

News, Trends and Comments

News

IIA's divisional activities off to a running start

In our January issue (p. 65) we mentioned the four new special committees (now designated "standing committees") which the **data-base publishing division** of the Information Industry Association was planning to establish, and indicated that additional such committees might eventually be formed. Since then, in addition to approving these committees, this division has decided to set up two further committees. One it is calling an "information producers" committee. Apparently, the main idea is to facilitate discussion of the relationships between providers of information products (data-base producers, essentially) and other parties - such as distributors and packagers (e.g. online vendors, CD-ROM producers), primary publishers, and hardware/software developers. The other is the document delivery committee - which will also concern itself with certain copyright issues. All division committees, incidentally, will have to be "revalidated" once a year, or otherwise (if inactive) they will disappear.

It was only last autumn that the data-base publishing division came into existence, and it has been operating under the leadership of a ten-person "interim executive committee" chaired by Lois Granick of PsycInfo. Now recently, at the division's first annual business meeting on 16 May in Chicago, a permanent executive committee has come into existence. Bettie Steiger of Reference Technology was named president. Committee members include R. Donati (DIALOG), A.W. Elias (BIOSIS), D. McDonald (Aspen), M. Fisher (Link), D. Brown (Bowker), J. Brown (BRS), M. Kutz (Wiley), and D. Grossman (Rand McNally). Granick will serve as division liaison to the IIA board of directors, and A.Y. Caughman as IIA staff liaison. A new monthly division newsletter began publication on 8 March, as a supplement to the IIA's Friday Memo.

The IIA's recently implemented divisional structure of course at this point also comprises a videotex division and a financial information services division. The **videotex division** now also has its own executive committee, elected on 17 May, and chaired by James H. Holly (Times Mirror Videotex Services). Like the data-base publishing division, it involves a number of standing committees, and has begun (on 3 May) a monthly newsletter distributed as a supplement to Friday Memo. As previously noted in these columns, this division sports an "international committee" (chair: Charles Doolittle, IBM), which aims to "report videotex application advances made in other countries" - as well as providing support to IIA member organizations doing, or wanting to do, business outside the USA. It also intends meetings with various foreign

"industry videotex groups". Of more interest at the moment, however, is a domestic development. The IIA has made a proposal to the (US) Videotex Industry Association that the latter allow itself to be absorbed into the IIA via a newly-designated "videotex industry division". VIA has as yet made no formal response.

The chair of the financial information services division has gone to Richard Cowles of Telerate. Members of this division had been considering the possibility of establishing their own distinct trade association independent of the IIA.

In an unrelated move, the IIA board of directors has voted on 15 May to create a "small business category" of membership.

British Library to adopt BRS/Search

It has long been known that the British Library was committed to replacing the ELHILL information retrieval software running on the BLAISE-Line computers, together with its "Editor" subsystem. The BL has just announced that it will be acquiring for this purpose the BRS/Search mainframe software package. The transition will take place at an unspecified later date - after modifications to the ELHILL system; elimination of Editor; and the development of compatible front ends, as well as linkages between ELHILL and the BL's version of the Washington Library Network system. It is for the LOCAS batch system (used to process and maintain BL catalogues and the British National Bibliography, and to provide a distributed computerized cataloguing service, as well as for other purposes) that the Library has taken the decision to acquire also the WLN software, which it will have to modify to accommodate its own requirements. The grand idea is to integrate and rationalize the BL's mainframe-based services (operating on equipment at the RHM computer bureau in Harlow, Essex), but BLAISE-Line users will probably not be searching under the BRS software until 1987 at the earliest. Files currently available on BLAISE-Line include British Education Index, Conference Proceedings Index, Whitaker, DPB, UK MARC, LC MARC, SIGLE, and the 18th-Century Short-Title Catalogue.

European obstacles

The European Information Industry Association (EURIPA) and the European Association of Information Services (EUSIDIC) have jointly announced the formation of an inter-association "European committee on information barriers". More specifically, this committee's mandate will be "to study potential barriers to the growth of the European information industry", and it will comprise three representatives each from EURIPA and EUSIDIC. The EURIPA representatives are David Worlock (European Law Centre), Alain Durand (Groupement français des producteurs de bases et banques de données), and Bernardo Stenpel (Asociación española de proveedores de servicios videotex). Those from EUSIDIC are Garth Davies (Commission of the European Communities DG XIII), Derek Nicholas (Citibank, Belgium), and Harry Collier (Learned Information).

The initial objective of the committee will be to identify areas of European concern, followed by recommendations as to actions that could be taken in an attempt to reduce or to eliminate any barriers identified. The committee will perhaps also recommend joint statements by EURIPA and EUSIDIC. In view of the fact that the committee numbers

six individuals from five nations, it plans to conduct the majority of its 'sessions' by means of electronic mail, thus limiting actual direct meetings to no more than two per year.

No time limit has been set for the committee's work, and it is likely to remain in existence for as long as the two organizations perceive the continued existence of barriers to the growth of the European information industry.

It is certainly significant that EURIPA and EUSIDIC are working together in sponsoring this committee (quite aside from the question what - if anything - it will eventually accomplish), since they have in the past avoided many opportunities to cooperate and been on less than amicable terms. Indeed, it is mildly surprising that EUSIDIC would lend its endorsement to the somewhat terse terms of reference stated for the committee in its press release - since the phrase "information industry" normally connotes a collection of commercially-based information product or services providers, and EUSIDIC has a history of representing particularly the interests of information users. (Note, however, the theme and orientation of its upcoming Annual Conference - see item below under "The "commercial" importance of information".)

Number of publicly accessible online data bases now above the 2,800 mark

The latest edition of the most authoritative, longest-standing, and most exhaustive available guide on the subject provides information on 2,805 data bases. Computer-Readable Databases: A Directory and Data Sourcebook, 4th edition, compiled and edited by Prof. Martha E. Williams, contains 1,029 pages of data-base entries and 286 of indexes. The name index includes 3,488 names (data-base full names, acronyms, other synonyms, names of terminated data bases, names of publications corresponding to data bases, and names of other data-base related entities). The producer index includes 1,210 data-base producers together with addresses and a list of the data bases which they produce. The processor index contains names of 614 processors (both online and batch search services and time-sharing organizations), together with addresses and the data bases which they process. The subject index includes 571 subject terms and 10,655 occurrences. All four indices provide page numbers indicating the location of the associated data base descriptions in the directory.

The data bases and data-base systems in this directory are both word-oriented (e.g., bibliographic, full-text, and directory information) and numeric (e.g., properties, time series, and statistical information) data bases. "Word-oriented data bases", Prof. Williams explains, "contain: natural language words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs as the principal data of the data base. Numeric data bases or databanks contain numbers, symbols, series, graphs, tables, and modeling systems as their principal data. The essential distinction is between numbers and words as the primary vehicle for conveying information. Some examples of types of word-oriented data bases are: thesauri, lists, directories, and text (e.g., full text, facts, opinions, legal cases, statutes, news items, etc.) in computer-readable form. Bibliographic data bases are word-oriented, but many types of word-oriented data bases are not bibliographic. As the producers of bibliographic data bases, numeric, and even graphic data bases add to their offerings, and as they provide integrated systems including models and other soft-

ware for manipulating data, these distinctions become more blurred and decrease in importance."

The directory was produced from data maintained by the University of Illinois Information Retrieval Research Laboratory in its "Database Database", and which ultimately derive, for the most part, from the data-base producers themselves.

The directory, which (unlike some other current guides) is fully international in scope, was conceived and developed by Prof. Williams, and has been continuously under her editorship since 1976. The fourth edition is in two volumes. Volume 1 - Science, Technology, Medicine - covers hard sciences, medicine, engineering and related materials such as the business aspects of science - production figures, export/import figures, plant capacities, etc. associated with chemicals, electronic components and other products of science and engineering. Volume 2 - Business, Law, Humanities, Social Sciences - includes those subject classes of data bases, and general data bases like newspapers, magazines, job openings, and biographical resumes. Because some data bases are multidisciplinary, covering science and business (chemical production) or science and law (legal aspects of chemical spillage or transport), they are included in both volumes, so that each volume is a complete and separate entity. Thus, there are 1,092 entries in the Science book, 1,948 entries in the Business book, and 2,509 entries across both books. The 2,509 unique entries cover 2,805 data bases; 301 data bases are contained in 'umbrella' entries and not described as separate entries. (CompuServe is the prime example of an umbrella entry.)

Martha E. Williams is Professor of Information Science at the Coordinated Science Laboratory, University of Illinois. She is also president of Information Market Indicators, chairman of the Engineering Information board of directors, editor of Online Review and of the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, and formerly chairman of the board of Regents of the US National Library of Medicine. She was a recipient of the 1984 Award of Merit from the American Society for Information Science, and has recently been elected an Honorary Fellow of the (British) Institute of Information Scientists.

Computer-Readable Databases: A Directory and Data Sourcebook, 4th edition 1985, Martha E. Williams editor-in-chief (managing editor: Laurence Lannom; data acquisitions editor: Carolyn G. Robins), is available from Elsevier Science Publishers, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, or (for orders from the USA and Canada) from the American Library Association, Publishing Services, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, USA. The two volumes are available separately, or (at a discounted price) as a set.

New system-specific front-end search package

The H.W. Wilson Company has announced July availability of "Wilsearch" for use on WilsonLine (see ISU vol. 3 no. 5, p. 277; vol. 4 no. 4, p. 267). The software package employs a menu-driven interface.

BT attempts to take over PABX manufacturer

British Telecom (which was privatized last autumn - see ISU vol. 4 no. 6, p. 438-439) has made a bid to acquire 51% of the shares of Mitel

Corporation. Mitel, a Canadian firm, produces private automatic branch exchanges (PABXs). The offer price was £180 million (C\$300 million). Approval from the UK Monopolies Commission is pending, but should not be considered a foregone conclusion since British telecommunications manufacturers - and others - are objecting. The Canadian government must also give its o.k. BT has reported, for the year ended 31 March 1985, a preliminary pre-tax profit of £1.48 billion (£945 million after taxation), on a turnover of £7.653 billion (up 11% over the previous year).

Standardization of CD-ROM files

One effective possibility for establishing at least de facto standards in the information technology area can arise from the fact that a given hardware producer (e.g., IBM) either has proprietary rights to a particular new development, or has conquered a dominant share of the market for products employing that development. In the case of compact read-only-memory disks (CD-ROMs), we saw the somewhat unusual case of two companies (Philips and Sony) acting together to enforce a hardware standard. The result was probably quite beneficial for the relatively rapid movement of this particular data storage medium toward wide attention in the information business. One difficulty, however, was that the standard did not extend to defining the way in which data were actually organized on the disk. Now, efforts are actually underway to rectify this problem. With the apparent support of a broad spectrum of information sector representatives, the US National Information Standards Organization (NISO) has decided to attempt development of further standards. The impetus came from Parke Lightbown of International Standard Information Systems (ISIS, the supplier of the forthcoming "Silver Platter Service" - see ISU vol. 5 no. 1, p. 67-68), who has already devised a proposed standard. It will now be up to an ad hoc NISO committee to work out the details.

SLA and ASIS relocate

The Special Libraries Association has purchased a large townhouse at 1700 18th Street NW in Washington, DC, and will move its headquarters (minus a large part of its staff, which chose not to leave New York) to this building before the end of this summer. The lengthy search for appropriate accommodations in the New York area had proved unsuccessful.

Also this summer, the American Society for Information Science will be relocating its offices from 1010 Sixteenth Street to a larger building near Washington, DC's Dupont Circle - and therefore quite close to SLA's new building.

Library automation: major vendor acquired by multinational concern

TBG (formerly: Thyssen Bornemisza) has by no means lost interest in taking over US firms. For an undisclosed amount, and via its Systems and Technologies Strategic Unit, it has just bought up CLSI (Computer Library Services International). An interesting wrinkle is that the president of BRS (another TBG property), William Marovitz, is to become chairman of CLSI's board of directors. CLSI is best known as a leading

vendor of integrated turnkey library-automation products (LIBS 100), maintaining offices in the US (headquarters), the UK, France and The Netherlands.

Library automation: Thomson transfers REMARC to UTLAS

UTLAS inc., the Toronto-based bibliographic utility, announces that it will be integrating Carrollton Press' REMARC into its operation. REMARC is a large data base of over five million MARC records representing Library of Congress cataloguing prior to 1971; it is also the basis of a retrospective conversion service which Carrollton Press has been marketing to the library community.

Current Carrollton Press staff will be joining the UTLAS organization - to assist with UTLAS' sales and marketing of REMARC, and to offer an expanding range of products and services. "In fact, REMARC will be even better", said Harriet Velazquez, vice president of UTLAS. "REMARC will be tremendously strengthened when combined with the UTLAS data base. We will", she claimed, "quite simply have the best and most efficient retrospective conversion capability anywhere." UTLAS' data base contains over twenty-four million MARC records.

Just before the announcement of this re-organization, Carrollton had itself announced "DisCon - the laserdisc retrospective conversion option", an optical disk leasing scheme apparently in some way related to the previously announced Carrollton-Thomson MARVLS package (see ISU vol. 5 no. 1, p. 60, 67).

International Thomson Organization bought UTLAS from the University of Toronto about six months ago (see ISU vol. 4 no. 6, p. 433-434). At that time Carrollton Press was already one of Thomson's properties.

For further information, contact: Kelvin Browne, UTLAS, 80 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2V1, Canada; tel. (416) 923-0890; telex 065 24479.

Breaking up is easy to do

XIRG stands for Xerox Information Resources Group. It has now ceased to exist. International Thomson Organisation - a Canadian-headquartered multinational corporation which already owns such companies as Derwent publications, Carrollton Press, Research Publications, Van Nostrand Reinhold, and has recently bought UTLAS (see ISU vol. 4 no. 6, p. 433-434) - was at first negotiating to acquire three of the XIRG units: AutEx Systems, University Microfilms International, and the R.R. Bowker Company. Three other components of XIRG are going each to a separate purchaser, and only one (Xerox Computer Services) is to be retained. After announcement, however, of the agreement in principle between Xerox and International Thomson, the latter ultimately decided not to purchase Bowker at the price being asked, and Xerox then agreed to sell this unit to Reed International, via its North American daughter Reed Holdings inc. If this sale goes through, Reed will apparently incorporate Bowker into its Cahners Publishing Company, which is headquartered in Newton, MA. At this writing, it looks as though the International Thomson acquisition of AutEx and UMI may in fact go through. UMI's successful document delivery services make it especially attractive to the international conglomerate.

Gale purchased for US\$66 million

International Thomson Organisation's disappointment at not reaching an agreement with Xerox on the purchase of Bowker (see previous item) may be slightly assuaged by its almost simultaneous acquisition of another major US reference publisher - Gale Research Company of Detroit.

Eurolex goes out of business

International Thomson Organisation has been buying (see items above) - but it has also been selling. The European Law Centre's Eurolex legal information retrieval service was recently sold, at an undisclosed price, to Butterworth (part of Reed International) - which promptly announced that it would shut down the service. We shall refrain from commenting on the obvious conflict of interest inherent in the fact that Butterworth is the UK representative for Mead Data Central's Lexis (and Nexis) service, while Eurolex had served as European marketing agent for Westlaw - Lexis' arch-rival in the US. One should not think that Thomson has in principle lost interest in the legal information services business; it has retained the other operations of the European Law Centre, and of course just last year waged an (unsuccessful) effort to take over BNA. Eurolex, by the way, had been running on the computers of Datasolve - the main British competitor to MDC's Nexis service.

Thomson sheds UK trade publishers

In addition to the sale of Eurolex (see preceding item) - which may be of more interest to ISU readers - International Thomson Organisation has decided to sell off Hamish Hamilton, Michael Joseph, Sphere Books, and the Rainbird Publishing Group. All are members of the Thomson Books Ltd. Group. The prospective buyer is Penguin Publishing Company.

English-language online news in Japan

Mitsui is to be marketing agent in Japan for Datasolve's World Reporter service. Mitsui is already performing in a similar capacity for Dow Jones News/Retrieval and Data-Star.

Data bases (brief notices)

EK-BDI (produced by Sachon-Gemeinschaftsverlag; listing almost 220,000 products of many kinds from ca. 18,000 West German exporting manufacturers, with complete names and addresses; also accessible in an Englishlanguage version under the label BG-BDI) and EK-AMPRO (produced by Hoppenstedt; listing around 25,000 German-produced machine and electrical products with names and addresses of manufacturers and European distributors; updated quarterly) are two new files on **FIZ Technik** in Frankfurt am Main.

BIOSIS has announced a joint venture with Information Access Company which will result in the provision of a new BioBusiness data base. It

will be available in mid-July 1985 from **Data-Star**, as well as from two services in the USA (see below). Averaging 28,000 records annually, BioBusiness will feature a wide scope of commercially oriented research information drawn from the BIOSIS and Management Contents data bases. Data-Star has recently added other new files, including: East European Chemical Monitor (from Business International (Vienna), full-text), Watch (select current events, from Worldwatch Publications ltd., weekly updates), the Academic American Encyclopedia (quarterly updates), Deutsche Presse-Agentur (European news items, daily updates), Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology 3rd edition, ELSA (full-text items from the Swiss news agency, German- and French-language, daily updates), and the Cuadra directory of data bases. This host has also moved from weekly to daily updates of the Financial Times Company Abstracts data base.

The full text of the Financial Times (coverage from the beginning of 1985, London and Frankfurt editions) is now searchable on **Datasolve**, as part of the World Reporter service. Items appear online two days after print publication.

ESA-IRS has added Delft Hydro to its extensive collection of files. The data base, produced by the Waterloopkundig Laboratorium and formerly available on the now defunct Samsom Data Systemen in its home country (The Netherlands), gives bibliographic information/abstracts in the areas of fluid mechanics and its applications, hydraulic engineering, modeling and instrumentation, oceanography, water quality, aquatic ecosystems and related topics. This data base, which is number 91 on ESA-IRS, presently contains approximately 47,000 records covering 1980 to the present, and is updated every month. Its imminent availability was reported already in the summer of 1984 - as was that of IBSEDEX (file 88), which has also finally just been mounted (see ISU vol. 4 no. 4, p. 264-265).

ESA-IRS has also reloaded Compendex (file 4), with searchable abstracts, several new searchable fields, and other improvements.

Two other data bases previously on Samsom, *Marina* (a bibliographic file on shipping, ship building, and offshore activities) and *Shipdes* (a bibliographic file providing statistics on specific ships), are now mounted on the **Control Data Cybernet** network. CMO in Rotterdam is the producer of both these data bases.

Pergamon-InfoLine has recently begun offering the following data bases: Who Owns Whom Online (file label WOW; supplied by Dun & Bradstreet; listing approximately 25,000 parent companies and 275,000 subsidiaries/associates; monthly updates; available outside the Americas on a subscription basis plus connect-hour charge; applications to D&B in London), the Pesticides Databank (file label Pestman, produced by the British Crop Protection Council and the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux), the Chemical Business NewsBase (file label CBNB; supplied by the Royal Society of Chemistry; coverage from October 1984 onwards; updated weekly), Aqualine (supplied by the Water Research Centre, UK; coverage from 1960 onwards), the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health data base (file label NIOSH), and Industrial Market Locations (file label IML; produced by Market Location ltd.; containing data on more than 130,000 industrial sites in Great Britain).

Pergamon-InfoLine has now installed a third computer - a VAX 11/785 - and furthermore added seven gigabytes to its online storage capacity. It has also announced that Kinokuniya is now its sole agent for Japan.

The business and financial news service Dow Jones News/Retrieval has become available over the **IBM Information Network**.

The Commission of the European Communities host **ECHO** is offering a new CEC data base containing details of research, publications and expertise relating to questions of European integration. Called "Eureka", the data base is to be updated four times per year. Another new **ECHO** file is Euroforum - a digest of news concerning the European Community. Also the **DIANE** Guide on **ECHO** now offers controlled-term searching, and data-base descriptions, in four languages (English, French, German, Italian).

EDS, in the UK, has mounted the statistical data bank Chem-Intell (produced by the Chemical Intelligence Service; coverage from 1972 onwards) dealing with industrial production and trade activities.

Recent additions to the **DIALOG** stable of data bases are: Religion Index (file 190, from the American Theological Library Association, coverage from 1949 onwards, updated monthly, available since June), Peterson's College Database (file 214, containing data only for the USA and Canada, annual reloads scheduled, available since May), Soviet Science and Technology (file 270, bibliographic, produced by the IFI/Plenum Data Company, coverage from 1975 onwards, monthly updates, available since April), Electronic Directory of Education (file 511, from Market Data Retrieval, coverage of USA only, to be reloaded biannually, available since May), Standard & Poor's Register - Biographical (file 526, information on ca. 72,000 individuals, biannual updates, available since April), Standard & Poor's Register - Corporate (file 527, detailing ca. 45,000 firms, quarterly updates, available since April), the Media General Databank (file 546, available since March). **DIALOG** has also added **ONTAP** versions of Social Scisearch (file 207), World Patents Index (file 280) and Scisearch (file 294). Updating to Insurance Abstracts (file 168) has ceased. A major addition scheduled for this summer is BioBusiness (see above under Data-Star).

The Belgian system **BELINDIS** is now offering access to a file called **SGB-DOC** (references to economic and financial information of international scope; produced by the Generale Bankmaatschappij; monthly updates).

The bibliographic data base Phytomed (produced by the Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft in Berlin) may now be searched on **DIMDI**.

The Source has recently added Investext to its online service.

Energie is the name of a new bibliographic data base accessible on **INKA**. The abstracts are largely bilingual (German/English), and updating will be monthly.

First legal information and news in full text, then patents, a "reference" service, and now medical information. For its new package of online full-text files in this field, **Mead Data Central** has chosen, logically enough, the name "Medis". Search interface and pricing policy (US\$50/month subscription (which includes Nexis access), \$20/connect hour, plus a low per-search charge) are meant to encourage use by health-care - rather than information intermediary - professionals. Medis comprises several "libraries": General Medical Library, Administrative/Regulatory, Pharmacy, Oncology, and Medical News. The service

incorporates reference and text books, as well as journal articles, and will have a weekly updating cycle.

Also to its existing services, MDC has now made two significant additions: the Financial Times (to Nexis), and the Aerospace Database (to the Reference Service; coverage only from 1980 onwards). In the works are BIOSIS Previews (coverage only from 1980 onwards), BioBusiness (see above under Data-Star), and several additional IAC files. All of these will be on the Reference Service - except for IAC's full-text (ASAP) files, which will go onto Nexis.

BRS has loaded Medical and Psychological Previews (file label MPPS; produced by BRS and W.B. Saunders; only latest three months of literature references kept online; no abstracts; replacing the former Pre-Med and Pre-Psych), the Merck Index 10th edition (file label MRCK; to be updated biannually), and Corporate and Industry Research Reports Online Index (file label CIRR; produced by JA Micropublishing inc.).

Among Recent additions on **I.P. Sharp** are: OECD Economic Outlook, OECD Indicators of Industrial Activity, Country Economic Profiles, and Citicorp Economic Report.

ITT Dialcom has added Dow Jones News/Retrieval and the Deutsche Presse Agentur English-language service.

The AP Medical News Service (produced by Associated Press, menu-based) is now available on the **GTE Telenet Medical Information Network** (MINET), by special arrangement with the American Medical Association. MINET has also recently added the US Surgeon General's Information Service.

Newsnet is expanding beyond its original general collection of newsletters, with: Vu/Quote (transit service, or "gateway" access; continuous updating) and TRW Business Profiles (covering US companies; based in part on Standard & Poor's data).

A new telecommunications data base, called MARS, is in production at **Access Innovations** of Albuquerque, NM. The information supplier is Bell Communications Research. Coverage is from late 1983 to the present. Access Innovations claims that MARS is "the most comprehensive source of information related to telecommunications products and services, market opportunities, marketing strategies, regulatory legislative and legal issues, and information processing technology", but it is not to be made publicly available. However, for further information you may contact: Pamela Pritcher, manager, Information Research Center, Bell Communications Research, Livingston, NJ, USA; tel. (201) 740-3919.

The **American Mathematical Society** has broadened the coverage of its data base Mathfile (available on DIALOG (file 239), BRS (file label MATH) and ESA-IRS (file 80), as well as on Knowledge Index and After Dark), and given it a new name: MathSci. The expansion comprises incorporation of "a current awareness subfile" (Current Mathematical Publications - CMP Online) and of two statistics subfiles (Current Index to Statistics, and the (Tukey) Index to Statistics and Probability). The Mathematical Reviews component of the data base has been greatly augmented with the addition of citations for the period 1959-1972.

Upon expiration of outstanding lease agreements, the **Institute of Paper Chemistry** has discontinued tape distribution of its data base Paperchem (effective with the May 1985 instalment). Access to the file will henceforth be only via DIALOG's online version. (It was recently

withdrawn from SDC, as announced in our February issue.) The IPC has required the return of all tapes by its former clients, but will in future conduct searches for them on request. IPC member companies (in the USA), and (US) subscribers, will enjoy favorable access conditions (including downloading privileges).

BNA has announced what it calls "the new AdvanceLine", now available on ITT Dialcom. Subscription fees have been eliminated, while three new subfiles (Daily Washington Advance, Daily Labor Advance, Daily Congressional and Presidential Calendar) are now available. Also, the service is operating under Dialcom's new "more powerful, yet easy-to-use" search software.

The **Royal Society of Chemistry** has decided to make available (initially on Data-Star) an online version of its Agrochemicals Handbook.

Data bases withdrawn

Washington Post Index	DIALOG
PTS Forecasts	BRS
PTS Historical Time Series	BRS
DISC	BRS
CECILE	Télésystemes-Questel
Cancernet	Télésystemes-Questel
Toxicology Data Bank	NLM Medline

New Data-Star agent

A company called Update Scandinavia in Göteborg, Sweden, will now represent Data-Star in the Nordic region.

Groups

Télésystemes-Questel now has a user group. Membership currently costs FF 100 per year, and includes a subscription to the group's bulletin.

INSPEC has organized sixteen distinct special interest groups representing specialties within the physical sciences, data processing and communications technologies, electrical and electronics engineering and related fields.

News of BLLD

The Lending Division of the British Library has begun issuing a quarterly four-page newsletter. It is free of charge to any interested individuals. The first issue was for March 1985.

Wilson promotes CD-ROM services

Previously, we have reported on the establishment of Wilson-Cambridge, as a subsidiary of the H.W. Wilson Company. This enterprise has now begun to approach publishers with the offer to provide consultancy services for placing their data bases on "the most rewarding of the electronic media".

Fighting back

The British Office Technology Manufacturers' Association is a new grouping of some forty UK companies whose aim is to "compete more effectively against market leaders from Japan, the United States and European states" (in the words of The Times).

Reaching the corporate decision makers

This is the objective of Net Net, a new promotional newsletter distributed quarterly by Data Courier as an alternative to its existing Log/on (which has a stronger orientation toward the information professional).

RLG announces IBM PC version of RLIN terminal

The Research Libraries Group (RLG) is ready to distribute software that allows an IBM Personal Computer to operate like an RLIN-programmed terminal. (RLIN is RLG's automated library network system, currently used for cataloguing in over 140 US institutions.) This terminal emulation software is the first of three stages in RLG's development of further extended character set capabilities for RLIN. The RLIN terminal-emulation software, available on diskette, will enable libraries to use an IBM PC as a standard RLIN input terminal given the proper configuration. The software will support input and display of the full Roman alphabet, including the American Library Association extensions to the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII). The second stage of development will be completed later this year, when RLG will offer support on the IBM PC for Cyrillic input, searching, and display in RLIN. Support for the Cyrillic alphabet will be based on the stage-one RLIN terminal emulation software and the same hardware/software configuration. Following this, in stage three, RLG will release software to support Hebrew (as well as Cyrillic and Roman) input and display on the IBM PC/AT. In 1986, support for Arabic will be added to the PC/AT software. RLG already supports the input and display of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean vernacular in RLIN, using specially designed 'RLG CJK' terminals. Commenting on this announcement, David Richards, RLG's Director of Research and Development, stated: "RLG has plans for the utilization of personal computer technology that go far beyond mere terminal emulation. In collaboration with other organizations, we intend to develop a scholar's workstation that integrates multilingual document preparation and electronic publishing support with a high-level interface to information resources and local database management capabilities. Development of the basic software to support display of non-Roman alphabetic languages on standard PC hardware is an important step toward that goal." The RLIN software can be used only on the RLIN synchronous telecommunications network. If a user is not replacing an existing RLIN terminal with an IBM PC, this may require installation of a leased telephone line and a modem. For further information, contact: The Research Libraries Group inc., Jordan Quadrangle, Stanford, CA 94305, USA; tel. (415) 328-0920.

Tools of the trade

For information on the newly published 4th edition of Martha Williams' **Computer-Readable Databases: A Directory and Data Sourcebook**, see the fourth item in this news section, above.

The American Society for Metals (Metals Information, Metals Park, OH 44073, USA; tel. (216) 338-5151) has issued a **Metadex** User Guide at US\$40/£25. European customers may order from Metals Information, The Institute of Metals, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DB, UK; tel. (01) 839-4071.

A serials checklist is available from the **Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux**, Central Sales, Farnham House, Farnham Royal, Slough SL2 3BN, UK; tel. (02814) 2262; telex 874 964. The checklist comprises more than 10,000 titles.

The **PAIS** International Periodicals List is free from Public Affairs Information Service, 11 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018, USA; tel. (212) 736-6629.

Data Courier is now offering the 1985 edition of its **ABI/Inform** journals list. Address for inquiries: 620 South Fifth Street, Louisville, KY 40202-2297, USA; tel. (502) 582-4111; telex 204 235.

From Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature Corporation, P.O. Box 871, Glendale, CA 91209, USA, you may order the 1985 subject heading list (US\$25) and the journal list (free) for **Nursing and Allied Health**.

There is a revised version of the **INIS** (International Nuclear Information System) manual now available from the International Atomic Energy Agency, Postfach 100, Wagramerstrasse 5, 1400 Wien, Austria; tel. (0222) 2360. The price is ÖSch.170 including postage and handling.

Pergamon InfoLine (12 Vandy Street, London EC2A 2DE, UK, tel. (01) 377-4650, telex 881 4614; 1340 Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101, USA, tel. (703) 442-0900 or (800) 336-7575) has prepared a new System Reference Manual.

The revised **CSA** Online User's Manual may be ordered from Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, 5161 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20816, USA; tel. (301) 951-1400 or (800) 638-8076. Price is US\$50, or US\$20 for each separately ordered data-base section.

You may request a free copy of the **Biotechnology Abstracts** User's Manual, 2nd edition, from Derwent: Rochdale House, 128 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RP, UK, tel. (01) 242-5823, telex 267 487 derpub g; or 6845 Elm Street, Suite 500, McLean, VA 22101, USA, tel. (703) 790-0400.

The second edition of the Subject Guide to **IAC** Databases is available from Information Access Company, 11 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002, USA. It costs US\$85.

For no charge, the Population Information Program of The Johns Hopkins University (624 North Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA) will send you a copy of the 2nd edition of the **Popline** Thesaurus.

US\$25 is the price of the **International Listing Service** User Manual, from ILS, 8350 Greensboro Drive, Suite 425, McLean, VA 22102, USA.

The Longman Group, Professional and Information Publishing Division,

Westgate House, The High, Harlow, Essex CM20 1NE, UK, tel. (0279) 442601, has published an International Directory of Telecommunications. ISBN 0-582-90021-2. Price: £49.

The ninth edition of the Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centers, in two volumes (vol. 2: geographic and personnel indexes), is now available from Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226, USA; tel. (313) 961-2242. ISBNs 0-8103-1888-1 (vol. 1, in two parts) and 0-8103-1889-X (vol. 2). Price: US\$320 (vol. 1) + US\$265 (vol. 2). Supplements (vol. 3) are planned to begin in the autumn, and will cost US\$275. The directory covers only the USA and Canada.

R.R. Bowker has published something called The North American Online Directory 1985. (This is in fact the new version of the former international guide published under the title Information Industry Market Place, and outside the Americas as Information Trade Directory.) ISBN 0-8352-1879-1. Price: US\$75 + postage and handling. Order from Bowker's Customer Service department, P.O. Box 1807, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA; tel. (313) 761-4700 or (800) 521-8110.

The Information Industry Association in the USA has announced its intention to produce, by November of this year, a "practical guide to copyright and contract issues" for the (informal) use of its members. The author will be Peggy Miller of Trintex (formerly of Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays).

Minimum charge scrapped

SDC Information Services has now eliminated all monthly minimum billing charges on its ORBIT system.

Wiring China

Beijing is to be the site of a new Telecommunications Technology Development Center, established in cooperation with Cable and Wireless of the UK.

Dialogue

The theme for the Fall Meeting of the Association of Information and Dissemination Centers (ASIDIC) will be "Users speak out: vendors and producers respond". User representatives will include speakers from 3M Corporation, Columbia University, Information on Demand, DuPont, and the US Patent Office; the producers' panel participants will be the presidents or directors of NTIS, Engineering Information, BIOSIS, INSPEC, PsycInfo, ISI, IAC, Trinet, EIC/Intelligence, and the AIP; the vendors' panel will involve top-level managers from DIALOG, WilsonLine, Pergamon InfoLine inc., Questel, SDC, CAS, and NERAC. The traditional ASIDIC working group discussions and reports will take a slightly different form in view of the more interactive structure of this meeting. The event will take place in Boston on 29 September - 1 October. Further information is available from Dan Wilde at NERAC (Storrs, CT 06268, USA; tel. (203) 486-4533), or from the ASIDIC Secretariat.

The "commercial" importance of information

Meanwhile, on the other side of the water, the European Association of Information Services (EUSIDIC) is preparing for its Annual Conference. It has issued a news release touting the "prestige speakers" (?) which it has lined up from Frost & Sullivan, the Bundesministerium für Forschung und Technologie (FRG), the British Film Institute, and Télé-systèmes. Dates are 29-31 October, the location Bath (UK), and the theme "Information - the billion-dollar industry". EUSIDIC promises, in the words of its chairman, "an even higher standard than in previous years". Further speakers at this conference will represent such organizations as Reuters Europe, International Thomson Organisation, Esso Chemical Europe, Citibank Belgium, Philips, Mead Data Central, Jordan & Sons, DIALOG, and the GID. Additional information: EUSIDIC Administrative Secretariat, P.O. Box 429, London W4 1UJ, UK; tel. (01) 546-7968; telex 825 962.

Two new newsletters

The Pharmaceutical Division of the Special Libraries Association in the USA has begun producing its own newsletter, "Pharm Forum".

"Professional Document Retrieval" is the title of a publication from The Information Store in San Francisco.

People

James Ducker has left **Datasolve** to become managing director of **Pergamon InfoLine**.

Mark Bayer has left **BRS**, where he was vice president for marketing.

Now manager of the sales and promotion division of **Engineering Information** is Robert H. Shank. He has previously held positions with Bowker, ISI, and Datapro, as well as with other organizations.

Another library-automation supplier now set to venture into the promising (but increasingly crowded) area of optical storage is the Canadian firm **Geac**, which has named Douglas W. Brooks as manager, optical disc systems.

After six years in the position, M. Lynne Neufeld is resigning as executive director of the **National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services** (NFAIS), effective 20 September 1985. This US trade association has not yet announced a successor to Ms. Neufeld.

BRS Information Technologies has named Larry Day (previously with Business International, and before that a vp at Indian Head) to be executive vice president and chief operating officer.

At **McGraw-Hill Book Company**, John G. Christoffersson has become manager of electronic information services. He had previously held a similar position with the medical publisher W.B. Saunders Company.

Peter R. Genereaux has been appointed vice president for marketing and sales at **I.P. Sharp Associates** in Ottawa.

Recent additions to the staff of the **Information Industry Association** are: Michael T. Atkin as sales and marketing manager, Martha M.

Gillis as member services director, and Kenneth Allen as government relations staff member. Allen will later on become vice president, government relations (replacing Bob Willard - see ISU vol. 5 no. 1, p. 67). He was previously with the US Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Marvin I. Weinberger has become senior vice president for marketing and corporate development at **Telebase Systems**. Weinberger had been head of Databasics and of MIW Associates - both of which enterprises hereby are merging with Telebase Systems (whose best known offering is the Easynet service, an NFAIS initiative dating back to the Summer of last year - see ISU vol. 4 no. 4, p. 268-269).

Replacing Rita G. Lerner as manager of the **American Institute of Physics** marketing division is Jeffrey Howitt. Lerner becomes manager of the newly established AIP books division.

After a long and complex search procedure, the executive board of the **American Library Association** has chosen Thomas J. Galvin to be the association's next executive director, effective 2 December 1985. ALA reports that the search cost almost \$35,000. Galvin is presently dean of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. He will as ALA executive director succeed Robert Wedgeworth - who has served in the position since 1972, and now will be going on to Columbia University as dean of the School of Library Service (effective 1 September).

OCIC has announced the appointment of Elinor M. Hashim as its program director for special libraries, in the office of library planning. Hashim was previously with the Perkin-Elmer Corporation, and presently serves as chairman of the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

Reference Technology has named three new marketing directors: Jane N. Ryland ("technical marketing"), Stanley R. Huntting ("medical marketing"), and Michael G. Befeler ("market development"). Ryland and Huntting were already with Reference Technology in other positions, and - like Befeler - were at one time employees of Storage Technology Corporation. As were John W. Woods, new Reference Technology director of product engineering; and Robert E. O'Harold, now director of manufacturing technical support.

Charles Major has become The **Source Telecomputing** Corporation's director of product development and design.

The **Library of Congress** has announced the retirement of Fred E. Croxton as director (1978-1985) of the automated systems office; and the death of Marvin W. McFarland, who was previously (1966-1980) chief of the science and technology division.

Jean-Paul Emard has left **Online inc.** (of Connecticut) in order to join **Meckler Publishing** as vice president administration.

Frank H. Spaulding, manager of library services at AT&T Bell Laboratories (Holmdel, NJ), is the new president-elect of the **Special Libraries Association**. He will therefore serve as SLA president for the 1986-1987 term, beginning in June of next year.

American Corporate Services inc., an investment banking firm, has a new senior vice president in the person of Norman Wellen. Wellen was until the beginning of this year president of **Business International**.

Carol A. Nemeyer has left the **Library of Congress**, where she was associate librarian for national programs.

At **UNESCO/PGI**, the new chief of section for "training of specialists and users" is Yves Courrier, replacing Kenneth H. Roberts.

Philip Thibideau is chairman of the newly established international relations subcommittee of **NFAIS'** s committee on government and international relations.

New chairman of the **OCLC** board of trustees (succeeding Russell Shank of UCLA) is Ronald L. Wigington - who currently holds the position of deputy executive director for Washington operations at the American Chemical Society, and was from 1968 to 1984 the director of research and development at Chemical Abstracts Service.

Margreet Wijnstroom has announced her intention to retire, effective late August 1987, as secretary general of **IFLA**. The search for a successor has already begun.

The (US) Associated Information Managers has made its 1985 "information management pioneer award" to John Diebold.

Trends

Scripture

As has been true in other areas of new information technology, utilization of full-text storage and retrieval systems will naturally go beyond the domain of STM and professional applications. One example is provided by BRS - Bible Research Systems - of Texas, which has made available a floppy-disk edition of the Bible in English ("new international version"), packaged with special search software. It will run on Apple and IBM(-compatible) micro's.

Transborder data flows

TDF has become a phenomenon of general concern - at least if one can judge by the greatly increasing official attention paid to this particular matter by numerous international organizations, of widely varying sorts. One of the heavy-weights, of course, is the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD). This intergovernmental body (representing twenty-four industrialized nations of the world) has recently come up with a declaration on the subject. The text was approved at a ministerial meeting on 11 April 1985 in Paris. It was a long time in coming, and is predictably bland - indicating, however, a willingness of member nations to cooperate further toward keeping TDF barriers to a minimum. Oddly, it is careful to speak of "data and information" at several points, without offering any hint at what it assumes the difference between the two to be. It does, however, single out as one general priority category for future work "marketed computer services and computerized information services" (along with "flows of data accompanying international trade" and "intra-corporate data

flows"). Another significant point is the implicit endorsement of attempts at "reconciling different policy objectives in this field".

It was also quite recently that the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics (IBI) got seriously into the act by actually establishing an "international consultative commission on TDF development", whose first séance was to take place in Rome this June (it was eventually postponed until later in the year). Don't expect that any declaration ultimately issuing from this commission will bear much resemblance to the OECD document - since it will of course be dominated by representatives from developing countries, and already shows a strong orientation toward emphasizing their requirements.

Other intergovernmental bodies of course have obvious or latent interests in dealing with TDF affairs. Among the more active have been the United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporations, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, but there are also the International Telecommunication Union, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the Council of Europe.

Transborder data flow has also caught the imagination of international non-governmental groupings. One of the more striking examples is the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). IFLA has gone so far as to approve a new "core program" in the area. The program activities will be largely concerned with potential international library (bibliographic) networks, but also with matters of remote access to publicly available online data-base services. Formulation of policies and guidelines is foreseen, as is cooperation with other concerned organizations. IFLA appears in general to be taking an 'unimpeded flow of information' sort of stance; financial backing for the program has already materialized, from the Council on Library Resources in the USA. At a regional level, a working group on TDF now exists within the European Association of Information Services (EUSIDIC), though it seems not in fact to be the result of a groundswell of membership interest in the subject; also, its objectives and working program are less than clear.

Comments

In the starting-blocks?

One of the outstanding accomplishments of European technocrats has been to propagate a large number of clever acronyms as labels for the many programs and projects undertaken by them in recent years. Some (such as ESPRIT - "The European Strategic Program for Research in Information Technology") are more eloquent than others (like APOLLO - "Article Procurement with Online Local Ordering"). One of the more poignant examples is the R&D in Advanced Communication Technologies for Europe program - "RACE", especially since it, like some others, is founded on the perception that in this particular area Europe should be strenuously competing with the USA and Japan. The first more or less concrete objective is to develop, by the mid-'90s, so-called "integrated broadband communication" (IBC) networks, equipment and services which will go beyond the current integrated services digital network

(ISDN) developments. However, the initial step is to be a "definition phase" lasting eighteen months from July of this year, with a proposed budget of 42.9 million European Currency Units.

Such is the proposal which the Commission of the European Communities has laid before the Council of Ministers. The CEC has already been accepting indications of interest from organizations who may later wish to respond to a call for (collaborative) proposals. The CEC body managing the arrangements is the Information Technologies and Telecommunications Task Force in Brussels. The Commission does not foresee significant research overlap with the more generalized ESPRIT program. RACE will have to take ESPRIT results into account, but those involved with ESPRIT should also be aware of the RACE objectives.

This all sounds very nice, though suitably vague. In any event, even if the money is forthcoming (and the EC foresees footing half the bill, at least in the definition phase), any eventual implementation for the benefit of telecommunication users, and European information technology suppliers, is very far down the road. (This particular race looks like being a marathon - to judge by the European approach to it.) It also will require an adaptability and cooperative spirit such as the leading telecoms players - both commercial and public-sector - have not shown themselves ready to muster in the past. One incidental question which comes to mind is whether the EC may be attempting to lay claim to prerogatives which properly belong to an organization called CEPT (Conférence européenne des postes et télécommunications). CEPT of course goes far beyond the domain of the Community, comprising (PTT) representatives from twenty-six nations. This potential conflict has not been fully resolved, but the EC has made it clear that it is prepared to go ahead on its own, while inviting CEPT cooperation should the latter be willing. But even within the EC there will be many obstacles to overcome, some of these political. Even the Council of Ministers approval for the RACE definition phase has been held up by the Italians, who are insisting that the EC first agree to establish a new tritium treatment laboratory in their country.

Information services for research

"The computer, telecommunications, and text storage technologies that now play a prominent and at times dominant role in many aspects of library service and information systems have created a very different and complicated new environment. The established structure is changing and powerful economic forces are having a profound influence on all aspects of scholarly communication, libraries, and information services generally. While technology is powerful and brings a promise of unmatched opportunities, it is essential to remember that ready access to information is not automatically assured." So states the Council on Library Resources (CLR) in introducing a formal statement by its board of directors on Scholarship, Research, and Access to Information. According to the CLR, the goal of unconstrained access to information "must be constantly and aggressively pursued". The statement itself warns of "some potential problems" - such as "certain restrictive practices" on the part of (bibliographic) data-base producers and suppliers who perhaps do not understand academic ethics or the nature of scholarship. One point is that of "limited or conditional access" to data base records, and another is the question of selective coverage of "aspects of culture and learning". In the latter connection, the statement as-

serts that "there is too often a tendency to assume exact correlation between the economic value of information and its intrinsic worth". The CLR believes that we are dealing with a "challenge of unsurpassed importance".

There are serious innuendos here, but we find no argumentation based upon specific examples, even in broad terms. To this extent the statement is both provocative and possibly counter-productive. What "restrictive practices" and what sort of omissions in coverage does the CLR have in mind? What corrective actions should (can) the data-base industry take? Who should be responsible for identifying and obviating the (potential) problems? We have the impression that the statement is really a call to vigilance for the US research library community. As such, this is not necessarily a bad thing, but there are limits to the abilities of librarians (as intermediaries, at best, in the scholarly world) either to formulate the specific problems at hand or effectively to lobby for redress. What they might well do is to help in raising the consciousness of the researchers themselves, explaining their perceptions of "the difficulties ahead". Given the generally poor level of communication (and understanding) between scholars and librarians, especially in the US, this may not prove an easy task. The statement calls for "better ways ... to build responsible partnerships among all elements of the system of scholarly communication". We, for our part, would like to know how such partnerships ought to look, in the CLR's opinion. Presumably we shall be hearing more about the matter, since the CLR "will keep this topic at the forefront of its program".