

## Papers from the 30th NFAIS Annual Conference

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### Introduction

In this issue of *Information Services & Use* our readers will find many of the papers presented at the 30th Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services. Convened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 28, 1988 and concluding on March 2, 1988, the theme of the meeting was “The Database Business: Managing Today – Planning for Tomorrow”. In this issue, papers from the first three days of the meeting attest to the vitality of database production and the diversity of issues, policies, and technological challenges that are involved.

To acquaint those of our readers who may not be familiar with NFAIS and its activities: the organization was founded in 1958 as the National Federation of Abstracting and *Indexing* Services. Originally focused on the science and technological secondary services, NFAIS members today represent disciplines in the humanities, business and, as associates, other participants in the information distribution chain.

At the time of this meeting NFAIS had a total of 59 members representing abstracting and information services from the not-for-profit sector, governmental organizations, and private (for profit) organizations. These services cover thousands of primary sources in all disciplines and process the literature through databases and publications that present millions of documents of all types.

The roll of associate members of NFAIS includes most of the major online hosts and other ancillary services involved in the information needed in modern research and business applications

The papers in this issue are presented in the same sequence and organization as they were originally given at the meeting. The Miles Conrad Memorial Lecture which opens the meeting is dedicated to a founding member and has been the highlight of all NFAIS meetings since its inception. The Conrad lecture appears for the first time in a publication other than the “NFAIS Newsletter” which has recorded it since 1968.

The wide spread of subjects addressed by NFAIS is indicative of the complexity of the modern information world and, in the opinion of the Editor, presents the reader with an invaluable overview of issues, problems and solutions that affect the entire information community.

*ISU* is grateful to NFAIS for its cooperation in assembling these papers. We hope that you will find them useful and rewarding.

A.W. Elias