

## News

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### 1 General

#### 1.0. *EEC Legal Advisory Board*

Following his nomination by the Department of Trade and Industry, Professor Charles Oppenheim, Head of the Department of Information Science at the University of Strathclyde, has been invited to join the Legal Advisory Board (LAB) of the Commission of the European Communities. The LAB advises the Commission (especially its DGXII and DGIII) on all aspects of information law, including copyright, data protection, liability for information provision, VAT rates for information products, freedom of information and consumer credit law. It gives this advice both by commenting on EEC Draft Directives and by suggesting areas which require Community action. The Board is primarily composed of Professors of Information Law from amongst Community countries. Professor Oppenheim is one of the very few non-lawyers on the Board.

#### 1.1. *Retirement*

Dr. Helen Howard retired at the end of September 1992 from the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, McGill University, Montreal. She joined the School as Associate Professor in January 1982 and served as Director from April 1984 to July 1989. Under her leadership the School flourished; its accreditation was renewed in 1987, several new faculty were recruited, the IT Lab with the School's first microcomputers was established and a new post of Professional Associate created to manage it.

#### 1.2. *Information degrees earn less*

One hundred thousand pounds was the highest annual salary reported in the latest salary survey of UK information scientists. The highest bonus earned was £ 9862.

But such sums are unlikely to be earned by holders of information-based degrees – these earn less than others, the report suggests.

Median total pay for the 1034 respondents to the IIS survey, at 1 January this year, was £ 20 000. This is 14.7% higher than reported in the previous survey, two years ago, but the relative position of women seems to have slipped.

In 1988, women overall earned an average of 84.1% as much as men. That figure was 81.7% in 1990 but is now only 80.1%. This may be due in part to the fact that the figures include earnings of part-time workers, some 90% of whom were female.

Median total pay by age is £ 16 000 for those in their late 20s. £ 18 500 – early 30s, £ 20 850 for ages 35–39 and £ 24 000 for respondents in their 40s. Workers aged 50–54 earn £ 24 421, but that slips back to £ 24 000 when one reaches the late 50s. The highest paid respondents, aged 60–64, earned a median of £ 27 477.

Information-based qualifications seem to lead to lower pay than similar qualifications in other subjects: nearly 12% less at first-degree level and nearly 16% less at higher-degree level. In fact, those with higher degrees in information earn fractionally less on average than those with first degrees in other subjects.

Part-time employed respondents earn *pro rata* to a £ 16 648 full-time salary, and part-time self-employed ones *pro rata* to £ 17 827. Those in full-time self-employment earn from £ 3000 to £ 80 000, with a median of £ 21 000 and a mean of £ 29 320. In this group, median daily rates are £ 250 with a mean of £ 273, and 25% of them charge more than £ 400 per day.

Only 17% of those responding were entitled to a monetary bonus of some sort.

A total of 44.6% of UK-based members responded to the Institute of Information Scientists' survey, and the full results are obtainable for £ 10. Prepared by V. Lelliott, they show all sorts of breakdowns by age, gender function etc.

For example, there is a £ 100 000 earner who is a male member of the IIS in his early 50s and working in the private sector.

(*Information World Review* No. 71, June 1992).

### 1.3. *Online information 91 – the biggest CD-ROM event in Europe*

As well as being the largest online information exhibition in the world, Online Information 91 was also the largest CD-ROM show in Europe.

Learned Information Ltd, the organiser of the Online Information series of exhibitions, has analysed the extent of CD-ROM products and services at their event, held each December at Olympia 2 in London.

In December 1991, out of a total of 205 exhibitors no less than 82 companies (40%) were showing CD-ROM-related products and services. These included CD-ROM databases, authoring tools and systems, consulting services, disc mastering and production services, distributors, hardware suppliers, multimedia development tools, publishing services and software developers/suppliers.

As a comparison, the *total* number of exhibitors at the 1991 Microsoft-sponsored

Multimedia and CD-ROM exhibition in Wiesbaden was 61, and the *total* number at CD-ROM Europe 91 was 51.

The Wiesbaden conference programme classified its 61 exhibitors into 10 categories. At Online Information 91 there were exhibitors from each of these 10 categories, which means that *all aspects of CD-ROM publishing* were covered at Online Information 91, and not just CD-ROM databases. This will again be the case in 1992.

To reflect the increasing importance of CD-ROM at the event, the name of the exhibition has been changed to Online/CD-ROM Information 92.

Online/CD-ROM Information 92 will take place at Olympia 2 in London from 8–10 December 1992.

For further details contact:

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## **2 Permanent courses**

### *2.0. Information and Library Studies: Wales*

The University College of Wales, Department of Information and Library Studies recruited its first intake for the single honours degree in Information and Library Studies in October 1991. There will be a variety of courses in management information systems, information source and services, organizational studies, human communications and other optional courses. A period of supervised fieldwork is mandatory. Alternatively, students have the opportunity to spend up to a year in industry. In the final year each student has to present a dissertation on a subject relevant to the course. Further details about this course can be obtained from: The Administrative Office, Department of Information and Library Studies, University College of Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, UK.

### *2.1. Application of artificial intelligence/expert systems in libraries: Canada*

A new course will be offered by the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at McGill University. The course will include artificial intelligence, expert systems, hypertext, AI shells, computer-assisted instruction, logic engineering and logic programming. Importance will be attributed to the evaluation, selection, and application of AI and expert systems. For further information, contact the Graduate

School of Library and Information Studies, McGill University, 3459 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y1, Canada. Tel.: 514-398-4204. Fax: 514-398-7193.

### *2.2. School of Information Studies for Africa: Ethiopia*

The University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia started a programme in Information Studies in 1990. The School for Information Studies in Africa (SISA) was founded with the assistance of UNESCO. This programme is a wonderful opportunity for African information specialists and students to develop their skills close to home. African students in Information Studies programmes in the industrialized countries are often at the risk of acquiring skills which might not be applicable to their own situations. SISA is therefore a good start in the direction of self-reliance. For further information write to: University of Addis Ababa, School of Information Studies for Africa, P.O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### *2.3. Archives and Records Management: Australia*

Monash University's Graduate Department of Librarianship, Archives and Records is running a 2-year full-time Master of Arts (Archives and Records) and a 1-year full-time Diploma in Archives and Records Management. The Archives and Records course was originally set up as a trial, but has now been established on a permanent basis. The two programmes are open also to part-time students. For further information contact: Frank Upward, Monash University, Wellington Road, Clayton, Victoria, Australia.

### *2.4. Distance learning; UK Greece collaboration*

The Department of Information and Library Studies at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (DILS) recently signed an historic agreement with the Technical Educational Institution (TEI) of Thessaloniki to collaborate on the delivery of a distance learning librarianship programme in Greece.

Under the terms of the agreement DILS will provide course materials to the TEI to support a programme of post-professional education for Greek librarians. Based on DILS successful distance learning Master of Librarianship courses already offered to students in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong the new programme will cover topics such as organisational theory, collection management and information technology in libraries. The first Greek students will start their studies in December this year.

As part of the collaboration between the two institutions Mersini Cacouris, the

Head of the Department of Library Science at the TEI taught in Aberystwyth during the International Graduate Information Studies School, and Dick Hartley from DILS will be spending the autumn term in Greece advising his colleagues at the TEI on the development of the information technology module.

At the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the two institutions last month Mersini commented "our co-operation is a model and great experience for the whole library world in Greece".

It is hoped that this will be the first step in a series of collaborations between the TEI and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. "The fact that we have been able to develop this agreement will lead to other collaboration between our two institutions, and the fact that we have reached this stage with only minor support from outside the two institutions will help us to gain finance from the European Commission in future," said Hywel Roberts, Head of Department at DILS.

Further information: Liaison Office, DILS +44 70 622192.  
University College of Wales, Llanebadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, UK

### **3 Meeting**

#### *3.0. Mexico*

1st North-South Online Information Meeting, Mexico City 16–18 March 1993

Learned Information Ltd and the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Centre of Information for Science and Humanities (UNAM-CICH) announce the 1st North-South Online Information Meeting which will take place in Mexico City on 16–18 March 1993.

The conference and its associated exhibition is aimed at bringing together library and information specialists from the Americas and further afield to share experiences, make new contacts and relationships, negotiate business deals and learn about new products and services. Specific areas being targetted include the library and information community, the computer industry, business and corporate entities, the government sector and the academic and education community. Within these broad groupings, the conference will be of value to information managers, database producers and providers, intermediaries, policy makers, librarians, information scientists, telecommunication network operators, computer and information technology equipment manufacturers, lecturers etc.

For further information: Conference Department, Learned Information, Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford OX1 5AU, UK. Tel. +44(0)865 730275. Fax: +44(0)865 736354.

#### **4 Research Award**

##### *4.0. United Kingdom Online User Group (UKOLUG)*

UKOLUG announced that the winner of their first Research Award is Grace McCarthy, librarian at BICC Cables, Wrexham. Ms McCarthy is planning to undertake a study comparing the awareness and use of online environmental information in businesses in the UK, France and Germany. While there is a great deal of such information available, it is quite widely dispersed and the study will show how effectively businesses use online information to inform their environmental strategies and minimise the effect of their business on the environment.

The study will use a questionnaire survey of trade associations, professional institutions, government departments, EC offices and some large companies, backed up by personal visits to a representative cross-section.

As a professional organisation, UKOLUG feel that a part of its responsibility to the profession lies in support, encouragement and professional development. UKOLUG is thus now offering three awards: two go to students on first professional courses and either currently at or recently at, a UK School or Department of Librarianship/Information Studies, or currently on, or having just completed a similar information-oriented course at any other UK higher education institution; and the third is offered annually to UKOLUG members wishing to undertake research in any of UKOLUG's areas of interest.

Those requiring further information on the UKOLUG Awards should contact:

UKOLUG Online Award  
UKOLUG Awards Sub-Committee  
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