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.

1. AWARDS

1.1. Research Paper Awards

Verna L. Pungitore, Assistant Professor for the School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University, was named one of the winners of the 1988 Research Paper Award granted by the Association for Library and Information Science Education. Her paper was titled "The Flow of Information among Public Library Directors and Library Change Agents".

Pamela Spence Richards, Associate Professor for the School of Communications, Information and Library Studies, Rutgers, was also a winner of the 1988 Research Paper Award granted by ALISE. Professor Richards' paper was titled "Aslib at War: The Brief but Intrepid Career of a Library Organization as a Hub of Allied Scientific Intelligence 1942–1945".

Both award winning papers were presented January 7 at the Annual Conference of ALISE held in San Antonio, TX.

The purpose of Professor Pungitore's study was to add to the general understanding of the ways in which information is currently being disseminated among public library directors and selected change agencies. The directors of 150 public libraries located in one midwestern state and serving populations of under 100,000 were surveyed by mail concerning their perceptions of the effectiveness of the change agencies, and of a number of communication channels, methods and media. The study identified a number of significant relationships which suggest that smaller public libraries may well represent the "have nots" within the profession in terms of access to information.

Professor Richards' historical study documents the Aslib efforts to implement a project for the centralized microfilming and dissemination of enemy scientific periodicals. American entry to the war in 1941 added technical resources and manpower to expand both the project and its impact on Allied defence science. Credit for the project's conceptualization and implementation during a period of extraordinary national hardship must be given to the men and women at Aslib from 1939 to 1945.

1.2. Dissertation Awards

Prudence W. Dalrymple from the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Edward Anthony Olden from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois were co-recipients of the Annual Award for Outstanding Dissertation. The awards were made on January 7 at the Annual Conference of the Association for Library and Information Science Education in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Dalrymple's dissertation is titled "Retrieval by Reformulation in Two Library Catalogs: Toward a Cognitive Model of Searching Behavior". The study was designed to test hypotheses derived from a psychological theory of remembering. An analogy between patterns of retrieval from human long-term memory and information retrieval from bibliographic databases was proposed. No significant differences were found between groups on attitudinal measures; however, initial steps were taken toward identifying three active constructs: "affability", "frustration", and "expectation". In order to observe the cognitive processes used in searching, subjects were asked to "think aloud" while they searched. Transcripts of these verbal protocols were used to identify reformulations and to operationalize further the theoretical construct "reformulation".

Dr. Olden's dissertation is titled "The Beneficiaries of Library and Information Policy in British and Ex-British Africa: Steps from the White Women's League to the Electronic Library". This dissertation examines the beginnings and early years of five libraries set up with the stated aim of serving the public in British and ex-British Africa, and argues that their beneficiaries have not been the public at all but the elite and would-be elite. It suggests a pattern from the fee-charging whites-only leisure reading libraries of the settler colonies to the computerized information services recommended for the black "decision-makers" of today.

1.3. Professional Award

Dr. Samuel Rothstein, Professor at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia, was the recipient of the 1988 Award for Outstanding Professional Contributions to Library and Information Science Education. The award is given annually by the Association for Library and Information Science Education, and was presented at the 1988 ALISE Conference held in San Antonio, Texas.

Selection of the recipient for the Professional Contributions Award is based on the following criteria:

(1) Evidence of regular and sustained service that promotes and strengthens the broad areas of library/information science education through the holding of appropriate offices and positions within the profession.
(2) Contributions which promote and enhance the status of library/information science education.
(3) Evidence of leadership and initiative in dealing with issues related to library/information science education.

1.4. ALISE Service Award

Dr. Mohammed M. Aman, Dean of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee received the 1988 Service Award given annually by the Association for Library and Information Science Education. The award was presented on January 7 at the 1988 ALISE Conference held in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Aman was given the award based on the following criteria:

(1) Evidence of regular and sustained service to ALISE through the holding of various offices and positions within the organization or accomplishing specific responsibilities for the organization.
(2) Participation in activities which have enhanced the stature, reputation, and overall strength of ALISE.
(3) Representation of ALISE to other appropriate organizations, institutions, or government agencies.

Dean Aman has served on numerous ALISE, ALA, and ASIS committees. He was Chair of the ALA International Relations Committee for two consecutive terms from 1984–86, and Chair of the International Relations Roundtable in 1976–77. He was Chair of the ALISE International Education Committee, 1985–86, and is currently Chair-elect of the ASIS Special Interest Group/International Information Issues and Chair of the ASIS Wisconsin Chapter.

2. DISTANT LEARNING

Ron Edwards and Peter Underwood, of the College of Librarianship Wales (CLW), visited Pakistan in March. They undertook a feasibility study to determine whether CLW should participate in the development of a distance learning programme in librarianship by the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). CLW has considerable experience in distance learning, and currently has 72 students taking a programme leading to a University of Wales Higher Degree in the Management of libraries and information units. AIOU, based in Islamabad, is receiving considerable assistance from the Overseas Development Administration in establishing a range of programmes.

3. SOFTWARE

3.1. Intelligent Information

At the latest count, there were over 3000 databases available for on line searching throughout the world. That piece of news is of interest to a relatively small number of information specialists but to the vast majority of people it doesn't mean very

much. The unfortunate thing is that many of these latter people need information, which is available in those databases, in their day to day work.

Many people who have a PC, for example, would like to access databases from time to time. Many people have probably tried already and have been disappointed because, in many cases, the databases are complex and the commands necessary to get at the information are difficult to use. Most information seekers are not information specialists and do not want to spend a lot of time learning detailed commands etc. for the once or twice a month they might need access to a database.

Infotap SA and Geonet Systems have perfected the Intelligent Information Facility (II-facility), with assistance from the EEC, to meet the requirements of those who need information regularly, as part of their work, but who do not have either the time or the inclination to enter too deeply into the "information world".

It acts as the gateway between you and the information you seek. You need never communicate directly with a database if you do not wish to. You can make your information request to the II and let it do the work for you.

What II does is to translate your information needs into the commands necessary to retrieve the answers from a range of databases. It also offers you a choice of which databases you want to have searched and even (where possible) the choice of supplier for a particular database service.

All this without knowing anything about retrieval languages, without having contracts for different services, without a detailed examination of database contents etc. Also you can pay for all your information needs on one invoice – the one you receive from II.

Moreover, II will communicate with you in your language (English, French, German and Italian available now, others to follow soon) – independent of the language of the database contents. This means you can be sure of what you need. Unfortunately, II cannot provide translations of the database contents.

Infotap, B.P. 262, L-2012 Luxembourg

3.2. File Conversion

FILTER, a new file conversion package, has been launched by Information Automation Limited, the information research and consultancy company based in mid-Wales. FILTER, which runs on most MS-DOS based microcomputers, is designed to alter the structure of data within a file thus allowing the re-use of downloaded data or the re-formatting of files created by any other software package. FILTER is easy to use, and can output the re-shaped data to the screen (for checking) or to a new file for later use - the original data remains inviolate and can thus be used for other transformations in the future. Once a filter table of changes has been set up, FILTER can be run automatically or used interactively, and the filter tables can be saved and re-used as many times as necessary. The package is supplied with data files and filter tables to demonstrate its ease of use, and costs £80.00 plus VAT.

Information Automation Limited, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 4TJ, UK.

4. ONLINE TRAINING

4.1. ESA-IRS Trainee Programma

The Trainee Programme was created to satisfy and is therefore especially oriented towards the specific needs of institutions in which training in online techniques is part of the curriculum.

The essential characteristic of the current Trainee Programme (Schedule A) is that it allows proper budgeting, i.e. the price is fixed and gives unlimited access time during one year to specified training databases by a specified number of passwords: 1000 AU for 3 passwords on the following databases: TAGRIS (file no. 118); TCAB (file no. 112); TCHEM (file no. 38) TINFO (file no. 31); TINSPEC (File no. 39); TREP (file no. 116) and EDIN (file no. 26).

Following the success of this first offering and in order to cater for additional needs expressed by users since the inception of the Trainee Programme, two more options are being added to it.

The first new option to be known as 'Schedule B', will keep the fundamental characteristics of schedule A i.e. on year duration, predefined costs, predetermined number of passwords, but the difference is that it will give access time in those full databases whose producers have agreed to this scheme.

The second new option, to be known as 'Schedule C', allows the institutions to tailor their demands on the Trainee Programme even more flexibly to their actual needs. In practice they will be able to specify the number of passwords requested for access to specified full files belonging to the scheme. Under this option, however, the institutions will be invoiced on a monthly basis - albeit at special rates for connect time.

5. RESEARCH

5.1. Library School Researchers Gather at OCLC

Five principal investigators presented the results of their research at a Project Forum sponsored by the OCLC Office of Research on November 20, 1987, at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio. The research projects were the first funded by the OCLC Library School Research Equipment Support (LSRES) program, which began in 1986. The forum was attended by representatives from local libraries and regional library schools.

"This forum represents research cooperation at its best", said Michael J. McGill, Vice President, Technical Planning, Research, and Development, during his opening remarks. "The grant program encourages independent research and fosters interaction between college and university researchers and OCLC research scientists, the results of which are important and open to the entire library community". A report of each research project is published in the current issue of the Annual Review of OCLC Research.

5.2. ALISE Research Grant

John V. Richardson, Jr. and Donald O. Case from the faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of California, Los Angeles were presented the 1988 ALISE Research Grant at the Annual Conference of the Association for Library and Information Science Education, January 7 in San Antonio, TX.

The title of the funded study is "Gender and Ethnic Determinates of Success in Graduate School: A Mathematical Modeling of the Admissions Process in Library and Information Science". The proposed study will construct a regression model involving 25 variables (such as gender, ethnicity, age, GRE, TOEFL, etc.) which can be used to predict the success of applicants to graduate school in librarianship. Richardson and Case have access to 15 years of extensive data. The results are likely to have wide implications for gender researchers, counselors advising various ethnic groups on careers, recruiters and graduate school deans at the 60 ALA accredited schools of library and information science.

Applications for the ALISE Research Grant Award may be obtained by contacting either Dr. Debra W. Johnson, University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1407 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801; or Dr. Gary Purcell, University of Tennessee, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 804 Volunteer Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37996.

6. COURSES

6.1. University College London

University College London is intending to introduce in October its revised MSc in Information Science: COMPUTERISED SYSTEMS FOR LIBRARIANS, ARCHIVISTS AND INFORMATION MANAGERS.

The course has been completely re-structured to meet the changing needs of traditional services and the emerging market, and concentrates on the development of IT skills and their application in the information world.

This unique course is open to practising information specialists (those who already have their first professional qualification) from all branches of the profession. It will enable them to plan, evaluate and implement automated systems for their own libraries, archives or information units. Those looking for a change of emphasis in their career – into records management, business or finance, for example – will also find that the course equips them for the future.

Knowledge of computers is not a pre-requisite for the MSc, which comprises a core unit in computer studies and the application of general purpose software, and more specific studies in selected areas such as online databases, automated library management systems, computers in record offices, and business information needs. Particular attention is paid to the management skills required in introducing and handling automated systems.

"Hands-on experience" will be an integral part of the course, and there will be opportunities for students to pursue particular interests in depth.

Further details: The Director, School of Library, Archive & Information Studies, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Tel. 01-380 7204.

6.2. University of Sheffield

From October 1988 the Department of Information Studies in the University of Sheffield will be offering an MSc in Information Management, designed to prepare graduates of any discipline to work as information managers in organizations of all kinds.

The new Programme's emphasis will be on the management design and development of information systems and services, and on applications of information technology to these purposes. It is particularly oriented to the needs of graduates with non-scientific/non-technical degrees who wish to work in the field of information management and information technology but who lack training or experience in these areas.

Courses will cover information systems, information management, computers and information, information services, business information, reports and records management, and other specialized options.

The Department's three main Programmes – the MA in Librarianship; the MSc in Information Studies; and the MSc in Information Management – give Sheffield strengths in both the established and emerging markets for the information workforce.

Further information and application forms for the MSc in Information Management Programme can be obtained from:

Dr David Ellis
Coordinator MSc in Information Management Programme
Department of Information Studies
University of Sheffield
Sheffield, S10 2TN - United Kingdom
(Tel. 0742-768555 ext. 6012)

6.3. Continuing Education for Youth Librarians

In response to the demand for continuing education opportunities for librarians specialising in work with children and teenagers, the College of Librarianship Wales is to offer a new higher degree programme in 'Literature and libraries for young people' from September 1988. The programme focusses on the influence of the mass media on publishing and library services for young people; on developments in the publishing of contemporary fiction for children and teenagers; and on the activities undertaken by public libraries to promote services to young people.

The programme requires one year of full-time study. Students undertake three courses of advanced guided study, and an examination. They then complete the

programme by preparing a dissertation on a related topic of their own choice. Applications will be accepted from graduate and non-graduate qualified librarians (i.e. A.L.A.). Successful candidates will be awarded the University of Wales higher degree of Master of Librarianship (M.Lib.).

Further information is available from the College of Librarianship Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, ABERYSTWYTH, Dyfed, SY23 3AS, Wales, Great Britain. (Telephone Aberystwyth 623181. Telex 35391 CLW G.)

6.4. Library Training Course in Malaysia

Through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), the National Library of Malaysia offered two programmes for library personnel in 1987, namely: Library Visits/Attachments Programme and Basic Course for Library Assistants.

The Library Visits/Attachments Programme, which was conducted from October 1 to November 30, 1987, is designed to provide professional staff in libraries with a general overview of library systems, practices and procedures in relation to the organization and management of different types of libraries in Malaysia. Emphasis is placed on national, academic, public and special libraries.

The Programme includes visits to various academic, research, special and public libraries, various divisions of the National Library of Malaysia and other selected libraries.

Participants should have professional library qualifications, have sufficient command of spoken and written English, certified medically fit to participate in the course and not exceed 40 years old.

The Basic Course for Library Assistants, which was held last July 1 to 31, 1987, is designed to equip non-professional staff in libraries with the necessary skills and knowledge in order to assist, and when necessary, to run and maintain the library. It includes basic knowledge of library science, types of libraries and their organizations and functions. The course is conducted using classroom lectures, practical work, group discussions and field visits.

Participants should possess the equivalent of the Overseas Cambridge School Certificate/O- Levels, work experience in a library at the non-professional level, sufficient command of spoken and written English, certified medically fit to participate in the course and should not exceed 35 years old.

Successful applicants are given the opportunity to obtain fellowships under the MTCP which covers air travel, food and lodging, course expenses and medical facilities. Applications for both programmes are usually obtained from Malaysian embassies and high commissions in various countries. All applications are submitted through the applicants' Governments to the official representatives of the Malaysian Government, addressed to:

For Library Visits/Attachments Programme:
The Director General
Economic Planning Unit

Prime Minister's Department,
(Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme)
Jalan Dato' Onn
50502 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia.

Cable: ECONOMICS
Telex: EPUPM MA 30098
Telephone: 03-2300133

For Basic Course for Library Assistants:
The Director General
The Public Services Dept.
Training Division,
(Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme)
9th Flr., Bangunan PERKIM,
Jalan Ipoh, 50510 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Cable: FESTOFF Kuala Lumpur
Telex: MA 31581
Telephone: 03-2934455

7. PUBLICATIONS

7.1. Videotapes

Following the success of the video-cassette, "The Invisible Ingredient" which gave a general introduction to online information, the Euronet DIANE team are offering a series of four videos. Available in the main European languages (others will follow), the videos, produced by Drake Educational Associates of Cardiff, are specifically aimed at these groups of professionals.

Video 1 Medical
Video 2 Marketing
Video 3 Industrial safety, Chemicals
Video 4 Engineering

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