News

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

General

Honour

Karen Takle Quinn, FID (Fédération Internationale d'Information et de Documentation) affiliate since 1963, was honoured as the 1990 Distinguished Alumna at the 28th Annual Symposium of the Graduate Alumni and Faculty of the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies (SCILS). Karen was presented with a hand-scribed diploma framed with the black and red of Rutgers University. In addition, her name was added to the permanent roster of Distinguished Alumni on display at SCILS in New Brunswick, NJ.

Karen was recognized for her innovation and contributions to the fields of engineering, librarianship, office automation and information management. Among the specific contributions cited were her exemplary internship programme for library and information science students; integrated library, computer information and learning centre model; and her numerous publications. Several years ago she was elected Fellow of the Institute of Information Scientists in the UK. Her 25-year career with the IBM corporation has forged new career paths for librarians within corporate environments. Karen is currently a product consultant in the strategy and market planning organization at IBM's Santa Teresa Laboratory in California.

Karen has been a member of several library and information science faculties teaching information technology and management courses. Most recently she has been teaching for the International School for Information Management (SIM) in Santa Barbara. ISIM faculty members use the Connect(sm) Professional Information Network, personal computers and modems to teach distant learning information management graduate courses and related information technology seminars to students throughout the USA.

Obituary

† *Kenneth Lowry* †

It is with great sadness that FID announces the death in May 1990 of a past president, W. Kenneth Lowry (76), chief architect of the world's first computerized library network while a director at AT&T Bell Laboratories. Before retiring in 1979, Lowry directed the development of an electronically connected technical information network that became a model for other industrial libraries.

A native of Waynesburg, PA, he was a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Colombia University with a master's degree in library science. During World War II he served with the US Naval Air Transport Service in the Pacific. He was director of the US Army Library from 1949 to 1956. For his service to the international information community, he was given a NATO Distinguished Service Citation and two US Air Force Superior Performance awards, and he was awarded a silver medal by Pope Paul VI.

He joined AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1956 as director of the Technical Information Libraries, which later became the Libraries and Information Systems Centre. While at Bell Labs, he was named president of the International Federation for Documentation (1965–1968), and was active in the National Science Foundation. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Information Scientists, vice chairman of the Engineers Joint Council's Information Systems Committee, and served on numerous technical information advisory boards for the government, industry and universities.

FID Special Interest Group Chairman

The recently set up FID Special Interest Group on Training for Information Resources Management (see under 'Training' later in this *News* section) will be chaired by Dean Richard Lytle, College of Information Studies, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA. Tel: +1 215 895 2475. Further information on the group is available from Dean Lytle.

Royal School of Librarianship, Copenhagen

From September 1990 a two-year full-time programme begins at the Royal School of Librarianship, Copenhagen and Aalborg, leading to the degree of Master of Library and Information Science. After four years of preparation and intense negotiation with universities, central educational and administrative bodies and ministries, the school has finally succeeded in obtaining permission to launch the programme.

The curriculum consists of three major elements—information science and IR theory, information management and economics, and applied information science—and ends with a thesis.

The first element deals mainly with information science as a scientific discipline, its relations to other scientific areas, epistemological issues concerning the concept

of information and information transfer and—in particular—IR theories, including theoretical developments of representation and techniques as well as user modelling theories.

The second element contains core issues of information management and IRM, macro-economics related to information policy making, information economics, organizational problems and the impact of IT in view of innovation and change. An advanced statistical course is added which includes methods of evaluation.

The third element merges the two previous ones into what is called 'applied information science,' i.e. where theories and methodologies are turned into forms of applications. Issues are information systems design and design processes, indexing systems design and IR, including expert systems and interface design problems, bibliometrics and user didactics. A specific theme can be selected by students, e.g. incorporating new media or specific information environments.

By combining information science and management, the programme opens up several new job possibilities aside from the traditional ones in libraries, institutions and business in Denmark and abroad: they include R&D positions, executive information management offices and marketing positions in the information industry.

Courses

State University of New York at Albany

An interdisciplinary doctoral programme in information science begins this academic year at the State University of New York at Albany. The new programme is a collaboration of five academic units of the university: the Graduate School of Public Affairs, the School of Information Science and Policy, the School of Business, the Computer Science Department and the Communication Department. The senior programme faculty also includes research scholars from several other disciplines. It is directed by Thomas J. Galvin, former dean of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science and, most recently, executive director of the American Library Association.

The program is designed to draw on the University at Albany's multidisciplinary research strengths in information theory, information organization, information management and information policy. Advanced specializations and research opportunities will initially be offered in group-decision support modelling; organization of knowledge records; information decision systems; and expert and knowledge-based systems. Built on the scientist-practitioner model, it will emphasize the application of research findings to problems of professional practice. The programme will prepare graduates both for academic careers in information science and related disciplines, as well as for higher-level management and policy positions in private sector or governmental organizations.

The new programme is closely allied with Albany's Institute for the Study of Information Science. The institute provides a focus for the information-related

research of some 40 scholars and senior information professionals from 15 univer-
sity academic departments and agencies of New York State government. Major
current institute research activities center on the application of geographic informa-
tion systems to social policy analysis, development and evaluation of management
information systems for both public and private sector organizations and the
identification of innovative solutions to problems involving information technology
in government.

Prospective students should write to:
    Dr Thomas J. Galvin
    118 Draper Hall
    University at Albany
    Albany, NY 12222
    USA

Birmingham Polytechnic UK

The School of Information Studies at Birmingham Polytechnic is launching a new
BA (Hons) degree course in Information and Library Studies, which aims to bring
together the theoretical and the practical skills needed by information workers. The
course will have four pathways which provide choice in business information,
information management, public libraries and libraries in education. The course is
only three years, which includes a nine-month paid placement in an information
service or library. A key component is work experience with a highly structured
training programme. Study can be either by full-time or part-time mode.

Further information is available from:
    Birmingham Polytechnic
    Perry Barr
    Birmingham B42 2SU
    UK

    Tel: +44 21 331 5625.

Leeds Polytechnic, UK

A new MSc in Information Studies started at Leeds Polytechnic in October 1990. It
replaces the Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship and Information Work and
aims to prepare students for jobs in both 'traditional librarianship' and in the newer
information professions. The course is part of the master's programme within the
Faculty of Information and Engineering Systems. It offers modules designed specifi-
cally for the library and information community and also provides access to
modules on the Information Systems and Software Engineering courses and on
master's courses in other faculties. All students take core modules on Information
and Society, The Information Cycle, Management, Communication and Research
Skills and a package of electives relevant to their preferred career destination. The

course is completed by a major project on a topic of the student's choosing. Further information about the course can be had from:

> The Admissions Tutor, MSc (Information Studies)
> Faculty of Information and Engineering Systems
> Leeds Polytechnic
> The Grange
> Beckett Park
> Leeds LS6 3QS
> UK

International School of Information Management, USA

The International School of Information Management offers online graduate courses and master's degree programmes in Information Resources Management. A personal computer and a modem are necessary to communicate with faculty and fellow students. Courses may be completed at your home or office and focus on providing opportunities for advanced study which will enable information professionals to integrate information and management skills. Sample course titles include: Records Mangement; Managing the Knowledge Worker; Database Management Systems; Discovering and Evaluating Information Resources in Organizations; Small Computers in Business; and Ethics in the Technological World. For more information write to:

> International School of Information Management
> 18662 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 200
> Irvine, CA 92715
> USA

> Tel: +1 714 955 9224

Victoria University of Technology, Australia

In February 1991, RMIT introduced its revised undergraduate programme, the Bachelor of Business (Information and Library Management). In October 1990, the processes of accreditation from all education authorities were completed.

This degree combines studies in library and information management, information technology, a cluster of business subjects and a two-year minor specialization. The minor specializations available include marketing, politics, business systems, computer science, history, psychology and economics, amongst others.

The new degree comprises three academic years of study, with a 'sandwich' or 'cooperative education' year of employment between the second and third academic years. Students who already have substantial relevant work experience, will not be required to complete the 'cooperative education' year. An Honours year will be available for high achieving students. The Honours year will provide advanced entry into the Master of Business (Information Technology) programme as with the present four-year programme.

Library Technicians will continue to receive credit for their previous studies by exemption from at least the first year of the specialist subjects and should be able to complete the course in four or five years of part-time study.

For more information, please contact:

Patricia Owen
RMIT
Victoria University of Technology
GPO Box 2476 V
Melbourne
Victoria 300
Australia

Seminars

Library and Information Studies in Europe 1992

Key academic staff in the teaching of library and information studies (LIS) throughout the European Community need to know about many things. The spring seminar being organized by the Library Association in London is one of them. This is a five-day event (26–31 March 1992) designed to examine significant issues for educators in LIS. During the event, participative working groups will explore such topics as educational standards and the relevance of course content in the changing environment of Europe in the 1990s and beyond. Keynote papers will be delivered on educational policies in the Community, library and information studies in the Community, and curriculum development. Visits to two departments of LIS in the UK will take place in order to review materials and methods and to stimulate the exchange of experience.

As the number of places is limited, a selection process may be necessary to ensure a balanced representation from member states of the Community and across subject areas. The event is part of the Continuing Professional Development Programme of the Library Association. Sponsorship from the British Council and the British Library R&D Department is gratefully acknowledged.

The director of studies, to whom correspondence should be addressed, is Miss Gileon Holroyd:

Continuing Education Department
The Library Association
7 Ridgmount Street
London WC1E 7AE
UK

Tel: +44 71 636 7543
Fax: +44 71 436 7218
LA-net 2001

Conferences

IFLA Conference 1991, Moscow: call for papers

Plans are now being prepared for the 1991 IFLA Conference in Moscow, where the Section on Education and Training proposes to arrange a panel debate on changes taking place in the world, and their implications for professional education.

The Standing Committee of the section has issued an open invitation for short papers (not more than 10 to 15 minutes) to be presented to initiate the debate. Typical themes might be:

Reciprocity of qualifications
The European open market 1992
East/West rapprochment
Cultural impacts of colonialism
Emergence of the Pacific/Asia area
The North/South gap

Proposals from prospective speakers and panel members on the themes outlined above should be sent in the form of an informative abstract of about 300 words to the section's secretary, Maxine Rochester. It will be open to anyone to offer a paper, but an invitation to speak carries no offer of funding. Speakers have to pay their own conference fee and travel expenses. However, it is hoped that an invitation from the section may be helpful in negotiating assistance from funding agencies.

The address to write to is:

Dr Maxine Rochester
Associate Professor
School of Information Studies
Charles Sturt University—Riverina
PO Box 588
Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650
Australia

Fax: +61 69 222 733

Finland: call for papers

The Department of Library and Information Science, University of Tampere, Finland, and the Finnish Association for Library and Information Science are organizing an international conference on 'Conceptions of library and information science—historical, empirical and theoretical perspectives,' to be held on 26–28 August 1991. The aim of the conference is to scrutinize library and information science as a discipline and as a field of research. The conference will be a forum for scholarly and scientific interaction in the domain of the analysis of LIS. Original

research papers are solicited on the themes of historical, theoretical and empirical perspectives.

For further details contact:
Professor Pertti Vakkari
Department of Library and Information Science
University of Tampere
POB 607
33101 Tampere
Finland

Tel: +358 31 156 968
Fax: +358 31 157 150

Training

Information resources management

The purpose of this outline is to structure a discussion of the scope of the training activities of the FID Special Interest Group on Training for Information Resources Management (SIG TIRM). Initially this discussion will take place by correspondence with those interested in the work of the SIG. Later, a meeting will be scheduled for intensive discussion and elaboration. The result will be a definition of the scope and work plan for the SIG that should be completed in January 1991.

Careful attention to scope is required because IRM has many facets. We need to identify all facets that may be of interest to FID training and then trim and focus the list.

The following outline gives an impression of the issues under the attention of the SIG.

Lifecycle of information
Multidisciplinary information systems engineering approach to system development
User requirements emphasis in information systems design
Architecture of all information resources
Information plan linked to strategic business plan
Information manager's accountability for information resources
Education for the modern information manager
Information behaviour of the user
Internal and external information focused on business purposes
Design and management of the information technology architecture
Data administration

The scope of interest of the SIG TIRM will include interests of many other FID SIGs, but the emphasis of the activities of SIG TIRM will be on training. The expertise of members of other SIGs will be sought out for participation in training activities and

thc programme and activities will be coordinated with the FID Education and Training Committee.

Those persons interested in the work of the FID SIG should contact:

Dr Richard Lytle
College of Information Studies
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA 19104
USA

Tel. +1 215 895 2475

Research

Information needs of migrants

The School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Technology Sydney, together with AGB: McNair Research, a leading market research organization, has been contracted by the Bureau of Immigration Research of the Commonwealth Department of Immigration, Government and Ethnic Affairs to carry out a national study of the needs of migrants for information before they arrive in Australia. The study has been conducted in three states and involved interviews with various categories of migrants including businessmen, students and refugees, as well as discussions with 25 information providers from government and community sectors.

The principal researchers were Susan Edwards, Senior Lecturer, and Mairead Browne, Professor of Information Studies and Head of School, assisted by members of the School of Library and Information Studies staff at various stages of the work.

For further information contact:

Professor Mairead Browne
School of Library and Information Studies
University of Technology Sydney
Kuring-gai Campus
PO Box 123
Broadway, NSW 1007
Australia

Information needs of the media

Research into the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of journalists and researchers in the national media in Wales is being carried out by the Department of Information and Library Studies, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. The research, led by James Medhurst, will contribute to a field which has hitherto received very little attention. The work will contribute to a field of

information science which has received the attention of the department in recent years. Over the summer of this year, the department held workshops and short courses on information sources and services for researchers in the Welsh media, and several members of staff from the department have undertaken consultancy work on information services to the broadcast media in Wales.

The media industry in Wales is one which has developed rapidly in recent years and one which is central, in many respects, to the life of the Welsh nation. This research, funded by the Department of Education and Science, will study what kind of information is most needed by media workers in Wales, the way in which these needs are satisfied and the ends to which information is used. Although studies of this kind are not uncommon, the field in which the research is being undertaken—the press and broadcast media in Wales—is certainly new. It is hoped that such work will result in further research by others, and will lead to a better understanding of an area which may have been neglected in the past.

For further information contact:

    Geraint Evans
    Department of Information and Library Studies
    The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth
    Llanbadarn Fawr
    Aberystwyth
    Dyfed SY23 3AS
    Wales
    UK

    Tel. +44 970 622 180

Information needs of health workers

The Health PROMPT research project, based in the Department of Information and Library Studies, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, has recently ended its first phase well within schedule. The project, a collaboration between the health information team in the department and the Health Promotion Authority for Wales, has been investigating the information needs of health promotion workers in Welsh district health authorities.

The information requirements analysis of this first phase was made during a series of group workshops at each of the two test sites, with additional information gained from extended interviews with a number of 'opinion leaders' and a questionnaire sent to all the health promotion advisors in Wales.

Soft Systems Methodology was the choice for the project methodology of Phase 1. 'Rich pictures' were developed at the workshops to represent the activities, information flows and the environment of the health promotion advisor. These were used, through participative means, to produce a 'root definition,' a succinct description of the activity of health promotion as perceived by workers at the two test sites. The project team then devised conceptual models to indicate the information system necessary to accomplish what was defined in the root definition. These models were

used during further workshops to encourage radical thought as to improvement of existing systems.

The results of the information requirements analysis, together with the models, have been submitted to the computerized database service that is expected to be available in the future to all the health promotion workers in Wales, giving them quick and easy access to the data that they require to be more effective in their work.

The team in Aberystwyth are now working on Phase 2 of the project, monitoring the performance of the new system in order to make recommendations on its development to the Health Promotion Authority. The team is due to make its final report available in January 1991.

For further information contact John Hepworth at the Department of Library and Information Studies, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth (address above).

Library provision to prisons

At the Department of Information and Library Studies, University Collge of Wales, Aberystwyth, research is being undertaken into quality assurance for library provision to penal establishments. The provision of an effective prison library service relies upon maximizing cooperation between the Home Office, individual penal establishments and local public library authorities. Recognition of this need to assess the role of libraries within prisons has prompted new research into measuring the level of service currently provided. The research will lead to recommendations for the development of the prison library service, particularly with regard to the development of performance indicators and quality assurance programmes.

For further information please contact John Hepworth (address above).

Software

MINISIS

A new and approved version of the MINISIS software is due to be made available late in 1991 by the Canada-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The update—dubbed Version H—will be able to run on microcomputers (PC XT/AT or 100% compatible) as well as the HP 3000 series minicomputer. It will provide a totally integrated relational database system with a user-friendly interface. A special feature of Version H will be a 4GL language development tool called the Application Specification Toolbox (AST). The centre's Computer Systems Group (CSG) will use this to develop applications for Version H; it will subsequently be offered to users to enable them to develop their own or modify existing applications.

Applications currently being developed by CSG are: the standard MINISIS application (SMA); the inter-agency development research information system (IDRIS), and the integrated library system (ILS). SMA will incorporate all of the functions of MINISIS Version G.

q-CAL

q-CAL is a microcomputer-based training package which, without taking its users online, teaches the skills of online searching on the Questel databases. Using traditional computer-assisted learning (CAL) techniques, q-CAL introduces users to the commands necessary for searching the databases on Questel. This approach has the advantages of being readily available for use within an organization at all times at no extra cost, and of presenting structured training which users may follow at their own speed and in their own time.

q-CAL is a self-contained package which first instructs and then simulates the Questel software as trainees try out the commands they have been taught as if performing a real search online. Users are shown how to connect to Questel, choose databases, search, display and print records, and end a session. The search instruction includes the use of truncation, proximity operators, Boolean operators and numerical operators.

q-CAL is broken down into nine separate lessons for ease of use and every time it is used, four pages of text remind users of the keys to use in order to page through the lessons.

q-CAL comes on a single diskette and may be used either directly or after transfer to a fixed disk. English-language versions of q-CAL are currently available at a cost of £25. Information Automation Limited has also marketed two larger training packages for a number of years. Software for both ESA-IRS (the *Online Search Tutor junior*) and DIMDI is available; DIMDIS *GRIPS-Learn* is available in either English or German. All packages are available from the following address:

Information Automation Limited
Penbryn, Bronant
Aberystwyth
Dyfed SY23 4TJ
Wales
UK

Tel: +44 97 421 302

Publications

Briefings for libraries

The busy professional in the library and information business can benefit from ten briefings a year from IBS to keep him or her abreast of important aspects of the legal and political environment of information, with an emphasis on new technologies. Published by the Library and Information Technology Centre in conjunction with the British Library R&D Department, LIBS include topics such as the net book agreement, joint academic network, OSI interlending protocol, EC IMPACT and

Library programmes, hypertext, optical storage techniques, expert systems and workstations for end users. For further information, contact:

Mary Feeney
The Data Workshop
Rose Cottage, School Road
Elmswell
Bury St Edmond IP30 9EA
UK

Tel: +44 359 41901

News from the schools

University College of Wales, Aberystwyth

Demand has exceeded available places on the *Information Systems and Services for Health Care* distance learning MSc launched this year by the Department of Information and Library Studies, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. The course is intended for those who seek marketable skills in handling the broad range of health information. It has attracted applicants whose present posts or career intentions require an understanding of the principles and practices needed in health information management.

Applications have been received at the rate of 2.5 per available place, and the department has been able to select high-calibre candidates holding a range of posts in health care. The intake includes an information officer in a mental health unit, an operational research officer, an information systems assistant, an AIDS information coordinator, two medical librarians, a health authority manpower planner, a District General Hospital biochemist and a research officer in health care evaluation. Eleven students began their studies at a weekend school in Aberystwyth on 28–30 September 1990.

Financial support has been given to candidates by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, six health authorities in Wales, Scotland and England, the University of Wales College of Medicine and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine of the University of Bristol.

First-year modules include The Contexts and Users of Health Information and Information Systems Analysis and Design, whilst second-year modules include Information Sources and Services and Management Information Systems. Three weekend schools are held each year and the third year is devoted to a dissertation. Much of the work set is designed to relate to workplace situations and is linked to case-study activity. The department's collaborative research links in Wales and beyond provide an opportunity to incorporate current research work into the course.

Course director John Hepworth comments: 'Applicants are already accepted for

September 1991 and it is clear that the new course has identified a demand for flexible study schemes at higher degree level in health information. Along with our existing research activity and health information courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level, the new course brings to the department an interesting cross-section of people currently working with health information.'