

News, Trends and Comments

News

SDC in UK

As announced in our June issue, SDC Information Services has been making arrangements to open a new European marketing office, in the United Kingdom. The address and contact information have just been revealed, and are as follows: Bakers Court, 4th Floor, Bakers Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1RG, UK; tel. (0895) 37137; telex 893 429 - effective 1 November 1984.

Downloading

After a number of other data-base producers had done so, INSPEC has now likewise announced a downloading policy. It incorporates a yearly minimum up-front payment, plus additional per-record charges if more than 300 records are locally stored for an extended period.

Now, also, the US National Library of Medicine has prepared for phased implementation of a "subset policy" for licensing the use of portions of the Medline data base "for storage and re-use in a local processing mode". Data transfer will occur not via telecommunication links with the NLM computers or other distributors, but rather in the first instance by the sending of magnetic tapes by NLM (or "its authorized contractual agent(s)") to the users, and later via provision of floppy disks containing the subsets. According to NLM, "Obtaining software required to store and search subsets is the responsibility of the licensee." Note carefully that this licensing service is - at least for the present - available only to users in the USA. Also, NLM apparently has no plans to license downloading as such (i.e. online data transfer). The policy defines three types of subsets (in terms of selection mode), with updating, and specifies two subset service classes: 1) personal-use subsets (subject to a maximum of 150,000 citations per year), and 2) multiple-use subsets. The policy statement points out that "Some of the contents of subsets may be subject to copyright" and that "Recipients of subsets are expressly prohibited from republishing, duplicating or offering the subset for re-sale to others." The pricing of subsets "is intended to recover access related costs, including NLM computer costs, materials, shipping, staff costs, and overhead", in accordance with "the principle that users pay the full cost for accessing the products and services of MEDLARS.". Interested? You may request an instruction packet for ordering subsets, from: MEDLARS Management Section, NLM, Building 38A, Room 4N421, Bethesda, MD 20209, USA, attn. "Subsets".

And finally, this information from the August 1984 issue (received by us in September) of "ITs News", the newsletter of the Information Technology Group of the (UK) Library Association: "The MARC Users' Group is hoping to arrange a one-day seminar to look at some of the operational, legal and commercial issues raised by the possibility of downloading bibliographic records into library cataloguing and housekeeping systems. It is hoped to bring together speakers from a variety of organisations providing and using information in the library market. The seminar is provisionally booked for Thursday 13th December 1984 at the London Zoological Society.... In the meantime the MARC Users' Group would be interested to know what library systems are currently involved in downloading and reformatting bibliographic records for use in local operations. Any such information (confidential if preferred) would be gratefully received by Pat Manson at the Information Technology Centre, Polytechnic of Central London, 309 Regent Street, London W1R 8AL (tel. (01) 636-2383)."

Winding up

Some online vendors (such as ESA-IRS) operate their own information retrieval networks, some (such as DIALOG) are in the process of setting one up, but at least one vendor has just closed its network down - BLAISE, effective 1 October of this year.

Expanding

Uninet has recently added a further fifty cities to its packet-switched data network system.

Software databases

R.R. Bowker Company has purchased from PC Telemart inc., of Fairfax, Virginia, all rights to PC Telemart's software data bases and its present print products. In making the announcement, Bruce W. Gray, Bowker's president, said that the move accelerates Bowker's expansion into reference publishing for the microcomputer industry. Along with an extensive line of software print products for professional, institutional and consumer markets, Bowker will begin to publish and market the six current PC Telemart directories. These include PC Telemart/Clearinghouse Directory, PC Telemart/Van Love's Apple Directory and PC/Van Love's IBM Directory. Bowker has already begun to market a paperback eighth edition of the PC Telemart Software Directory (ISBN 0-88674-001-0; 1,300 pages; US\$39.95), which contains listings of more than 34,000 microcomputer software packages arranged according to application. According to Gray, the combination of Bowker's existing files with PC Telemart's will "make the new software database possibly the most complete and current in the US and worldwide". The new data base is projected to be over 95% complete for all Apple and IBM-compatible software products as well as over 90% complete for all other software. Financial details of the acquisition were not announced. The R.R. Bowker Company is one of seven operating companies in the Xerox Information Resources Group.

What's in a name? - PIIC becomes PII, as bosses change

Pergamon International Information Corporation (located in McLean, Virginia, USA) has changed its name to Pergamon InfoLine inc. The company points out that the change "ensures [sic] that American customers will continue to receive a high standard of customer training and service". PII is to enter upon "an active program of acquiring and developing North American databases to offer on the InfoLine system". This will however be the task of P. James Terragno, the new PII president (formerly executive vice president of PIIC) - not of Peter Urbach, who has left to join the British company Reed Telepublishing (a subsidiary of Reed International). Previous to working at Pergamon, Urbach had been with NTIS.

Joint UK/USA seminar

"Information and productivity - their implications for education and training" was the title of a meeting held at Cranfield in England on 27-30 July 1984. At the meeting, sponsored by the British Library, the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the UK Library and Information Services Council, the crucial need for employers and educationalists to meet quickly, to identify essential information skills, and to plan how these can best be taught, was emphasised. The meeting proved particularly timely in the light of recent calls for action from both the Cabinet Office Information Technology Advisory Panel in Britain and the White House Conference on Productivity in the USA. The value of information and the need to make decision makers fully aware of the amount of pertinent information already available was stressed. It has been shown that productivity in both the private and public sectors can be doubled with effective use of information.

A full report of the meeting and its recommendations is now in preparation. Recommendations will be brought to the attention in Britain of government departments and committees and other major agencies in the information field. In the USA the report will go to the executive branches of the White House and Congress and other appropriate agencies. Meanwhile the group will do all it can to stimulate and monitor progress. Further meetings are planned.

The major recommendations to emerge from the meeting were that:

- 1) a completely new approach to the school curriculum be adopted whereby children, as well as learning computer skills from an early age, are taught how to find and effectively use information;
- 2) employers and educationalists meet now in order to identify the crucial competencies needed in the emerging information sector, and to plan how these can best be taught;
- 3) decision makers are made fully aware both of the amount of pertinent information already available, and that use of this information can dramatically increase - and has been shown to double - productivity in the public and private sectors;
- 4) present 'high fliers' in the information profession receive accelerated and intensive training - if this is not done, there will be a serious lack of leaders in the future;
- 5) research effort in the information field is fully exploited, with

the UK and USA exchanging findings and planning future effort - a 'think tank' of key researchers and funders is projected;

6) a data analysis center be set up jointly to analyse, synthesize and disseminate the information and data already available in the two countries.

There were nineteen participants at the seminar - nine from the USA and ten from the UK.

Further information is available from Margaret O'Hare, British Library Research and Development Department, 2 Sheraton Street, London W1V 4BH, UK, tel. (01) 636-1544, ext. 652; or, Toni Carbo Bearman, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, 7th and D Streets SW, Suite 3122, Washington, DC 20024, tel. (202) 382-0840.

Data bases

PICA is the name of a file newly available on **Pergamon-InfoLine**. The producer is the Property Services Agency, and topics covered include architectural and interior design; building, subterranean, marine and airfield construction; and construction-industry legislation, regulations, and labor affairs. The data base's coverage begins with 1974; updating will be monthly.

SDC has just brought online the Corrosion data bank (from Marcel Dekker; semiannual updates), on an exclusive basis. Also, proximity searching is now available on **INSPEC** and **Energyline**.

INKA has recently added the following files: Business (coverage from October 1983 onwards, monthly updates), Coalrip (on research projects, a companion file to the bibliographic IEA-Coal (producer of both files: IEA Coal Research, Technical Information Service, in London), coverage from 1978 onwards, annual updates), and Bibliodata (a bibliographic data base of German publications (all publications, including audio-visual, from the FRG, plus publications from the GDR, Austria, and Germanophone Switzerland, and German-language publications from elsewhere), produced by the Deutsche Bibliothek in Frankfurt a.M., coverage from 1966 onwards, fortnightly updating, no coverage of individual journal articles).

Nihon Keizai Shimbum earlier this summer opened access for the Japanese market to the Nexis service of Mead Data Central, and has just last month done the same with Dow Jones News/Retrieval.

The packaging-technology file **PSTA** is now accessible on **FIZ Technik** (coverage from 1981 onwards, updating every two months).

The Bowker-produced data base **Publishers, Distributors, and Wholesalers** was scheduled to be accessible via **BRS** in September. Coverage is primarily of the USA.

Microsearch, a file containing microcomputer hardware/software product descriptions, reviews, articles and producer details, has become available on **The Source**. Updating will be weekly.

The data base **SIGLE**, on grey literature in Europe, was scheduled to

go up on **BLAISE-Line** by the end of August - after an exceedingly long period of preparation. In the **BLAISE-Line** (as opposed to the **INKA**) version, the file has the advantage of containing **MARC** tags for the various fields of a given unit record.

I.P. Sharp has mounted the **Exstat** file (company statistics for Europe, the UK, Japan and Australia; to be updated once a year).

Derwent has announced that it will soon add some one million **Central Patents Index** abstracts to the **World Patents Index** file. These abstracts relate to the period 1970-1980. **Derwent** is also planning to allow "preferential" connect-hour rates to **WPI** and **WPIL** users via **DIALOG** and **Télésystèmes-Questel** (\$100 per hour and \$105 per hour respectively, as opposed to \$150 per hour and \$160 per hour standard rates).

The **Bureau of National Affairs (BNA)** is now offering offline-only access (through its **RSPD** service) to a new data base called the **Collective Bargaining Database**. This file now records information on over 700 contract settlements for the first six months of 1984, and lists 3,000 contracts the full texts of which can be acquired by **RSPD**. Further information from: **Research and Special Projects Division, BNA, 1231 25th Street NW, Washington, DC 20037; tel. (202) 452-4323, or (800) 452-7773 toll-free.**

Vu/Text now offers a subscription stock quotation service called "**Vu/Quote**", with information from **Commodity News Services inc.**

But how much is this going to cost?"

The microcomputer software package itself, called "**Online pricing simulator**", goes for **US\$125** (including manual). But it could perhaps soon pay for itself. What it does is to let you know in advance approximately how much you will be out for a given bibliographic data-base search. Contact: **Online Simulations inc., P.O.Box 310, Harrods Creek, KY 40027, USA; tel. (502) 228-3820.**

Business information: sizing up the markets

The US firm **Communications Trends inc.** has produced a \$975-report entitled "**The business information markets, 1984-88**". It concludes that revenues of business information suppliers will top **US\$18 billion** by 1988. **Dun & Bradstreet, McGraw-Hill** and **Dow Jones** lead all other suppliers in revenues and profits. Print will remain the dominant mode of supplying business information in the next five years. The personal computer will be key to the supply of business information in electronic form. Although the dynamic aspect of the business information market continues to revolve around the provision of computer-based services, print publishing for business/professional customers has a future that is both assured and profitable. The report examines trends in all key business information segments, including trade magazines and newspapers, general business magazines, newsletters and looseleaf services, print and online data bases, business books and research reports. Statistical charts and tables are included, and deal, for example, with:

business information market revenues by segment, business information revenues by mode of delivery, growth in information workers compared to growth in total employment, business/professional software revenues compared to business information revenues, trade magazine advertising revenues, number of business newsletters, leading data-base publishers/distributors, profit ratios for leading business information companies, and growth in use of personal computers.

The report begins with an executive summary, an introductory overview of trends in business information, and a chapter on the economic size of business information, followed by reviews of various services, chapters on cost trends in business information, and leading companies and market concentration, and then conclusions. A final section gives profiles on Business International, the Bureau of National Affairs, Commerce Clearing House, Dun & Bradstreet, Frost & Sullivan, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Knight Ridder, McGraw-Hill, Mead Corporation, A.C. Nielsen, Time inc., Ziff-Davis, and numerous other companies.

Communications Trends claims that this report, the fourth in a series of detailed analyses of business information publishing, is the first to cover topics such as the interplay between software publishing and data-base publishing, the role for low-tech publishers (i.e. publishers of trade magazines and other print products) in high-tech markets (e.g. computers, electronics, medical devices), and the ramifications of personal computer acquisition and use for business information suppliers.

Business information: taking another look

In 1980, a Working Party on Business Information held a number of meetings which resulted in recommendations for the establishment of a Business Information Service at the Science Reference Library (SRL, part of the British Library system) in London. In addition to offering access to a large business collection, one of SRL's main aims in this area is "to act as a national focus for business information generally through the production of guides and other aids". The success of the Business Information Service has been more than obvious, but the British Library finds that "it is already timely to review progress and establish strategies". To this end, a "Business Information Service Consultative Group" has been formed. It comprises twelve members: four from the business/industrial sector, three librarians, one corporate information specialist, two information brokers, one library/information school professor, and one journalist. It should be interesting eventually to see what ideas and recommendations may emanate from this body.

Upbeat in the FRG

1983 was reportedly a good year for the German online data-base supplier FIZ Technik. Usage increased by 25.6% as against 1982. The number of users rose from 370 to 540 (180 of whom were outside the FRG). FIZ Technik, which is now five years old, has begun to emphasize a range of internally produced data banks, as well as more practically oriented files. It detects a clear growth in the market for online data-base services, and is determined to continue optimistically with its current

development plans - which it claims will come to fruition over the next three years.

Change of address

Télésystemes-Questel (administrative offices) is now at 83-85 boulevard Vincent Auriol, 75013 Paris, France; tel. (1) 582-6464.

Tools of the trade

EIC/Intelligence has now published updated user's manuals for Energyline and Enviroline, at US\$45 each. Orders to the producer at 48 West 38th Street, New York, NY 10018, USA; tel. (212) 944-8500, or (800) 223-6275 toll-free.

New editions of the Index of Reviews in Organic Chemistry (IROC) and of the Index of Reviews in Analytical Chemistry (IRAC) are now available. They cover reviews in English, French and German published in 1983. IROC '83 covers all aspects of organic chemistry. The first section gives references to reviews on individual compounds and classes of compounds. The second section gives references to reviews on specific chemical processes or phenomena. The entry for each review gives bibliographic details, the number of references in the review, and, when necessary, a mini-abstract to provide information on the scope of the review not implicit from the title. Both sections are arranged alphabetically. IRAC '83 covers all aspects of analytical chemistry, and is also divided into two sections, arranged alphabetically. The first section covers individual substances or materials and subject-related topics. The second section covers analytical techniques. The layout of IRAC '83 is the same as that of IROC '83. For further details, please contact the sales and promotion department of the Royal Society of Chemistry, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK; tel. (0602) 507411.

Chemical Abstracts Service has discontinued the Parent Compound Handbook and replaced it with the Ring Systems Handbook (RSH). The RSH contains details on nearly 60,000 ring and cage systems in a convenient form. The information given includes CA index names, structural diagrams, and Wiswesser line notations. The entries are in ring analysis order, and there are indexes of molecular formulae and CA index names. The RSH consists of permanently bound volumes: two books of ring information, one indexbook, and one cumulative supplement. Contact CAS or your CAS representative for further details.

John Wiley & Sons has published a Dictionary of Computers, Data Processing & Telecommunications, compiled by Jerry M. Rosenberg, and available for US\$29.95 (ISBN 0-471-87638-0; 614 pages).

B/NA and Elsevier New York announce joint project

Blackwell North America inc. and Elsevier Science Publishing Company inc. last month announced the start of a joint information project in which B/NA will have online access to information about Elsevier's book

titles. The project is designed to improve communication between Elsevier and B/NA and to increase the speed and efficiency of order processing. Elsevier defined it as an initial "test" arrangement. Commented Charles Marshall, president of Blackwell North America, "From B/NA's point of view, this project represents an excellent opportunity to improve the service we offer to our library customers. Fast delivery and fast, accurate reporting are increasingly important. This project should help in both respects." Elsevier produced a test system to enable B/NA personnel to access information from its title and order files. B/NA staff told Elsevier's systems people about the kind of information that would be useful for them and for their customers. For example, B/NA will be able to access bibliographic data on Elsevier's titles as well as inventory data such as stock availability. In addition, they can check the status of their orders currently being processed. The test is designed to run for a six-month period. At the end of the test, representatives of B/NA and Elsevier will meet to evaluate the usefulness of the project and to discuss future developments. If successful, Elsevier will also be planning to make this information available to other distributors.

Blackwell North America provides book and book-related services to academic and research libraries around the world. Over 130 libraries maintain book approval plans with B/NA. Over 500 libraries receive new title announcements from B/NA to alert them to new monographs in their areas of interest. Elsevier New York publishes books and journals in medicine, computer science, business, and the applied sciences. In addition, it is the North American distributor for Elsevier Science Publishers, one of the world's largest publishers of scientific information, and for Elsevier Applied Science Publishers Ltd. of the UK.

Software dissemination and property rights: new publication

Connecticut-based International Resource Development inc. has begun publishing a monthly newsletter, "covering software teledelivery, chip-based programs, software protection and emerging technologies for software distribution", entitled "Download". The inaugural statement claims that "Very troubling questions are asked about the long-term ability of software developers to protect their products from unauthorized copying, while the viability of today's software distribution industry clearly is threatened by teledelivery of software and perhaps also by the emergence of "software on-a-chip" distribution." The newsletter's principal focus is to be on "the microcomputer software market, today's hotbed of action and interest in the intellectual property field". The first issue (which is labeled May 1984, but came to our attention only at the end of August) contains items on the market for game downloading services, Xante's bankruptcy filing, "InterLink" from Control Video, downloading and piracy (including an interesting section headed "90% of Software Piracy Can Be Prevented by Publishers"), and AT&T's Unix, as well as business micro and micro software overviews. Subscription price is \$189 per year USA and Canada (\$215 air mail elsewhere); an individual issue costs \$20 (presumably about \$1.40 per page; about \$1.10 per page on a subscription basis in the USA/Canada).

Following the technology

At a recent meeting, the board of directors of the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP) authorized, with a US\$1,000 annual budget, the establishment of a five-person ad hoc committee to investigate the impact of videodisk technology. Its mandate is to submit a summary report to the board, including possible recommendations for further action.

Acquisition

Elsevier Science Publishing Company inc. (New York) announced in September that it has acquired a minority interest in The Laux Company inc., a Massachusetts-based publisher of scientific, medical and professional journals, newsletters and looseleaf services. Elsevier New York is the US affiliate of one of the world's largest scientific and technical publishing groups, based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. "We can help Laux, and they can help us", said Charles Ellis, president of Elsevier New York; "our management depth and international strength may accelerate their expansion plans. Their main contribution will be experience in areas that are relatively new to us, such as controlled circulation journals." Dean M. Laux, founder and president of The Laux Company, stated: "For our part, we not only gain financial strength, but we also gain access to a formidable range of contacts in the scientific and medical communities that will materially help the reporting we do in our newsletters and journals".

Micro info

International Resource Development inc. has released a 240-page report entitled "Microcomputers in large organizations". Price: US\$1,650.

Joining forces

IBM has just taken over complete control of Rolm Corporation, the private branch exchange (PBX) manufacturer, by acquiring the remainder of that firm's shares; it had purchased 23% of these already more than a year ago. (We might note that a recent IDC report ("Picking a PBX", US\$1,500) paints a very rosy picture of the future for PBXs.)

Meanwhile, the merger between Dun & Bradstreet and A.C. Nielsen has received final approval by vote of the shareholders involved - closing a deal which is approximately of the same financial magnitude (ca. 1 1/4 billion dollars) as the final IBM takeover of Rolm.

People

Having been initially announced exactly a year ago, and gone into actual operation last spring, **STN International** now has a director. It is James V. Seals - Chemical Abstracts Service's director of international programs. He has been with CAS since 1970.

The **Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS)** has a new executive director in the person of Barbara M. Preschel. It is almost a year ago now that Wilhelm K. Bartenbach resigned from this post in order to take a position with the H.W. Wilson Company (see ISU vol. 3 no. 5, p. 277, 286).

The **Royal Society of Chemistry** has appointed Robert Welham as director, information services. He was previously with Longmans.

The National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services (NFAIS) has chosen Eugene Garfield as recipient of the 1985 **Miles Conrad Award**. Garfield is founder and president of the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia.

The new director of the **National Library of Medicine** is Donald A.B. Lindberg M.D., who holds a professorship in pathology at the School of Medicine of the University of Missouri in Columbia. Dr. Lindberg is also a specialist in the use of data processing for medical purposes, and has been a member of the Biomedical Library Review Committee. He is the US representative to IMIA.

Now president of the Groupement français des producteurs de bases et banques de données (**GFPBBD**) is Alain Durand. He is with the Direction de l'information et de l'assistance aux entreprises of the Agence française de normalisation. The GFPBBD has been in existence for five years, and has more than sixty members.

Charles Oppenheim has joined the **Pergamon InfoLine** team, as product development manager. He was previously with Derwent Publications Ltd., and also has served as a lecturer in information science at the City University, London.

New chairman of the board of **FIZ Technik** is Dr. Von Bandemer, a partner in Knorr-Bremse KG in Munich. He replaces Ronald Dingeldey, president of the Fernmeldetechnisches Zentralamt in Darmstadt.

SDC has named Donald L. Gillespie as its vice president, program development. Frank S. Morris, who previously held this post, has become vice president, advanced programs.

Lois Ann Colaianni has been appointed associate director for library operations at the **National Library of Medicine**. She had for two years been holding that position on an interim basis.

Now director, information services, at the **Special Libraries Association** in the USA is Renee Gold.

Duane Webster has become deputy executive director of the **Association of Research Libraries** in the USA, but will also remain in charge of ARL's Office of Management Studies. ARL's executive director is Shirley Echelman.

Trends

Publishers and librarians issue joint statement on new technology

After a series of meetings in Amsterdam, ten European publishers and librarians have put their names to a joint statement on "The Impact of Electronic Technology". Those who have signed the document are, on the publishing side: J. Frank Cavanagh, Syndicat national de l'édition (France); John Davies, The Publishers' Association (United Kingdom); J. Alexis Koutchoumow, International Publishers Association; Arie A. Manten, Elsevier Science Publishers (The Netherlands); Paul Nijhoff Asser, International Group of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers; and Manfred Seidel, Börsenverein des deutschen Buchhandels (Federal Republic of Germany). On the library side, the statement has been endorsed by: Willem Koops, Universiteitsbibliotheek, Groningen (The Netherlands); Klaus Dieter Lehmann, Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek, Frankfurt (Federal Republic of Germany); Maurice Line, British Library Lending Division (United Kingdom); and Lars Tynell, Royal Library, Stockholm (Sweden).

The thirteen-point statement arises out of discussions held recently with the European Commission on the development of electronic publishing and document delivery in Europe, and is the first cooperative pronouncement of its kind between European publishers and librarians. It envisages close consultation and coordination between the two professions in the development of the new information systems. The purport of the statement is:

- that publishers and librarians share common concerns over the development of electronic publication alongside present print-based communication;
- that the quality and variety of information should be preserved;
- that the dissemination of information should remain in the hands of current practitioners rather than large intermediaries;
- that suitable transmission media should be found;
- that charges should be economically levied in order to allow reasonable returns to publishers while encouraging use in libraries.

Governments should give positive support to the creation of an infrastructure in which the systems will operate, but should not seek to make provision of information either a public or private sector monopoly. There must be protection within the systems for the integrity of authors' texts, for their ownership of the material they produce, and for the visibility of their work within their particular academic specialisms. Publishers will retain many of their present specialisms: selection, editing, presentation, endorsement, marketing and financing of publications. So will libraries in the supervision of access to material and in information brokerage. Booksellers will be expected to retain an important place in the information transfer chain. Perhaps the most important section of the statement concerns copyright, which has, in some arenas, been a bone of contention between publishers and librarians. Here, it is agreed that, in electronic systems, authors' and publishers' rights of copyright will be protected and that appropriate fees will be paid in libraries. Downloading of information will not take place without the agreement of the copyright owners.

The statement concludes: "If full advantage is to be taken of the benefits which can be conferred upon learning and commerce by the new information systems, a reasonable and understanding dialogue must be maintained between publishers and librarians. We therefore urge that discussions should be continued both at national and international level, and that the two professions regard themselves as complementary in these new enterprises."

The meetings took place under the auspices of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Groupe des éditeurs de livres de la CEE (GELC - the Book Publishers' Group of the European Economic Community).

The complete text of the statement is reproduced in an appendix to this News, Trends and Comments section.

Comments

ECLR

It seems that very provisional plans are afoot to form a "European Council on Library Resources" on the model of the CLR in the USA. This is one of the ideas behind the organization, coordinated by the European Cultural Foundation, of a workshop to be held in Luxemburg on 19-23 November 1984, under the title "The impact of new information technologies on library management, resources and cooperation". Funding for the event comes from Directorate General XIII of the European Commission, and from the NATO Scientific Affairs Division, as well as the European Cultural Foundation. Interested parties from both Europe and North America will be participating. The program foresees five plenary sessions, a full day devoted to specialized working groups, and a closing session for working-group reports, discussion, and a "General Report of the Workshop".

If an ECLR actually results from such activities - and that is indeed a very big "if" - and if it can muster the kind of funding which the CLR enjoys - another big "if" - then one might hope that it would in fact give selective support to worth-while library/information services projects in as judicious and effective a manner as does the CLR across the ocean. However, the American scene is a fairly homogeneous one, and any ECLR would face - given the nationalistic, linguistic and cultural factors at play in Europe - major obstacles of kinds the CLR never had to confront. Still, one may hope.

APPENDIX

The Impact of Electronic Technology: A Joint Statement of European Librarians and Publishers

1) Impact of electronic technology. We envisage that the initial impact of the so-called 'new technology' will be on material which is currently used for 'quick reference', and upon relatively short items: single articles from journals, extracts from reference works, and statistical data, for example. Our particular concern is with the effect of the electronic technology on scientific, scholarly and professional information. The survival of medium- to low-use journals will be particularly at risk, since high-use journals will continue to have a definite market. The new technology will be used beyond this for a certain amount of author-to-author correspondence independent of the publisher. Material currently purchased for reading or browsing is likely to continue to be used in printed form for the foreseeable future, however it is produced and transmitted.

2) Introduction of electronic technology. The application of the new technology is a gradual process. Two systems of supply - conventional and electronic - are likely to operate alongside each other for at least the next decade. In the first instance, sale of printed material will subsidize the development of document delivery systems that print on demand. Over a period of time, the balance will shift as electronic document delivery systems replace conventional distribution for some kinds of material.

3) Control of electronic technology. The control of the new systems will be the key factor in their successful operation. Considerable dangers can be foreseen in the dominance of large intermediaries or host organisations, particularly if these are managed by interests outside the present process of scholarly communication, or by government. We consider that the new systems should be neither public nor private monopolies, but that the present balances between the roles of the two sectors should be maintained - or new balances sought. There should therefore be close cooperation in the establishment of the new systems between publishers and the libraries that are their main market for the relevant material. It is especially important that unhampered and open access to all materials be maintained and that the quality and variety of published information be preserved. A major factor in ensuring the continuing quality of the information provided will be the maintenance of a discriminating and selective rather than an indiscriminate and all-inclusive input.

4) Priorities for discussion. Two matters require immediate attention. Firstly, a system of charges must be established which is economic for publishers and reasonable as far as libraries and individual users are concerned. The PIRA report to the Commission of the European Communities and The (UK) Publishers' Association, while erring on the side of optimism, contains some useful guidelines. Recent experiments have illustrated the high level of investment that is likely to be necessary, and point the way to joint cooperative ventures between publishers of the type now being developed for English-language publication. The second priority must be the development of suitable transmission media. Indulgence in expensive experiment and guesswork will not neces-

sarily benefit any of the parties involved.

5) User needs. Other evident user needs must be given prime consideration: a reliable and speedy system of supply and distribution, a consistent and comprehensive collection of materials, an acceptable format in reproduction, a facility for assessment of material before making an order, a simple mechanism for use, and a single and easily available point of entry giving access to all forms of information. A capacity for selectivity by the user must be maintained.

6) The authors' role. Electronic publishing will be of value only if it has the confidence of authors and of end-users. The systems will depend on the generation of material which has been refereed and is of recognised quality; publication will continue to be an essential element of an academic career. For these reasons there must be protection within the systems for the integrity of authors' texts, for their ownership of the material they produce, and for the visibility of their work within their particular academic specialisms.

7) The publishers' role. Publishing is primarily a private-sector activity. Publishers will retain many of their present functions: the selection within a competitive system, editing and presentation of documents, the endorsement of material through their reputation, the marketing of the publications, stocking and, particularly in a period of deficiencies in public funds, the major responsibility for initial finance. Original publishers will have a legitimate interest in the control and protection of works that they have published when they are disseminated through other channels. Many publishers are likely to continue to use intermediaries for production and distribution as they do at present. This, however, presages considerable changes for the printing industry, the book trade and journal agencies - if they are to retain their role for electronically produced materials.

8) The libraries' role. Libraries will have a role to play in providing access to full text, by whatever means it is made available. They should also continue to provide direct access to secondary information services, with the emphasis changing in the direction of information broking and management. Search mechanisms, bibliographies, abstracts, catalogues, classification systems and other locating devices will all feature in the dissemination of information through the new technology. There will be a greater accent on self-education and direct access by the user. There will be a need for widely distributed service points, for which academic and public libraries are a natural basis. The future of the more limited industrial and specialist libraries is less easy to predict and may well be at risk.

9) The role of booksellers and other supply agents. The roles of booksellers and other supply agents are likely to undergo great changes as a result of the growing applications of electronic technology to publication and access. We envisage that they will continue to have an important place in the information-transfer chain, and careful consideration will have to be given to this.

10) The role of government. Positive support from government for the development of the information industry is to be welcomed. The aim of such support should be to establish a legal and economic environment in which new activities will be encouraged. Government should be concerned with the development of a technical infrastructure and with the improvement of existing channels of information, rather than their replacement. The roles of publishers and libraries should be enhanced by

this. As important producers and handlers of current information, publishers and libraries should be consulted by government over all matters and at all stages. Libraries should have sufficient funding in order to be able to take advantage of the new systems.

11) Need for coordination. With the increasing application of electronic technology, and the involvement of a large number of industries and other interests, there is a danger that information system planning will be fragmented. Responsibility for different elements of the system may be distributed among various professional bodies and ministries, and progress in one sector could be hampered by inconsistent developments in others. There is a need for coordination or cooperation between all parties involved to ensure that the whole system of information production and transfer, embracing technical aspects and telecommunications as well as publishing and library services, operates effectively.

12) Copyright. Authors and publishers will require and librarians will accept, both for themselves and in relation to their users, that copyright will be respected and protected within the new systems. Fees will be paid as required, and libraries' use of the systems will depend on ability to pay. Librarians recognise the need for proper control over access to electronic information systems. They will not download information without the agreement of copyright owners.

13) Conclusion. If full advantage is to be taken of the benefits which can be conferred upon learning and commerce by the new information systems, a reasonable and understanding dialogue must be maintained between publishers and librarians. We therefore urge that discussions should be continued both at national and international level, and that the two professions regard themselves as complementary in these new enterprises.