

NEWS

Items for publication in the News are welcomed and should be sent to:

R.F. Guy
National Library of Scotland
312-320 Lawnmarket
Edinburgh EH1 2PJ
Scotland
UK

General

European library schools

Professor Jack Meadows, of the Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Loughborough, has been awarded a grant under the *European Action Plan for Libraries* initiative, for the organization of a meeting at Loughborough University of representatives from library schools in eight of the member states of the European Community. The intention is to develop a proposal to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience in information studies between countries. It is hoped that, through sharing knowledge available in Europe, changes in curricula will be made and that there will be more cooperation on library and information studies.

School libraries in large-scale automation project

CLSI has announced details of a project taking place in the state of Florida in which 40 school libraries will be using a single library automation system supplied by CLSI.

In a contract worth \$1.3 million, CLSI is providing a single turnkey automation system for the Media Services Division of the District School Board in Pasco County, Florida. This UNIX-based system will use a large parallel processor manufactured by Sequent Computer Systems Inc. to automate the acquisitions, cataloguing and circulation of printed and audiovisual materials in resource centres at 40 schools in the country, serving a student population of over 35,000. An online catalogue will provide complete information on each library's holdings.

A five-step implementation programme is planned for the individual schools and the first group of terminals to access the system will be placed in high schools and middle schools. At the conclusion of the project, over 260 terminals will be online to

the system. Meanwhile, three schools which are currently under construction will be using CD-CAT, CLSI's public access catalogue on CD-ROM, in order to provide their pupils with a catalogue of their materials immediately.

Jonnie Spirmont, director of Pasco County's Media Services Section, commented: 'Our selection of CLSI was influenced by the company's use of state-of-the-art technology and its development of an online catalogue that is easy to use and very powerful. We are confident that our plans will contribute to the computer literacy of our student population, as well as make greater educational resources available to them.'

Computers in schools

The number of computers in US public schools translates to approximately one computer for every 30 students. The cost of providing a computer and support for every three children would run to over \$4 billion.

Forum for IBM technology

A new library forum for current and prospective users of IBM technology in libraries has been established by a group of library professionals. *INFORMA* will work with IBM to explore, develop and implement new information technologies. Its goals are: to provide a means for sharing knowledge about technological advances; to improve communication and planning between IBM and the library community; to encourage innovative approaches to using emerging technologies; to articulate the role of the library within the educational and scholarly communication process; and to strengthen libraries' organizational partnerships for information access and delivery.

More information can be obtained from D. Kaye Gaspen, on +1 608 262 2600.

Visiting Professor at Strathclyde University

Ted Nelson, 'guru, visionary and rogue intellectual,' has been appointed a Visiting Professor at the Department of Information Science. Strathclyde is delighted to welcome on board one of the great radicals of creative computing, whose foresight and tenacity have inspired important developments over the last quarter of a century.

Nelson is currently Distinguished Fellow with Autodesk Inc., the global leader in CAD/CAM software, where he is part of a team developing the hugely ambitious Xanadu system, through the Xanadu Operating Company, an Autodesk subsidiary.

He has taught, consulted, lectured and published widely. His books, *Computer lib* and *Library machines*, are acknowledged classics. His reputation does not rest solely on Xanadu: for more than two decades he has explored personal computers and their implications, and he was one of the first to predict the advent of word processing and split screens. Nelson is internationally recognized as a pioneer of hypertext, a generic label for emergent technologies which integrate and simplify the exploration of multimedia information.

Microinfo to distribute OCLC Search CD450 products in UK

OCLC Europe has announced that it has appointed Microinfo Ltd to market, distribute and support its Search CD450 products in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

'We selected Microinfo because they offer CD-ROM subscribers a comprehensive service,' said Janet Mitchell, director responsible for CD-ROM products, OCLC Europe. 'Microinfo offer an extensive range of CD-ROM hardware and CD-ROM databases and they are established distributors of many traditional information products and services, including agencies of the United States Government, which complement our CD-based reference products.'

OCLC's Search CD450 system offers subscribers 18 databases in four series: General Information; Education; Agriculture; and Science and Technology. The Search CD450 system combines both essential, authoritative databases and complementary subject databases from OCLC's Online Union Catalogue. OCLC continues to expand its range of Search CD450 databases with the release of 'The Music Library' this month.

Microinfo, a 20-year old multimedia information services company, was first in the UK to offer commercially available CD-ROM database products when these began to appear almost exactly four years ago. Prior to adding the OCLC databases, Microinfo's CD-ROM catalogue contained almost 100 titles from over 20 publishing sources; OCLC's list takes the total well beyond 100, once more confirming Microinfo's premier position as the leading source of CD-ROM services in the UK. Additionally, the company offers a comprehensive range of CD-ROM hardware, including selected drives and complete workstations, plus full technical support both before and during the life of user subscriptions.

Microinfo will include OCLC Search CD450 databases at demonstrations and forthcoming exhibitions and in a series of regional CD-ROM road shows organized in association with Philips Electronics (Interactive Media Systems Division), with whom Microinfo is working closely to further develop the UK CD-ROM market.

OCLC Europe is a branch of OCLC Online Computer Library Center, a non-profit membership organization, which is engaged in computer library service and research. More than 10,000 libraries, in 39 countries, contribute to or use information in the OCLC Online Union Catalogue, the world's largest database of library bibliographic information.

For more information, call Janet Mitchell (OCLC Europe) on +44 21 456 4656, or Roy Selwyn (Microinfo) on +44 420 86848.

Research*Health promotion through information*

Part of the government's strategy towards health services is to stress through campaigns and research the prevention of ill-health. Health promotion seeks to

enable people to make informed choices about their behaviour as it affects their health. Making information available is central to this work, but there has been as yet no systematic attempt to discover what information will best assist health promotion workers in raising public awareness.

A new research project based in Aberystwyth, Cardiff and Bangor will use interviews, workshops and questionnaires to identify, measure and evaluate the text and statistical information most useful in health promotion. Systems analysis techniques will be used to model information flows and to gain a full understanding of what information is needed and in what form it should be provided.

The project is a collaboration between the Department of Information and Library Studies in Aberystwyth, the Health Promotion Authority for Wales in Cardiff and the Bangor Health Promotion Unit of Gwynedd Health Promotion Unit of Gwynedd Health Authority. Project Directors are Tony Woodward of the Health Promotion Authority and John Hepworth of University College of Wales Aberystwyth.

Later stages of the work will assess the use by health promotion workers of databases provided by the Health Promotion Authority and will suggest ways in which the delivery and presentation of information may be enhanced. The project is being funded through the medical information programme of the British Library Research and Development Department, and the Welsh Office has facilitated the purchase of computing and telecommunication equipment for the project. The research will be described in a paper accepted for the prestigious conference *Medical Informatics Europe 90*, to be held in Glasgow later this year.

Further information from:

John Hepworth
Department of Information and Library Studies
University College of Wales Aberystwyth
Aberystwyth SY23 3AS
Dyfed
Wales, UK

Tel: +44 870 623181

Courses

University of North Texas

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, at its January 26 meeting, reapproved the Information Science PhD programme at the University of North Texas. The programme is designed to meet a pressing national need for PhDs in information science to serve in government, industry and higher education.

The programme has been recently reorganized as an interdisciplinary doctorate

under the Center for Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies. According to Dean Raymond Vondran, director of the programme, 'The University of North Texas programme will have a significant educational impact in our region, and we fully expect it to become a leading programme in the nation. The faculty here assumed a leadership position in restructuring the programme and we are indebted to them and experts throughout the country for the programme's effective multidisciplinary approach to information problems.'

At UNT, five academic units contribute to the programme: Library and Information Sciences, Business Computer Information Systems, Communication, Computer Education and Cognitive Systems, and Computer Science. Each of the participating units designates specific faculty members to participate in the programme whose research orientation is in information science. The programme is managed by an Executive Committee consisting of heads of each participating academic unit.

The programme of study centres around core areas and area concentrations. Currently, area concentrations include Information Theory and Design, Information and Behavior, and Information Policy and Management. The program is flexible so that unique concentrations, such as the biological basis of information systems, can be developed around specific student needs and the strengths of North Texas faculty. A programme committee consisting of representatives from the five participating fields is responsible for curriculum development, student admissions and academic standards.

The UNT faculty was assisted in reorganizing the programme by nationally known experts in the field. Dr Tefko Saracevic, Professor of Information Science at Rutgers University and incoming President of the American Society for Information Science, was a major architect of this reorganization. Dr Saracevic's aim was 'to construct a programme that took full advantage of the interdisciplinary roots and structure of the field, and the strengths of the University of North Texas in information science.' Dr Christine Borgman, Professor of Information Science at the University of California at Los Angeles, also helped to develop the interdisciplinary degree programme through the integration of the teaching contributions of various fields and the strengthening of the Communication element of the programme.

Three distinguished information scientists reviewed the programme for the Coordinating Board: Dr Donald Marchand, Dean of the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University; Dr Donald Kraft, Chair of the Department of Computer Science at Louisiana State University; and Dr Claude Walston, Dean of the College of Library and Information Services at the University of Maryland. The consultants unanimously recommended approval of the programme's reorganization, with each reviewer lauding the interdisciplinary approach and its uniqueness in the region.

The University of North Texas's programme is unique to the state and region. It harnesses the long-term strengths of the university in the area of information, computing and communication technologies. Over 40 leaders in the field provided written critiques and letters of support for the programme. As one reviewer remarked, 'Briefly stated, the proposal describes an innovative doctoral program with significant potential, at the opportune time, in the appropriate location.'

For further information, contact:

Raymond F. Vondran, Program Director and Dean
School of Library and Information Sciences
University of North Texas
PO Box 13796
Denton, TX 76203
USA

Tel: +1 817 565 2445

University College of Wales Aberystwyth

Distance learning information systems and services for health care

This new part-time distance learning MSc course is intended for those who are aware of the new generation of information systems in the NHS and other health organizations and who seek to acquire appropriate, marketable skills in handling a broad range of health information. The course is open to graduates and suitably experienced non-graduates.

Four modules are studied over a two-year period:

Information systems analysis and design
Contexts and users of health information
Information services and sources
Management information systems in health care

Each module comprises study materials and practical and written assignments, and there are three weekend workshops per year. Following successful completion of the modules, participants select a topic for research and undertake a dissertation.

The course is offered within the Faculty of Information Studies, University College of Wales Aberystwyth. Tutors are involved in current research and practical projects with a range of health organizations. These include work on the information requirements of health promotion personnel, on community information systems and on contract management. The new course will benefit from such contact with current developments in health information systems as well as from links with the Institute of Health Informatics to be established at Aberystwyth.

Further details of the course are available from the course director:

John B. Hepworth
Department of Information and Library Studies
University College of Wales Aberystwyth
Aberystwyth SY23 3AS
Dyfed
Wales, UK

Distance learning: school and young people's librarianship

This course is built on as a variant of the existing and successful library management degree. Students opting for the new course will still take the two

modules on Organization and Personnel Management in the first year. Then, in their second year they will take a new double module in School and Young People's Librarianship. This will comprise 16 units, in areas like: education and learning; young people, media and reading; and management aspects. Assessment over these first two years will be on written assignments produced throughout the period. Students will also attend 10 days of lectures, seminars and workshops held at Aberystwyth. The third year will be devoted to the production of a dissertation on a relevant subject chosen by the candidate in conjunction with a director of studies.

The course is intended to meet the changing needs of qualified librarians working primarily in school libraries, school libraries services and the young people's departments of the public library. It was constructed after consultation with the profession in England and Wales, and particularly with representations of the Society of County, Children's and Educational Librarians.

Since the important role of libraries in the educational process has gained wider acceptance, the need for professional librarians working in these areas to understand and be informed about educational issues has increased, so that they may play an active role in curriculum planning, information skills teaching and other activities. In addition to becoming familiar with major learning and educational theories, they also need to be aware of the implications that recent developments such as the Education Reform Act 1988, the National Curriculum and other curricular activities are having on school and public library services. Other areas which require exploration at an advanced level by young people and school librarians currently include the effects of social and technological changes on children's needs and interests, theories of reading and current publishing trends. The module will also offer advanced study of important areas in the management of libraries for young people and schools, such as collection development and aspects in resource management.

For further information, contact the Administrative Officer (address above).

NFAIS

The National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services (NFAIS) has scheduled its Fall and Winter courses as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 12 September 1990 | <i>Overview of the information industry</i> Washington, DC |
| 9-10 October 1990 | <i>Indexing—how it works</i> Washington, DC |
| 11 October 1990 | <i>Hiring, training, and retaining indexers</i> Washington, DC |
| 14 November 1990 | <i>Train the trainer</i> Philadelphia, PA |
| 27 November 1990 | <i>The ABCs of information marketing</i> Philadelphia, PA |
| 29-31 January 1991 | <i>Indexing—how it works</i> <i>Computer-assisted training</i> Southern California |

1 February 1991 *Hiring, training, and retaining indexers*
Southern California

Founded in 1958, NFAIS is a non-profit member organization comprising over 60 leading information producers, distributors and users. Its purpose is to serve the world's information community through education, research and publication. Contact:

Janet Freytes
NFAIS
1429 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
USA

Tel: +1 215 563 2406
Fax: +1 215 563 2848

Library schools

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

McGill University was the first institution in Canada to provide training in librarianship and the first to grant a degree in library science. Short summer programmes were given from 1904 until 1927 and the first regular sessional programme commenced in 1927–28. Since those early days, the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies has established a strong tradition in library science whilst meeting today's needs for education in the rapidly expanding area of information technology. The school has been particularly fortunate in establishing a well-equipped information technology laboratory in which students can gain experience in the latest methods of data storage and retrieval.

The broad sweep of the school's curriculum is best illustrated by the more than 40 courses offered regularly by full- and part-time faculty. These include:

Reference materials and methods
Systems analysis
History of books and printing
Information storage and retrieval
Rare books
Library automation and networking
Conservation and preservation
Bilingual information systems
Research methods
Records management

The full-time faculty of the school are involved in diverse research activities ranging from literacy studies and investigations of the relationship between public

libraries and municipal administrations to database and thesaurus construction. Such research not only helps to foster an atmosphere of scholarship within the school but also contributes to the development of the library and information profession.

The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, with an annual enrolment of around 60, attracts students for its two-year (full-time or part-time equivalent) Master of Library and Information Studies programme from a wide variety of backgrounds and geographical areas. The record for placing students in employment at the end of the programme is excellent and its alumni hold senior positions in the library and information science world. Recent graduates have secured information posts in a wide variety of environments, including banking, law, education, engineering, pharmaceutical industry, the media and government.

Further information can be obtained from:

Graduate School of Library and Information Studies
McGill University
3459 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y1
Canada

Tel: +1 514 398 4204

Fax: +1 514 398 7193

Software

Computer-assisted training for medical students

Medical images from scanners and X-rays may be more efficiently used thanks to a Community-supported project, *Medimag*. Télésystèmes put together a new image bank computer-assisted training package consisting of a videodisk of 30,000 medical images on numerical and conventional radiology, ecography, magnetic resonance images and scanner images, together with a database and a microcomputer. The student will then have at his or her disposal, for example, an X-ray image plus related medical information about the patient and, if necessary, other pertinent images.

Contact:

Ms Christine Raulin
Télésystèmes Questel
83-85 Bd Vincent Auriol
75013 Paris
France

Tel: +33 1 4582 6464

Communications

A-COM 2.0—the communications software with built-in command translation—is now available in the UK. Information Automation Ltd has become the UK agent following a recent agreement with *Die Info Agentur* of Vienna. A-COM 2.0 offers automatic command translation between a host language with which a user is familiar and a less familiar one. This allows purchasers to use a greater range of online services than would be possible if new command languages had to be learned every time new online hosts were to be accessed.

A-COM 2.0 offers standard communications facilities such as automatic logon, data capture and online printing; as well as the ability to upload previously stored search strategies, translating the commands to the current host's command language as it does so. It has a powerful built-in text editor—in addition to the special editors for searches and logon sequences—so that user-specific help pages and long text files to be sent to other computers by e-mail can easily be created without leaving the system. The built-in help facility allows explanations of A-COM 2.0 use as well as help with whichever host (user guide) is being used at the time. Additional user guides for specific databases can also be purchased. Built-in error messages are context-sensitive to the extent that they are given for whichever command on whichever host is being typed currently.

Hosts currently supported are FIZ Technik, BRS, Data-Star, Dialog, Télé systèmes Questel, Orbit and STN; with ESA-IRS to be added next. The command translation works with any of these as the source (known) language and any as the target language. A-COM 2.0 can also be used as a communications package for other hosts not listed here.

A-COM 2.0 will retail in the UK at £440, with database-specific user guides available for £48 each. Information Automation Ltd now has a range of products for users of online and CD-ROM information sources; for further information on A-COM 2.0 or our other activities, please contact:

Chris Armstrong
Information Automation Ltd
'Penbryn'
Bronant
Aberystwyth SY23 4TJ
Wales, UK

Tel: +44 97 421 302

Publications

Training coordinator's manual: a handbook for training preprofessionals at a reference desk, by K. Judith Ohles. Guides for non-classroom use, test and evaluation instruments, 1988. 66 pp. (ED 301 221).

Teachers of library reference courses will be pleased to note this handbook offered as a guide to reference librarians for developing a training programme. Four aspects of training are discussed briefly: planning, preparation, execution and evaluation. Examples of resources used for training student reference assistants are provided. This manual was created by a reference librarian at Kent State University in the USA who was responsible for training and supervising graduate library science students for reference work. The price is MF \$0.75, PC \$5.40 plus postage.

Valuing corporate libraries

The opinions of senior-level managers at 164 corporations regarding their libraries and information centres and the information specialists who run them are captured in a study, *Valuing corporate libraries*, published recently by the Special Libraries Association (SLA) in cooperation with Temple, Barker & Sloane (TBS), a Massachusetts-based management consulting firm. The study, authored by SLA members Jim Matarazzo and Larry Prusak (also a principal at TBS), and TBS principal Michael Gauthier, resulted from a request made by the SLA Task Force on the Value of the Information Professional. The Task Force's 1987 report highlighted the need for additional research on how the corporate world values its libraries and information centres.

Topics of the 12-page study include management's criteria for evaluating libraries ('a substantial proportion of the respondents declared they had no procedures'), most valuable types of information (almost 80% cited database searching as a key service), and the value of services rendered.

'Like all good research,' writes SLA Executive Director David R. Bender in his introduction to the study, 'the investigation raises questions that call for additional research, suggests new explorations and proposes possible solutions to some of the problems identified.'

For a copy of the study, send a check for \$5 to:

SLA
Attn: Order Department
1700 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009
USA

Publishing

Bowker-Saur acquires leading library journals

Bowker-Saur Ltd, part of Reed International, have extended the range of their library and information science publishing with the acquisition from the UK Library Association of five indexing and abstracting serials, together with the *Journal of librarianship*, thus bringing together three library publishing traditions. From the late 19th century the name R.R. Bowker has been synonymous with

bibliographic and reference publishing in the United States. The publishing house of K.G. Saur was founded in 1948 to publish similar reference tools for the European library community and is official publisher to IFLA.

The roots of the publishing tradition represented by the former Library Association Publishing serials go back to 1915 and the establishment of the *Subject index to current periodicals*—the parent of the present *British humanities index (BHI)* and the *Current technology index (CTI)*, which have built up a reputation for the quality of their indexing. A newer service, *Applied social sciences index and abstracts (ASSIA)* brings together up-to-date information about social issues.

Library and information science abstracts (LISA) and *Current research in library and information science* are abstracting journals devoted to the coverage of research, developments and ongoing projects in the library field. Both are online and *LISA* is available on CD-ROM. The *Journal of librarianship* started publication in 1969 and over 20 years has established an international reputation for its reporting of significant developments in all aspects of library and information work.

At the takeover on 11 April, Shane O'Neill, Managing Director of Bowker-Saur, said: 'We are delighted with this acquisition. With it we will become the leading library and information science publisher in the United Kingdom. We are also excited by the publishing opportunities presented by the journals' databases.'

For further information, contact:

Liz Totterdell, Promotions Manager
Bowker-Saur Ltd
Borough Green
Sevenoaks
Kent TN15 8PH
UK

Tel: +44 132 884567
Fax: +44 132 884530

Bowker-Saur acquires microform publishing interests of Meckler Corporation

Following the acquisition of abstracting and indexing journals previously published by the UK Library Association, and the bibliographic publishing programme of Swiss publisher Francke Verlag, the Bowker-Saur companies are pleased to announce the addition of the microform publications programme published by Meckler Corporation of Westport, Connecticut, USA, to their list.

This latest acquisition includes *Microforms in print* (both Author/Title and Subject Guide), *Microforms marketplace* and *Microform review*. Together, these three titles comprise the major bibliographic and review publications in the area of microform publishing. Bowker-Saur Chief Executive Dr Klaus G. Saur said:

The acquisition of these prestigious international library reference publications is a further step in the establishment of Bowker-Saur as a leading publisher of international bibliographic reference media. The acquisition of these signifi-

cant microform publishing titles will enable Bowker-Saur to further its cooperation with the international library community by providing bibliographic and reference support to worldwide preservation efforts through the use of the microform as an essential preservation medium.

For more information, write to Bowker-Saur at the address above.