noreault,

director, OCLC Research and Special Projects. "University-based research adds an important dimension to our research agenda, and these projects promise findings that should be of broad interest to the library and information science community".

The grant recipients and their projects are:

Dr. Myke Gluck, assistant professor, Florida State University, "A Descriptive Study of the Usability of Geospatial Metadata". This study will investigate the usability and usefulness of geospatial metadata for a range of users. Ten participants in each of three phases will be videotaped exploring geospatial metadata online providing talk-aloud protocols and screen-image sequences. The participants will conduct searches for researcher-created as well as individually posed queries. Content analysis of the data from early phases of the study will be used to modify the researcher-created metadata for subsequent phases of the study. The overall goal is to describe metadata usability precisely enough so that user needs for geospatial metadata may be incorporated into either metadata standards or into geographic information retrieval systems.

Dr. Gregory H. Leazer, assistant professor, University of California, Los Angeles, "A Demonstration System for the Explicit Control of Bibliographic Works and Relationships". Dr. Leazer will help develop a robust prototype system for the control of bibliographic works and relationships. The prototype system consists of separate descriptive records for works and items, and uses hypertext links to express bibliographic relationships. The prototype system will be automatically derived from a sample of USMARC records drawn from the OCLC Online Union Catalog.

Dr. Charles R. McClure, professor, Syracuse University, "Quality Criteria for Evaluating Information Resources and Services Available from Federal Websites Based on User Feedback". The evaluative effort of this research has the potential to establish benchmarks during an early diffusion phase of an innovative emerging technology [the World Wide Web]. This research will focus attention on a unique opportunity to design and implement carefully evaluated elements into this potentially valuable communications medium before too much effort is wasted on ill-conceived webpages. This focus may save considerable effort, anxiety and tax-payer dollars, while pointing the way toward reaching the webpage stakeholders in an optimal fashion. Additionally, the distributed feedback concept is a powerful means of evolving open network systems. This is itself a departure from standard models of systems design and one reflecting the ideals of an open society.

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 Review of OCLC Research and in the public domain. Application materials for 1997 will be avail-

able this November. For more information, contact the Office of Research by phone at +1 614 764 6448 or by email at suzanne_lauer@oclc.org.

OCLC Online Computer Library Center is a nonprofit computer library service and research organization whose computer network and services link more than 22,000 libraries in 63 countries and territories. More information is available at the OCLC Web site [http://www.oclc.org].

For more information: Keith Shafer. Tel.: +1 614 761 5049; email: shafer@oclc.org; Nita Dean +1 614 761 5002; email: nita_dean@oclc.org.

## 7. Publications

*7.1. Decision-making for Automation: Hebrew and Arabic Script Materials in the Automated Library, by Elizabeth Vernon, Occasional Paper No. 205*

It is generally accepted in the library world that an automated catalog means more accessible data for patrons, greater productivity for librarians, and (via the services of bibliographic utilities) an improvement in the sharing of bibliographic data among libraries. While the desirability of automation is not a controversial issue, how to implement automation remains a problem: what hardware and software to use, what standards to follow, etc. Each institution must assess its priorities, determine the needs of its user population, and decide which are the most important needs to meet. The institution must also determine if sharing cataloging data with other institutions is a priority and, if so, with which ones? The institution must simultaneously assess its available resources: how much of an investment can it afford to put into hardware, software, ongoing maintenance and licensing costs, and staff time?

Hebrew, Arabic, and other non-Roman languages present special challenges when undertaken by a Roman character system. This Occasional Paper surveys the automation options available to libraries with Hebrew and Arabic script collections and examines the automation decisions that different libraries worldwide have made, with consideration of how these choices relate to the priorities of these institutions. The primary focus is on academic and research libraries.

*Decision-making for automation: Hebrew and Arabic script materials in the automated library* (Occasional Paper 205), ISSN 0276 1769; 91 pp.; $10.00 + $3.00 shipping ($1.00 for each additional copy) in the U.S. International orders add $5.00 shipping ($1.50 for each additional copy). Orders should be prepaid to the University of Illinois and sent to: The Publications Office, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, 501 E. Daniel, Champaign, Illinois 61820, USA. Tel.: +1 217 333 1359; Fax: +1 217 244 7329.

*7.2. OCLC office of research publication available*

Dublin, Ohio, July 16, 1996. *The Annual Review of OCLC Research 1995*, which provides details on OCLC's research activities throughout the year, is now available.

"The past year has been very exciting in the Office of Research", said Terry Noreault, director, OCLC Research and Special Projects. "The Internet has provided a wealth of opportunity for exploring information technology and assessing its impact on the library community. The significant accomplishments of our capable and dedicated research staff in this networked information arena support OCLC's commitment to the future of libraries and improving access to the world's information resources".

The publication includes summary reports on OCLC projects, external and collaborative research, the Library and Information Science Research Grant program, the office's Distinguished Seminar Series, and the Visiting Scholar program.

Yearly, the Library and Information Science Research Grant program awards several grants in support of research conducted by faculty in schools of library and information science. Four LISRG awards were presented in 1995.

The Distinguished Seminar Series aims to stimulate the exchange of ideas and discourse within and across information science disciplines. In 1995–1996, the Distinguished Seminar Series featured a presentation, "Electronic Reference in Academic Libraries in the 1990s", by Carol Tenopir, professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee.

The sabbatical research position, Visiting Scholar, has enabled experienced scientists, educators and administrators to conduct research in areas of mutual interest for the past 18 years and has included scholars from Canada, Japan and Sweden as well as the US.

Copies of the 77-page review may be obtained at no charge from OCLC, Annual Review, Mail Code 137, Support Services, 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017–3395. The review is also available on the Internet via the World Wide Web at URL: http://www.oclc.org/oclc/research/publications/review95.htm

The OCLC Office of Research conducts mission-oriented research to provide the library and information science community with theoretical findings and practical applications.

OCLC Online Computer Library Center is a nonprofit computer library service and research organization whose computer network and services link more than 22,000 libraries in 63 countries and territories. OCLC is on the World Wide Web at http://www.oclc.org/.

For more information: Suzanne Lauer. Tel.: +1 614 761 6448; email: lauers@oclc.org; Nita Dean. Tel.: +1 614 761 5002; email: nita_dean@oclc.org.