

## NEWS

### Library school programmes

The Department of Information Studies of Sheffield University (formerly the Postgraduate School of Librarianship and Information Science) introduced revised programmes in October 1982.

Three 'taught course' degrees at the Master's level continue to be offered by the Department: the MA in Librarianship, the M.Sc. in Information Studies and the M.Sc. in Information Studies (Social Sciences). However, there is a greater capability than previously for students to take optional courses from the different programmes. The new 'modular' construction of the programmes also makes it possible for the Department to accept students, particularly from overseas, who wish to update their knowledge of a particular area, or fill a gap in their professional expertise by taking one or two 'modules' and having further, directed, independent study. Fees for such students have not yet been agreed but are likely to be of the order of £300 for a single, 10-week module.

The structure of the programmes differs to some extent; the two M.Sc. programmes being most closely related, as follows.

Term I. Five, non-elective courses: (1) communication<sup>1</sup>, (2) information storage and retrieval, (3) computers, computing and telecommunication, (4) systems and management<sup>1</sup>, (5) information resources.

Term II. One, non-elective course: computers, computing and telecommunications. Four elective courses from the following groups.

(1) *Information resources*: courses will include specialization in Economics and Management; Business and Financial; Chemistry and Biomedicine; Physical Sciences; Life Sciences, etc.

(2) *Information retrieval and computers*: advanced programming; advanced IR and expert systems; computer-based retrieval systems; information processing in man and machine, etc.

(3) *Management, policy and systems*: information law and policy; information in developing countries; health care information systems; technology transfer; scientific management; organization theory and information management.

(4) *Research methods*: Statistics; Survey Research.

The MA in Librarianship programme has fewer electives and more required courses in Term II but also has a modular structure.

<sup>1</sup> These are generalized titles which hide some variation between the two programmes.

Further details are available from:

Dr. T.D. Wilson,  
Department of Information Studies,  
University of Sheffield,  
Sheffield S10 2TN,  
England, U.K.

### **Training aids**

Nine training modules in the use of ESA-Quest online information retrieval service and CCL (Common Command Language) have been produced by Julie Scoltock, an M.Sc. student at Sheffield University in England. They have been designed for use on an Apple II micro-computer.

Called Sequol (Simulation of ESA-Quest online) it demonstrates and teaches the use of commands and search facilities. The modules increase in complexity such that the earlier ones give detailed instruction but the later modules require the use of the knowledge previously gained.

Module 1. Occupational Health Search (HSELINE) using CCL.

Module 2. The same search but using ESA-Quest commands.

Module 3. Oil Pollution (Compendex and Pascal).

Module 4. The Effect of Acid Rain (Chemabs and Biosis).

Module 5. Translation Search (WTI).

Module 6. Conference Paper Search (CPI).

Module 7. Logging off in CCL.

Module 8. Logging off in ESA-Quest.

The ninth module is a quiz which allows knowledge acquired in the previous modules to be tested. It can be run on completion of all eight questionnaires or be used to receive questions on the module just completed.

Further details can be obtained from:

Frances Wood,  
Department of Information Studies,  
University of Sheffield,  
Sheffield S10 2TN,  
England, U.K.

### **Recent research awards**

#### *Microcomputer teaching package for online bibliographic searching*

This package, comprising programs on floppy discs, a *Workbook* and a *Manual*, offers practice in using the DIALOG command language and carrying out online

searches. It runs on any microcomputer with a CP/M operating system, 56k RAM and 8" floppy discs, although minor program modifications may be required with some machines. The package was developed at the College of Librarianship Wales by J.A. Large and C.J. Armstrong under a 16 month research grant from the British Library Research and Development Department. Computer Aided Instruction (CAI) modules introduce the trainee to the commands, which can then be used on the emulation – a small-scale model of the DIALOG retrieval system which accepts DIALOG commands and produces DIALOG-type responses using a database of 110 records. The package (BLR & DD Reports Nos. 5740 and 5741 plus discs) can be obtained from:

British Library Research and Development Department,  
Sheraton House,  
Great Chapel Street,  
London W1V 4BH,  
England, U.K.

Technical enquiries should be addressed to:

Dr. J.A. Large,  
College of Librarianship Wales,  
Llanbadarn Fawr,  
Aberystwyth,  
Dyfed SY23 3AS,  
Wales, U.K.

*New directions for library and information education*

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded a contract to King Research, Inc. to determine the present and future competencies needed by library and information science professionals and to examine the educational requirements necessary to achieve those competencies. The entire system of determining competencies and developing curricula relies heavily on communication among information service organizations, education and training organizations, librarians and other information professionals, professional societies, and researchers. A mechanism that will lead to improved communications among the participants will be developed to improve the likelihood that competencies that are both appropriate and timely will be taught and that all participants will be aware of them and informed as to the sources of their supply and demand. The project is addressed to traditional roles of information professionals as well as new, emerging roles, and to formal education as well as on-going continuing education.

A project newsletter will be circulated on a quarterly basis and copies of working documents will be available for review. Feedback is encouraged, and all comments and suggestions concerning the study will be coordinated for review by the project team. In particular input relating to job descriptions, career paths, education and

training received and required, and to identify potential tests sites, is solicited. Those interested should contact:

Dr. Jose-Marie Griffiths, Project Director,  
6000 Executive Boulevard,  
Rockville, MD 20852,  
U.S.A.

#### *Staff training in university libraries*

The College of Librarianship Wales was awarded a grant of £5 000 by the British Library Research and Development Department to investigate the training needs of university library staff and to devise a model training programme. The research was undertaken by Michael J Wells, Senior Liaison and Training Officer in the College, on the basis of investigations at the libraries of Bath and Bristol Universities. The work was under the supervision of Philip M. Whiteman, retiring Head of Social and Management Studies at the College, acting as Project Head with advice from Ronald J. Edwards, Senior Lecturer.

As a result of this project, it has been possible to identify the training needed by professional and non-professional staff in university libraries and to make recommendations as to how this training should be carried out.

A report on the project has been submitted to the British Library Research and Development Department. The report contains recommendations on the future development of the project, the most important of which is that a series of training packages should be produced to help train new Library Assistants.

#### *Use of microcomputers for teaching information retrieval*

The British Library has awarded Loughborough University £6 950 over 18 months from April 1982 to develop and test programs and instructional materials for use in the education of potential users of online bibliographic information retrieval systems.

The emphasis of this teaching package will be on the basic principles of online retrieval such as indexing, Boolean logic, and search strategy formulation. The major components of the package will be a set of notes (and possibly a tape/slide programme) introducing the concept of information retrieval; a computerised simulation of online searching with unrestricted user response; and a computer-assisted learning module comprising a suite of exercises linked to programmed texts. The package will be written in the first instance for a Research Machines 380Z 56K FDS-2 microcomputer, but the possibility of transferring the programs to other microcomputers will be studied. Several groups of use for the package are envisaged: to teach students of librarianship or information science; as a general aid in a user education programme; and as part of a library staff development programme.

Further details may be obtained from:

Miss S. Keenan/Mrs. G. Tseng,  
Department of Library and Information Studies,  
Loughborough University,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire LE11 2TU,  
England, U.K.  
Tel. 0509-63171.

### *Serials education*

In October 1982 the British Library awarded a grant of £750 for one year to Mr. D.P. Woodworth of Loughborough Technical College to carry out an investigation into the adequacy and future needs of serials education in the U.K.

This survey has the backing of the U.K. Serials Group of which Mr. Woodworth is a founding member. The group's view is that the importance of serials in modern librarianship and information work is not always reflected in the syllabuses of schools of librarianship and that there is therefore an urgent need for research in this field. It is hoped that the above project will establish a preliminary grounding for action on future policy and practice at a time when electronic publishing may necessitate radical changes in the established methods of serials management.

Further details may be obtained from:

Mr. D.P. Woodworth,  
Loughborough Technical College,  
Radmoor,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire LE11 3BT,  
England, U.K.  
Tel. 0509-215831.

### **Courses and conferences**

#### *Educating library users (3-15 July 1983, Sheffield)*

The aim of the course is to consider the reasons for educating library users, the problems of establishing and running user education programmes and to examine possible solutions. The problems presented by different disciplines and the different types of library will be discussed.

The course will include seminars, practical workshops, exhibitions and visits to libraries.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from local British Council Offices or from:

Director, Courses Department,  
British Council,  
65 Davies Street,  
London W1Y 2AA,  
England, U.K.

*User education (19–22 July 1983, Edinburgh)*

The Third International Conference on user education sponsored by the British Library Information Officer for User Education Project, will be held at the University of Edinburgh, July 19–22, 1983. It will be concerned with user education in all sectors – school, higher education, public and special libraries. Themes will include user education and library management, the use of new technology in user education and teaching the use of new information technology. Running concurrently with the conference there will be an exhibition of user education material.

Further details are available from:

Third International Conference on User Education,  
13 Caernarvon Close,  
Shepsted,  
Leicestershire LE1 9QB,  
England, U.K.

*New goals for education (12–14 August 1983, Washington, DC)*

Education for Information Professionals, the first annual conference of the Research Institute for Information Science and Engineering (RIISE), will meet in Washington, DC, August 12–14, 1983. This conference will establish a framework for education in information science based on the National Science Foundation Pittsburgh Manpower Study which identified seven functional categories of professionals. The work of the conference will be to determine on a hypothetical basis what education for these categories should be. The study stressed the importance of the user and his cognitive function. Three major dimensions – critical cognitive skills projected for each of the job functions, educational programmes suited to the development of such skills, required research in developing greater understanding of such skills – will be the focus of the programme.

Enquiries should be addressed to:

RIISE,  
Box 7551,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213,  
U.S.A.

*Training course for documentalists of National Commissions of Asia and the Pacific (13–17 December 1983, Bangkok, Thailand)*

This training course will be organized by the Unesco Regional Office for Education in Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Thai National Commission for Unesco, the National Commissions Division of Unesco and the Division of the General Information Programme.

The aim of the course is to review the basic principles of organizing and operating a documentation centre and to help the participants apply these principles to the documentation centres of Unesco National Commissions. Particular attention will be given to discussing and demonstrating the organization and effective use of Unesco documents and publications.

A similar course was organized in December 1981 in Dakar by the Unesco Regional Office for Education in Africa for documentalists of National Commissions of French-speaking African countries.

*Training course in accessibility and dissemination of non-bibliographic data in science and technology (16–23 October 1983, Stockholm)*

This will be organized by CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology of ICSU, the Swedish Delegation for Science and Technology, the Royal Institute of Technology Library and Unesco. It will set out to promote the development of expertise in the practical application of non-bibliographic data files and data banks in science and technology. It is intended in particular for organizations and individuals active in R & D and emphasis will be placed on scientific and technological information as represented in numerical, graphical or textual form.

Specifically, the objectives of the course will be to review the current and future role of non-bibliographic data services; to describe and make a critical review of the non-bibliographic resources and services currently available to different users; to analyse the particular problems of data production, organization of data services and utilization of non-bibliographic data in science and technology; and to examine, through R & D case-studies, problems in the application of non-bibliographic data and lessons to be drawn by producers, service organizations and user education programmes. Areas for study will include: data users and their needs in different scientific areas; varieties of data and their presentation; access to the primary and secondary literature; critical evaluation and compilation of data; data publications, data centres, data banks, data referral; computer aspects of compilation, storage, management, accessibility and dissemination of data; practical problems (case-studies): the formulation of search strategies, the acquisition and utilization of data.

The number of participants, from both developed and developing countries, will be limited to 25–30. They should have a university degree in a field of science and technology, and experience in the use of data files and/or data banks. The course will be held in English. A limited number of fellowships will be offered by CODATA to participants from developing countries.

For further details and application forms, please contact:

Dr. S. Schwarz, Director,  
Royal Institute of Technology Library,  
5-100 44 Stockholm,  
Sweden.

### Conference report

*Ad Hoc Committee on Education and Training Policy and Programme (4–6 October, Paris)*

The Ad Hoc Committee on Education and Training, which assists the Unesco Secretariat in developing its programme and policy in education and training activities carried out within the General Information Programme, held its fifth session from 4 to 6 October 1982 at Unesco House in Paris.

The following members of the committee attended the meeting: Mrs G. Adda (Tunisia), Mrs R. Gassol de Horowitz (Venezuela), Professor M.A. Gopinath (India), Dr E. Ketelaar (Netherlands), Professor S.I.A. Kotei (Botswana), Dr G. Matok (Hungary), Professor J. Meyriat (France), Professor W.L. Saunders (United Kingdom) and Professor V. Slamecka (United States). FID, ICA and IFLA were represented at the meeting.

The agenda included two main items: planning the education and training programme for 1984–1985 against the background of past experience and in the framework of the Draft Medium-Term Plan for 1984–1989, and developing user training programmes. The committee's most important task was therefore to identify major activities that should be included in the education and training components of the three biennial programmes to be implemented during the 1984–1989 period.

Among the committee's conclusions, the following are of particular interest.

(1) It was felt important that library school staff should be kept constantly informed about new developments in the field of norms and standards. Continuing education for teachers should therefore be considered a high priority.

(2) Increased emphasis should be placed on the organization of regional activities (formal training courses, research and continuing education).

(3) More support should be given to the production of basic teaching materials, simple textbooks or teaching packages for which there is still a strong need in the developing countries.

(4) Urgent action is needed for training specialized personnel for the design, creation and maintenance of bibliographical and factual data bases.

(5) Considerable stress should be placed on keeping up the pressure for education and training in archives and records management.

(6) There will be an increasing need for information-trained subject specialists capable of evaluating, synthesizing and disseminating information.

(7) User education remains one of the most important issues in the Medium-Term

Plan and the key role in this area was assigned to educational institutions from primary school through to university level.

(8) It was felt that, in the long run, building information-seeking and using skills into the education of teachers, managers and decision-makers would bear important dividends.

(9) It was also stressed that users should be closely associated with the creation, operation and evaluation of data bases.

A recurring theme throughout the committee's discussions was the desirability, in appropriate cases, for developing countries to turn to other developing countries for consultants and exchange of experience between specialists, rather than invariably turning to the developed world.