

News, Trends and Comments

News

APOLLO

The European Commission is now preparing an action programme for electronic publishing and document delivery as an extension to EURONET. The programme will consist of pilot experiments covering the full chain of functions from document capture in electronic form, storage, online ordering, transmission to printing at the user's terminal. The pilot experiments will be supported by a number of studies. One of these has now been published: a satellite communication test, called APOLLO, is being planned, to be carried out by the European Space Agency.

Reviews

In cooperation with Ohm sha, Tokyo, North-Holland Publishing Co. announces the publication of Japan Annual Reviews in Electronics, Computers and Telecommunications (JARECT) 1982. Four volumes are planned: on semiconductor technologies, amorphous semiconductor technologies and devices, optical devices and fibers and on computer science and technology. Further information: our publisher.

Conferences

Mar. 30-Apr. 1, 1982: Third National Online Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, New York City, U.S.A. (organized by Learned Information).

June 28-30, 1982: Videotex '82, Hilton Hotel, New York City, U.S.A. (organized by Online Conferences Ltd.).

People on the move

Peripathetic perigrinations continue apace in the explosive information industry. Our correspondents report: Diane Hoffmann formerly of ISI, has moved from a short stint at Business International, to BRS. Gwen Levine of SDC to an as yet unnamed California bank and out of information industry as a direct

business market. Karen Sigler of Environment Information Center to graduate school in California, John Dean, marketing director of CAS to a marketing assignment in Chemical Publications (based in California). Martha Williams has been elected Chairman of the NLM Board of Regents at its end of May meeting. Dr. Janne Hunter, formerly chairwoman of the German Online User Group, has now left the Central Medical Library in Cologne to take up a position in the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia.

IRL sold

A report reaches us that Information Retrieval Limited has sold all of its databases (and publications) to Cambridge Scientific Abstracts in the U.S.

ADONIS to be offered by Pergamon, Elsevier and others

Pergamon, Springer Verlag, Elsevier and Blackwell's have announced plans for ADONIS (Article Delivery Over Network Information Service) to provide demand document publication.

American publishing group to sue libraries

A copyright violation suit will be launched by the Association of American Publishers (AAP) against selected special library targets. The names of plaintiffs (journal publishers) and defendants (libraries) have not been released as we go to press.

ISI sued for antitrust

In the same litigious mode, we learn that the journal Scanning Electron Microscopy is suing the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) for U.S. antitrust law violation. It is alleged that by not allowing the journal to be displayed in Current Contents the journal has a lower volume of sales and that reprint sales are adversely affected. ISI states that the suit is a "nuisance action" and "completely capricious".

New tripartite joint venture announced

A joint venture designed to engage in research projects has been formed in the U.S. Amicus Research Group Ltd. is supported by Berul (Larry) Associates, Rockville, MD, Cuadra (Carlos) Associates, Santa Monica, CA and Peyton R. Neal and Associates, Arlington, VA. Seems like a lot of associating Associates.

INTUG

INTUG, the International Telecommunications Users Group, has published a 16-page newsletter which is interesting reading. There are items on the relaxation of telecommunications monopolies, the British telecoms bill, the Washington ICA congress, the Cologne telecoms conference/fair in November, their relationships with CCITT and other bodies, television conferencing and several internal matters. There are five pages with news from the national groups in the various INTUG-countries. Moreover, there is an appendix about intra-enterprises telecommunication satellites. For more information or a copy contact the editor: Donald Stephenson, Bywell House, St. Mary's Hill, South Ascot SL5 9AP, Berks., U.K..

OCLC to open U.K. office

Under increasing competition Ohio College Library Center is moving to strengthen its non-U.S. customer base. Latest move is the opening of an office in Birmingham, U.K.

University of Georgia ends SDI operations

The University of Georgia, pioneer batch operator is withdrawing from all database processing activities (sci/tech literature). As might be expected, online was a major factor, but funding difficulties also played a role.

Dutch study on micro-electronics

Earlier (ISU 1 (1981), 45) we reported on a huge Dutch study on the impact of micro-electronics. The results of the umbrella-study have now been published and they have been the subject of a seminar on October 6th. The report (regrettably in Dutch) costs Dfl.45,00; it is available from Delftse Universitaire Pers, Mijnbouwplein 11, 2628 RT Delft, The Netherlands. In the mill are also reports on the impact of micro-electronics in 10 specific areas: cattle-breeding, publishing, process innovation, product innovation, design, banking, the office, the travel world, taxation and medicine. They are only Dfl.5,00 per copy and very good reading if your Dutch is good enough. Possibilities for getting English translations are being investigated; we will keep you informed and hope to be able to publish English summaries.

Data Courier training aids

Data Courier Inc. (620 South Fifth Street, Louisville, KY 40202, U.S.A.) is marketing two audiovisual training packages for their databases ABI/INFORM

and PNI (Pharmaceutical News Index). If you are a regular user of their databases apply for their newsletter Database News; it's good!

Pergamon get INPADOC

Pergamon has announced that it has acquired exclusive marketing rights for the products of the International Patent Documentation Center (INPADOC). The services offered and the marketing units will vary, but search bureau activities are scheduled and microfiche will be sold by Pergamon Press, Pergamon International (U.S.) and Pergamon Press-Canada.

BIOSIS announces new field representatives for France, Australia

BIOSIS has announced appointment of three new field representatives who perform educational activities for the U.S. database producer. Philomena Lapsley and Barbara Gow will handle Australia from Sydney and Monique Lecocq will handle the French programmes from Brussels. For information on 1981-1982 programmes write BIOSIS User Services, 2100 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Databases

It is impossible to keep up with the addition of new databases to one or another system in the United States. ISU (this journal) will do its best, but the listing below is not warranted as complete or necessarily reflecting operational status:

SYSTEM	DATABASE	PRODUCER
MEAD DATA CENTRAL (LEXIS/NEXIS)	Encyclopaedia Britannica	Britannica
	Ibid., Book of the Year	
	Yearbook of Science	
	Yearbook of Science and the Future	
	Medical and Health Annual	
DIALOG	Biography Master Index	Gale Research
	Career Placement Registry	Plenum
	World Metal Index	Sheffield City Library (U.K.)
	MARC REMARC	Library of Congress
BRS	BRS Bulletin	BRS
	World Metal Index	Sheffield City Library (U.K.)
SDC-ORBIT	World Metal Index	Ibid.

More databases

TEXTLINE is now available as (according to the brochure) "Europe's online business information service". Write to: Finsbury Data Services Ltd., 68/74 Carter Lane, London EC4V 5EA, U.K..

Even more databases

On SDC: TROPAG (agriculture in tropics and subtropics), SWRA (Selected Water Resources Abstracts) and CASSI (Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index). Who is going to write an authoritative review for this journal on present availability of databases, not just a summing-up (there are plenty of those), but an analysis of trends and gaps?

Tools of the trade

Software Review, published by Microform Review Inc. is intended to "provide the educational and library community with the information to make intelligent software evaluation and procurement decisions." A semi-annual, SR is priced at \$38.00 in the U.S. and is \$43.00 for non-U.S. subscribers. Enquire from Microform Review Inc., 520 Riverside Ave., Westport, CN 06880, U.S.A.

Multilingual computer people: there is now a Dictionary of data processing (German-English-French). Two volumes, 1900 pages, to be ordered from Data-kontext Verlag GmbH, Postfach 400553, 5000 Koeln 40, FRG at a reasonable cost of ca. DM150.00.

NLM vs. Excerpta Medica or Excerpta Medica vs. NLM

NLM Director Dr. Martin M. Cummings takes to the pages of *Science* (vol. 212, 5 June, 1981) to voice concern at proposed legislation that would not allow NLM to provide users with information products unless fees are charged that recover the full cost of the services. Excerpta Medica officer Alex Adler has given testimony that indicates EM finds its continued existence threatened by unfair competition from the United States Government through the NLM. Cummings is quoted as saying that "The real reason I'm opposed to this (the amendment) is that it makes the private sector more competitive". There is much more in the paper and ISU will try to keep readers abreast of further developments.

Trends

Compact journals

Electronic publishing is on its way. A project between the (former) Dutch Ministry for Science Policy, North-Holland Publishing Co., Nijmegen University and the Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik in Karlsruhe is investigating the feasibility of what is called 'compact journals'. They consist of a number of (smaller) papers which are electronically stored and made available online. In the first test phase of the project with a 1000-record database valuable information has been collected about the input-mechanism and the requirements for the retrieval software.

Downloading coming up

Downloading is a new word being used to describe the ability of online users to capture search results in machine-readable form. At the recent ASIDIC conference held in Alexandria, VA, U.S.A. the impacts of downloading on database producers, systems suppliers and end-users was the main topic. ISU has got permission to publish the papers from this meeting in a forthcoming issue. Watch for it!

CAS and ISI to offer direct online services

First database producers to move into direct sponsorship of online services for sci/tech literature based files, CAS and ISI may represent a trend for the future. CAS Online, a substructure search file, and ISI's files on biomedicine, mathematics and computing, and proceeding literature are being offered. CAS has indicated that its choice was based on the special searching requirement of this structure material, while ISI noted that the long waiting time to get on commercial systems affected its decision. Hmmmmm....

Comments

French government communication-ambitious

In his opening address to the 32-SICOB-Conference President François Mitterrand has announced plans to make France the leader in all sectors of the communication industry by the year 1988. First goal is the recapture of the

French national market. We hope that the French will realize that this industry is now international and no longer national. In that respect their history is not exactly flawless....

German bulletin

Online Info is the bulletin of the German Online Users Group. It is interesting reading: the August-issue contains two remarkable items. One is an account of a quarrel between the Group and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation about the (non-)organization of their annual meeting. It shows again how progress can be hampered by organizational squabbling. The other item is well-known but can never be published enough: the communication charge for some average online search is in:

U.S.A.	\$ 2
United Kingdom	\$ 8
France	\$ 9
Japan	\$26
West Germany	\$32

Are there really people in Brussels, Luxemburg or Strasbourg employed on harmonization? We offer a (small) prize for the first of our readers who finds out the author of the following prose: "The vast expansion of trade brought about by the elimination of tariffs between Community countries, and the dismantling of many non-tariff barriers, must have contributed powerfully to the enhancement of living standards in all Community countries."

Difference

We noted in the July, 1981 issue of the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association that ads for medical subject coverage in DIALOG show a microscope and a stethoscope, while in the same issue BRS's advert has a stethoscope only. DOES THIS MEAN ANYTHING?