NEWS

Items for publication in the News are welcomed and should be sent to:
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National Library of Scotland
312–320 Lawnmarket
Edinburgh EH1 2PJ
Scotland
UK

General news

Computer viruses

The International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) has recently issued a worldwide warning on computer viruses. In view of the potentially serious and even fatal consequences of the introduction of 'virus' programs into computer systems, IFIP urges

- all computer professionals, worldwide, to recognize the disastrous potential of computer viruses;
- all computer educators to impress upon their students the dangers of virus programs;
- all publishers to refrain from publication of the details of actual virus programs;
- all computer professionals not to knowingly distribute virus code, except for the purpose of legitimate research in a controlled environment;

and

- all developers of virus detection and prevention systems to stop distribution of virus code for test purposes;
- governments, universities and computer systems manufacturers to devote more resources to research into and development of new technologies for protection of computer systems;
- governments to take action to make distribution of viruses a criminal offence.

The IFIP General Assembly (held in San Francisco in September 1989) passed the preceding forceful resolution. With the identification of hundreds of computer virus programs and even more variations on these, the disastrous implications for computer systems must be recognized. The consequences of 'viral attack' on computer systems include serious economic and personal loss, and could become a threat to human life; for example, in computer-controlled health care systems and industrial installations. The social and economic losses due to virus infiltration into computer systems are large. Those losses and their effects are becoming, moreover,

of international significance as computer networks take on global information roles in many enterprises.

From: *IFIP Newsletter* 6 (4) December 1989.

Belgium—Information Industry Meeting

A lively meeting took place in Brussels on 10 October when Belgian information industry representatives met with Commission officials to discuss IMPACT-2 (Information Market Policy Actions)

Many interventions were made on the need to increase education and training. The information society did not yet exist in Europe and a special effort was needed to educate young people in schools and universities in the use of electronic information services by making equipment and services available. Such initiatives should be financed jointly by the European Community and national bodies.

The follow-up of the Information Market Observatory (IMO) and the promotion activities of IMPACT-1 was considered important and encouragement should be given to national market research activities. Local or regional projects should be supported especially where experience could be gained for use in other Member States. An example was the increased effectiveness of videotex services through multiplying the number of terminals and offering such attractive services as tele-banking, teleshopping and tourism information.

Legal issues such as liability should be handled with flexibility at the Community level, and help in providing customers with a clearer or better service through standardized contracts with information providers was considered desirable.

From: *Information market* 60, December 1989 – February 1990.

Courses—permanent

Costa Rica

Introductory courses in agricultural bibliotechnology offered by the Interamerican Institute of Cooperation in Agriculture, Interamerican Centre of Agricultural Documentation and Information (IICA—CIDIA), usually during the month of November, are open to auxiliary librarians in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Topics cover reference, bibliography, selection and acquisition of documents, and cataloguing and classification. The cost is US$798. Applications should be submitted by September 30 each year.
For further information:
    Biblioteca Commemorativa Orton
    Turrialba
    Costa Rica

Nigeria

Courses emphasize area studies and Nigerian conditions. There are two-year programmes for a diploma, three years for a BLS, and two years for an MLS. Applicants for diploma courses should have five passes at GCE 'O' level, including English; five passes at 'O' level and two at 'A' level for the BLS; and a degree from a recognized university for the MLS. Closing date for applications is March 31 for diploma and BLS programmes and May 31 for the MLS. Inquiries to:

    The Academic Secretary
    Ahmadu Bello University
    Department of Library Science
    Zaria
    Nigeria

Seminar

Media, technology and the library

The National Film Board of Canada's Chief Librarian and part-time faculty member of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, McGill University, Donald Bidd, presented a professional development seminar on 'Media technology and the library' at the University of the Philippines in Manila in December 1989. Designed for practising librarians and graduate students of library science, the seminar provided a comprehensive review of the impact of new technologies and diverse media on the practice of librarianship.

The seminar was made possible through the financial support of the Canadian Commission for Unesco/CIDA Assistance Program. Publishers and companies in the information industry provided donations of library materials and financial contributions towards seminar expenses.

    For more information, please contact:

      Donald Bidd, Chief Librarian
      Audiovisual Information Services
      National Film Board of Canada
      PO Box 6100, Station A
      Montreal, Quebec, Canada
      H3C 3H5

      Tel: +1 514 283 9423
      Fax: +1 514 283 7564

Video in your library

The McGill University Graduate School of Library and Information Studies co-sponsored with the National Film Board of Canada and the Canadian Library

Association a professional development seminar on 'Video in Your Library,' presented on January 26 1990 in Montreal. The video revolution is one of the most important phenomena to impact on library services this decade. The remarkable success of home video (50% of Canadian homes now have a VCR) has resulted in the expectation that the public library should serve as a convenient source of video. The VCR is quickly replacing the 16 mm film projector in Canadian schools. This seminar covered the major issues faced by librarians in the implementation and maintenance of video collections: collection development trends and selection principles, management and circulation policies, copyright, access to minors, the video marketplace and technical services. Although there was an emphasis on the public library perspective, the seminar was of interest to school, academic and special libraries in its treatment of generic issues.

The seminar was organized by Donald Bidd, Chief Librarian, Audiovisual Information Services at the National Film Board and a part-time Faculty Lecturer at the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. The keynote speakers were Paul Whitney, Assistant Chief Librarian at Burnaby Public Library and Lecturer in popular collections at the UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, and Graham Peat, Manager of Videomatica, a company specializing in video for libraries. The seminar also included a video vendors panel, displays of catalogues and demonstrations of multimedia hypertext programs.

Online vendors

Dialog Information Services

Training—Egypt

Dialog Information Services announce that they have chosen Akram Farag of MarketLink to represent Dialog in Egypt. Akram has considerable experience in the areas of computing and information brokerage, and is fluent in both Arabic and English.

MarketLink will initially be concerned with running training courses in Egypt; they have also promoted the first Dialog Egyptian Update Meeting, held on February 23 and 24 1990 in Cairo.

For more information about the Update, or other aspects of Dialog's activity in Egypt, please contact Akram at the following address:

> Dialog Egypt
> MarketLink
> Corniche El Nil
> PO Box 533
> Maadi
> Cairo
> Egypt
>
> Tel: +20 2 363 8921
> Fax: +20 2 362 9910

Training—Yugoslavia

Dialog Information Services announce that they have appointed Institut Ekonomskih Nauka (the Institute of Economic Sciences), in Belgrade, as their Authorized Training Agency in Yugoslavia. The Institute has several years experience in using Dialog, and will already be familiar to a number of users in Yugoslavia. Milan Živkovic and Ljiljana Berat will be running the seminars.

For more information on the training programme and other activities in Yugoslavia, please contact Ljiljana at the following address:

Institut Ekonomskih Nauka
Zmaj Jovina 12
11000 Beograd
Yugoslavia

Tel: +38 11 629 942

Hardware

CD-ROM—Renaissance Project

The development of tools for interactive CD-ROMs will be a major aim of the Renaissance Project, launched in December 1989 with over £0.5 m of funding from Apple Computer UK Ltd. Educational CD-ROMs covering Shakespeare, geography, science and mathematics should all be produced during the current academic year, as well as other multimedia training materials.

Described as 'a movement to design and develop the most appropriate ways of incorporating multimedia techniques in learning and training,' Renaissance initially involves Coventry Polytechnic, King's College London, Cambridge and Keele Universities, Anglia Higher Education College and the BBC.

Apple Computer UK Ltd is providing project management and first funding, and the hope is to extend membership to others in Britain and elsewhere in the EC.

An Advisory Board is expected to be appointed this month, drawn from education, training and government bodies, and briefings will be held during the first quarter of the year. These will be of interest to content providers and publishers, as well as developers and educators.

Contact:
Judith Coley (Apple Computer UK Ltd)
Tel: +44 1 862 3028

CD-ROM XA

Sound, video and data will all feature on a series of compact disks to be produced by Next Technology as part of an adult literacy project. The £0.5 m scheme, to run for two years with partial funding from the UK Training Agency, will conform to the CD-ROM XA standard.

Next will develop software and produce the disks, while its near neighbour, Cambridge Training and Development, will be responsible for instructional design. Other project participants include IBM and Playback, a video production company founded by Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones.

Recent studies suggest that some six million UK adults have difficulties with literacy, and that there is a need for materials suitable both for special centres and company training programmes. CD-ROM XA, says Next, offers many of the features of interactive video disk, but in a 'standardized and low-cost delivery system involving no compromises between computer and video disk technology.'

The delivery system will comprise an IBM PC with CD-ROM XA drive, VGA graphics display, and a laser printer.

Next: +44 223 420222

Software

ECHO demonstration disk

ECHO is offering a free diskette which will show all about online searching from the comfort of the home or office. The diskette gives an exact simulation of what it is like to logon and to formulate a search, and will demonstrate how the Common Command Language (CCL) can be used to find vital information from such databases as DIANEGUIDE, BROKERSGUIDE and TED (Tenders Electronic Daily).

The easy-to-use, menu-driven diskette, available for MS-DOS drives, also brings you practical advice about computer communications and how to use CCL on other database hosts.

To get your free copy, contact:
    ECHO
    PO Box 2373
    L-1023 Luxembourg

    Tel: +352 488041
    Fax: +352 488040
    Telex: 2181

Publications

Library Management

The *How-to-do-it* manuals series published by Neal Schuman can serve as a planning aid to library professionals in dealing with the diverse tasks demanded of

them. The manuals are also used as teaching aids. Titles added to the series in 1989 are:

(1) *Managing change: a how-to-do-it manual for planning, implementing, and evaluating change in libraries*, by Susan Carol Curzan.

(2) *Using Lotus 1-2-3: a how-to-do-it manual for library applications*, by Robert Machalow.

(3) *Buying books: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians*, by Audrey Eaglen.

(4) *Using OCLC: a how-to-do-it manual for libraries*, by Patricia E. Jensen.

(5) *Creating a financial plan: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians*, by Betty J. Turock.

(6) *Getting your grant: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians*, by Patricia A. Tarin.

(7) *Library space planning: a how-to-do-it manual for assessing, allocating, and reorganizing collection resources, and facilities*, by Ruth A. Fraley and Carol L. Anderson.

(8) *Communicating professionally: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians*, by Catherine Sheldrick Ross and Patricia Dewdney.

Each title is available at US $35. Orders can be placed to:
Neal Schuman
23 Leonard Street
New York, NY 10013
USA

Managing school libraries, by Anne M. Galler and Joan M. Coulter. The Hague: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, IFLA, 1989. 72 pp. Can $15.

This booklet serves as a guide for those who only have a little library training, but are organizing school libraries in Third World countries. It covers library policies, skills in organizing collections, filing rules for catalogue cards, book repairs, circulation, equipment and supplies. A list of subject headings and Simplified Dewey Decimal Classification numbers are given in the appendix. Order information from:
Anne M. Galler
Concordia University
7141 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H4B 1R6

Standards

Manual of archival description
A draft UK MARC AMC (Archives and Manuscripts Control) format has been produced by the University of Liverpool, UK, for the purpose of staff development

and training. The author is a distinguished international specialist in archives education. Copies can be obtained from:

> Michael Cook, Archives Unit
> University of Liverpool
> PO Box 147
> Liverpool L69 3BX
> UK