

NEWS

Items for publication in the *News* are welcomed and should be sent to R.F. Guy, SCOLCAP, National Library of Scotland, 312-320 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2PJ Scotland, United Kingdom

General news

ALISE highlights

At its fall 1987 Board of Directors meeting, the Association for Library and Information Science (ALISE) Board of Directors:

- Noted that ALISE personal membership has been climbing despite the closure of some library education programmes. Institutional membership is down slightly from 1986;
- discussed the role of the newly formed Committee on Recruitment which is actively addressing the need to recruit more broadly to the library and information science professions. The committee is chaired by Rosemary Dumont of Kent State University;
- heard a progress report on the joint meeting of ALISE/AIESI (Association Internationale des Ecoles de Sciences de l'Information) to be held May 25-27, 1988, in Montreal, Canada;
- approved the formation of a Technical Services Education Interest Group to be chaired by Sheila Intner of Simmons College;
- addressed the Secretary of Education proposals to amend the regulations concerning the criteria and procedures for the recognition of accrediting agencies;
- accepted the Audit of Financial Records for 1986/87;
- accepted the slate of committee officers recommended by incoming President Leigh Estabrook of the University of Illinois;
- received a progress report on the search for ALISE Executive Secretary;
- received a progress report from Adele Fasick, ALISE representative to the special Task Force on NCATE, and supported her attendance at the November meeting regarding the NCATE/ALA position.

Contact

Janet Phillips,
Executive Secretary,
ALISE,
471 Park Lane,
State College, PA 16803,
U.S.A.

International co-operation

The Department of Information Science at Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow, Scotland, has twinned with the Department of Information Services at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia, under the British Council's Academic Links and Interchange Scheme. The link has three focal points:

- (1) collaborative research in the areas of expert and knowledge based management systems;
- (2) curriculum development and programme evaluation in the field of Information Management;
- (3) joint publication arising from the above.

The British Council scheme will allow the two Departments to build upon existing links and to exchange academic staff.

Further details can be obtained from:

Professor Blaise Cronin,
Department of Information Science,
Strathclyde Business School,
University of Strathclyde,
Livingstone Tower,
26 Richmond Street,
Glasgow G1 1XH, Scotland,
U.K.

or

Marianne Broadbent,
Head of Department of Information Services,
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology,
GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne,
Victoria 3001, Australia.

Optical disks

At the Expert Seminar on Optical Disks, sponsored by the British Council and the British Library (March 1987) it was agreed that as far as normal educational courses in library and information science are concerned, optical disks should be treated just like any of the other technologies now available.

Most training, it may be expected, will be done by the organizations selling the products, though there was realized to be some doubt as to whether this would be the hardware salesman or the optical disk suppliers. However, more generalized training courses are needed, but because of the wide range of hardware, systems etc., care is needed to get together first with the organizations supplying the students to ensure that the training will be properly focussed. FID will have an important role in developing suitable programmes.

Clearly, there is a need to persuade generous persons to donate, especially to

developing countries, some hardware in order to give the opportunity of hands-on experience.

It would be desirable to develop demonstration systems for optical and video disks in general and for CD-ROMs in particular. Equally, optical disks can be used for training purposes in other disciplines.

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Permanent courses

Strathclyde, Scotland

A totally new undergraduate degree in Information Science—the first of its kind to be offered in a U.K. university—will be launched in October 1988 by Strathclyde Business School's Department of Information Science.

The aim is to produce graduates with a sound knowledge of information analysis and processing skills which will fit them for a wide range of working environments, including marketing, consultancy and information management.

Analysis of the information industry is an important component of the course. Students will be made aware of the cycles and trends in this industrial sector and study the effects of globalization and concentration. The difficulties of achieving relevant national and international policies to regulate access and profits will also be explored.

Information is now recognized as a key resource in business and recent reports on management training in the U.K. have stressed the importance of information management education. The Department of Information Science at Strathclyde is strategically placed in the Business School to respond to that need.

Further details can be obtained from

Mrs. Elisabeth Davenport,
Department of Information Science,
Strathclyde Business School,
Livingstone Tower,
26 Richmond Street,
Glasgow G1 1XH, Scotland,
U.K.

Denmark

The Royal School of Librarianship in Copenhagen, Denmark, has introduced a teaching programme on Information Resource Management and related topics. For this purpose the School created the Department of Design and Implementation of Specialized Information Services (VIRKINFO) with three full-time staff members. New courses as well as continuing education opportunities are being offered. Other

degree programmes of the School include: Postgraduate Diploma for Research Librarianship, Diploma for Public Librarians, and Diploma for Librarianship for Research and Special Libraries. More information is available from:

Danmarks Biblioteksskole,
6 Birkettinget,
DK-2300, Copenhagen 5,
Denmark.

Course report

Vietnam

The Postgraduate Course for the Training of Specialists in Scientific Information and Documentation, undertaken within the framework of the UNDP-supported Project on Scientific Information Ref. No. VIE/80/045, ended last July 11, 1987. The course was the first of its kind held in Vietnam.

The course modules were divided as follows:

- 01: Scientific and technical information, users, information sources, data;
- 02: Information processing;
- 03: Information diffusion;
- 04: Management of information institutions;
- 05: General Informatics;
- 06: Documentation Informatics;
- 07: Research methods in the scientific and technical information field;
- 08: English: a foreign language as a means for knowledge transfer.

Aside from the course modules, students participated in hands-on exercises using microcomputers and guided visits. At the end of June, they prepared a synthesis note under the direction of the resource speakers.

During the closing ceremonies, Mr. A. Perrier, Chief Technical Adviser of the Project, expressed his gratitude to the national authorities and the Resident Representative of Hanoi. He said that good results have been obtained through hard work in the preceding months and that the knowledge the students acquired is at par with regional and international standards. Mr. Perrier also underscored the importance of infusing practical know-how into the theoretical learning process.

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Meetings, workshops and seminars

UPILS Summer Institute

The U.P. Institute of Library Science (UPILS), with support from the Office of the UNESCO Regional Adviser for the General Information Programme (PGI) in

Bangkok conducted its 6th Summer Institute on Information Science last May 4–8, 1987 at the NEC Building, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, on the theme *The Application of the Mini-Micro CDS/ISIS and SuperDoc Software Packages in Library and Information Work*.

The participants made the following comments and recommendations after a review of the capabilities of the Mini/Micro CDS/ISIS software package and its possible applications in their own institutions:

(1) acknowledgement of the support given by UNESCO in sponsoring the seminar and other information manpower training courses in the Philippines and the hope that UNESCO will continue to give this support;

(2) that the UPILS serve as the Mini/Micro CDS/ISIS national coordinating center which shall undertake the following activities:

(a) process requests for and distribute the Mini/Micro CDS/ISIS software locally;

(b) provide expert assistance to users; and

(c) disseminate information on new developments and improvements on the software to all users in the country;

(3) that a national users group be formed and that UNESCO provide support for the formation of this users group. The users group shall serve as a forum for the exchange of experiences with the use of the software through regular meetings and communications among its members;

(4) that UPILS undertake a national survey, with UNESCO's support, of institutions providing various types of information services;

(5) conduct of follow-up courses on specific applications of the Mini/Micro CDS/ISIS software in library activities such as acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, SDI and production of bibliographies and indexes;

(6) conduct of regular training courses on the regional and national levels for new and advanced users of the Mini/Micro CDS/ISIS software;

(7) conduct of courses on basic computer applications in libraries, including the use of available software for libraries;

(8) that UNESCO provide more fellowships to enable more information professionals to attend training courses. It was also recommended that copies of the UNESCO License Agreement be made available in the seminar sites to expedite the processing of requests for the Mini/Micro CDS/ISIS software;

(9) the need for expert assistance in the use of microcomputer applications in library and information work. In addition to the functions and services which the proposed national coordinating centre is expected to provide, it is recommended that UNESCO provide further consultant assistance to institutions and promote the exchange of expertise in the ASTINFO region; and

(10) that institutions, professional associations and, if possible, the national/local government be approached to support activities related to library automation and training of information manpower in the country.

Teaching aids

The librarian's helper, version 4.0: the professional cataloging program by Jennifer Pritchett and Fred Hill.

This is a stand-alone, menu-driven program for IBMs and compatibles, Apples and CP/Ms that produces catalogue cards, spine labels and book pockets in conformity with AACR2 standards. The program assumes no knowledge of computers and/or minimal knowledge of computers and minimal knowledge of cataloging. Further information can be obtained from:

Scarecrow Press, Inc.
52 Liberty Street
P.O. Box 4167
Metuchen, NJ 08840
U.S.A.

Infotrax: the automated system for file management

This new software product for automated file management generates folder and bar code labels, checks folders in and out, queries the folder database from users' terminals, flags checked-out file folders for price reservation, accesses inactive folders, tracks overdue folders, generates overdue notices, and generates audit reports on folders. It operates on single and multiuser computers as well as on large computers. For further information, contact:

Info Products, Inc.,
200 Fillmore, Suite 105,
Denver, CO 80206,
U.S.A.

Online searching

The *Online Search Tutor junior* is a complete self-training tool for anyone wishing to learn about searching the large bibliographic databases held by online search services such as BLAISE or the European Space Agency Information Retrieval Service (ESA-IRS). Its eight lessons feature pages of instruction in the skills of online searching, together with many examples and self-tests, demonstration searches, and simulations in which users must respond to the computer as if they were performing a real search. Using the ESA-IRS system as an exemplar, the *Online Search Tutor junior* is aimed at anyone from library staff or users to students or research staff whose work will include bibliographic research; it expects no prior knowledge and so structures the learning process (while retaining the flexibility of a background lessons menu for those who wish to pick and choose among the lessons) that simple online searches can be conducted after a few hours work.

The *Tutor* runs on an IBM-PC, XT, AT or compatible with 256K of memory and

a fixed disk and costs £95.00 with a discount available to users in educational establishments.

Other software available from IAL is *pFiler*—a personal filing system for small reference collections; and *FILTER* a powerful file conversion program which allows the re-structuring and re-use of data.

Further details can be obtained from

C.J. Armstrong,
Information Automation Limited,
Penbryn Bronant,
Aberystwyth
Dyfed SY23 4TJ
U.K.
Tel.: (097 421) 302.

Online searching

Dialog is offering library schools free access to *Dialog Ondisc Eric*. According to Anne Caputo, Programme Manager for Dialog's Classroom Instruction Programme, "Dialog and Dialog programs, such as Classroom Instruction Program (CIP), have held a prominent position in graduate programs of library and information science. This special offer is a continuation of that tradition."

The one-time offer provides a single current Dialog Ondisc Eric disc (1981–present), with search software, at no charge to each of the 60 ALA-accredited library schools. Additionally, a continuing special discount rate of \$600 is being offered to these institutions for the current disc with quarterly updates and \$1,100 for the complete 3-disc package (1966–present with quarterly updates), a saving of over 30% from the list prices of \$950 and \$1650 respectively.

Further information can be obtained from:

Paula L. Dowell,
Dialog Information Services, Inc.,
3460 Hillview Avenue,
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Tel. 415-858-3742.
U.S.A.

Agricultural information

Those engaged in preparing information professionals for work in agricultural information centres and libraries will be pleased to take note of the following:

The thirteen-member Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), together with six international centres, are in the process of completing an extensive collection of publications of the international agricultural research

centres, which will be distributed for a small cost, or free to libraries and research stations globally. The project expects to use either optical disk or microfiche as the packaging medium. An international survey will be conducted to determine the market potential. The libraries of AGLINET and AGRIS participating centers, will be among those contacted. The analysis will be carried out by:

Aspen Systems Corporation,
330 Madison Ave.,
New York,
NY 10017
U.S.A.