

News

1. Research grant

1.1. AASL/Highsmith Research Grant winner named

Robert Grover, Jacqueline Lakin, Shelia Blume and Carol Fox of the Kansas Association of School Librarians Research Committee are the recipients of the 1996 AASL/Highsmith Research Grant for a project “Testing an Interdisciplinary Assessment Model”.

The \$5,000 grant is sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) of the American Library Association (ALA) and The Highsmith Co., Inc. It is given to one or more school library media specialists, library educators, or library information science or education professors to conduct innovative research aimed at measuring and evaluating the impact of school library media programs on learning and education.

The grant will allow the researchers to continue working with the Kansas State Board of Education on an interdisciplinary assessment model for measuring the teaching and learning of information skills as part of an integrated curriculum.

“The results of their evaluation of this model in several Kansas school districts will potentially have an impact on school library media programs throughout the country”, said Ruth Small, chair of the AASL/Highsmith Research Grant Committee.

The grant has been presented on Monday, July 8, 1996, at the AASL Awards Luncheon during the ALA Annual Conference in New York.

2. Conferences

2.1. 9th International Conference on New Information Technology NIT'96, 11–15 November 1996, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa

For further information, please contact: The Organizing Committee NIT'96, Library Services Technikon Pretoria, Private Bag X 680, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa. Fax: +27 12 3185485; Tel.: +27 12 3185240; Email: Marinus@libmain.techpta.ac.za.

Or: The Chief Conference Organizer NIT '96, Prof C.C. Chen, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston,

MA 02115-5898, USA. Fax: +1 617 521 3192; Tel.: +1 617 521 2804; Email: CChen@vmsvax.simmons.edu.

2.2. *Instructional interventions for information use*

Since 1989, researchers and practitioners in the school library media field have gathered to review and discuss major questions concerning the emerging educational theories and potential future roles related to school library media programs. The sixth retreat is tentatively scheduled for March 31–April 1, 1997 near Portland, Oregon.

2.2.1. *Purpose*

The purpose of TM6 is to explore the theories and strategies which apply to improving the quality of information use by students and teachers in a variety of educational environments, k-12. Generally, previous studies and publications have established useful models for the process of search and location of information. These models have also established a foundation for exercises in which students may determine relevant use of information. In addition, some methods for effective assessment of the information search process and product have been suggested. Presentations at TM6 will target the broad area in the center of the information use continuum; the interventions by media specialist, teacher, parents, and even other students in order to move the student information user to a more meaningful experience in the *analysis, synthesis, and application of information*.

For more information contact: Daniel Callison, SLIS 005, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA. Tel.: (812) 855-5113; Email: Callison@indiana.edu.

Or: Ruth Small at Syracuse University; Email: Drruth@mailbox.syr.edu.

Or: Joy McGregor at Texas Woman's University, USA. Email: f_mcgregor@VENUS.TWU.EDU.

2.3. *International Conference on the Future of Communication Formats*

The Banque internationale d'information sur les États francophones (BIEF), a programme of the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (ACCT), in cooperation with the National Library of Canada, organized an *International Conference on the Future of Communication Formats* which took place in Ottawa at the National Library of Canada from October 7–11, 1996.

In the last decade, the national libraries of the Member States of *La Francophonie*, particularly in the developing countries, have benefitted from a variety of programmes aimed at reinforcing their institutional mandate. For example, the publication of national bibliographies, both current and retrospective, is done on a more regular basis and noted efforts have been given to the reconstitution of national heritage ensuring access to national collections for both the researchers and the general public.

Access to information and file transfer raise new issues. The regulation of protocols

for the transfer of electronic information using communication formats is more and more necessary and while time has come, for the developing countries, to choose a communication format for the implementation of their national information system, industrialized countries are continuously assessing the new models of access to information created by networks such as Internet. The earmarked questions are: Is there a possibility that the SGML standard could replace the traditional communication formats? How can one design conversion models between MARC and CCF and SGML making it possible for national libraries having not yet adopted a communication format to operate and exchange immediately in SGML? The choice and the management of a communication format call for heavy economic and human investments on the part of national libraries: could those costs be reduced?

Considering the decisiveness of both technological evolutions and information highways within the Francophone networks, the BIEF recognizes the immediacy of discussing communication formats. The globalization of the information and communication phenomenon raises questions and issues.

For further information, please contact: Suzanne Richer, Director General, BIEF, Hull, Canada, K1A 0M5. Tel.: (819) 997 3857; Fax: (819) 953 8439; Email: acctbief@fox.nstn.ca.

2.3.1. International Organization Committee

Mr. Sewannah Ankiah, Mauritius Institute; Mrs. Marcelle Beaudiquez, Bibliothèque nationale de France; Mr. Raouf Belhassen, Bibliothèque nationale de Tunisie; Mrs. Mihaela Bora, Bibliothèque nationale de Roumanie; Mr. Oumar Diallo, Bibliothèque nationale du Sénégal; Mrs. Madeleine Duchesne, BIEF; Mr. Louis Groulx, BIEF; Mrs. Ingrid Parent, National Library of Canada (President); Mr. André Paul, National Library of Canada (Secretary); Mrs. Suzanne Richer, BIEF.

3. World Wide Web

3.1. ISPO

ISPO – the European Commission's Information Society Project Office – has launched a newsletter on the Web. It will cover developments towards the Information Society, and European activities in this field. The URL is: <http://www.ispo.cec.be/ispo/newsletter/index.html>.

The newsletter is also available on paper. ISPO's freephone number in the UK is 0800 962114. ISPO may also be contacted at: European Commission, Information Society Project Office, 200 rue de la Loi (BU-24 2/78), B-1049 Brussels. Tel.: +32 2 2968800; Fax: +32 2 2994170; Email: ispo@ispo.cec.be.

4. Library

4.1. UT-Library and Information Science faculty team to conduct workshops for Romanian Librarians

Two four day workshops will be presented May 23–June 2, 1996 in the Romanian cities of Cluj-Napoca and Iasi by a faculty team from the University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School of Library and Information Science. The workshops are supported by grants from International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and Soros Foundation for an Open Society. Additional support is also provided by the two hosts: “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, “Babes-Bolyai” University in Cluj-Napoca and “Mihai Eminescu” Central University Library, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University in Iasi.

Hermina Anghelescu formerly with the National Library of Romania and a Fulbright doctoral student at GSLIS, U.T. Austin in organizing the workshops, and also translating the papers into Romanian.

The team of visiting consultants include: Brooke E. Sheldon, Dean, GSLIS (management and leadership); David B. Gracy II, Professor, GSLIS (archives administration); Donald G. Davis, Jr., Professor, GSLIS (collection development and electronic publishing); Julie Hallmark, Professor, GSLIS (information brokering and special libraries); Karen Motylewski, Director of Preservation and Conservation Studies Programs (protection and care of library and archival materials). The team also includes Thomas Clareson, Preservation Services Manager, AMIGOS Bibliographic Council (library networks and disaster preparedness); and Rebecca Garcia, Product Manager, Ameritech Library Services (Internet demonstration and new technologies, and library automation). Both Clareson and Garcia have lectured at U.T. Austin, and work closely with the School on a variety of projects.

For more information contact: Hermina G.B. Anghelescu. Tel.: (512) 471 3806; (512) 471 3971.

5. Programs

5.1. Bachelor's Degree in Information Transfer

Brookville, N.Y. – The New York State Education Department has approved a new Bachelor of Science degree in Information Transfer at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University in Brookville, New York. This technology-intensive program prepares graduates as information specialists in almost any field.

Information Transfer deals with the processes, products, technologies, activities, and tools needed to make information ready for use after it has been created and processed. This degree prepares students for careers as information support specialists, software applications advisors and trainers, publishing researchers, data retrieval specialists,

information analysts, information technical assistants, market research analysts, library assistants, and network managers. Upon graduation, students will be able to understand information theory, analyze information needs and uses, and design information storage systems.

The B.S. degree program, which was offered beginning September, 1996, was the brainchild of the faculty in the university's Palmer School of Library and Information Science. C.W. Post will also offer a minor in Information Transfer for 21 credits, which will compliment a large number of majors such as graphic arts, computer science, business management and health information management.

"The faculty and I see this new degree program as one which will set apart the Palmer School as a leader and innovator in the field of information science", said Dean Anne Woodsworth. "The program will prepare graduates for an information-drive economy, and one in which 'knowledge workers' will be needed in all kinds of businesses and service organizations".

This is the fifth new degree that C.W. Post has introduced for the 1995-96 academic school year. September, 1995, the university began offering a B.S. in Social Work, an M.S. in Information Systems, an M.S. in Strategic Management Accounting, and an M.S. in Middle School Education.

The Palmer School of Library and Information Science also offers a master's degree in library science at the C.W. Post Campus and in Manhattan at NYU's Bobst Library, and offers selected courses at Long Island University's Westchester Campus. In addition, the School has state approved graduate certificate programs in archives and in records management. For more information call (516) 299 2866 or e-mail palmer@aurora.liunet.edu.

5.2. ALA Science internship program

The American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Library Personnel Resources (OLPR) will continue an internship program designed to recruit science majors and expose and encourage them to pursue careers in librarianship.

Damon T. Culcleasure, a computer science sophomore at Hampton University, Hampton, VA, has been selected as the 1996 summer intern. He will be working this summer at the corporate library at Lucent Technologies Bell Labs Innovations (formerly AT&T) in Murray Hill, NJ.

The science internship program was developed by Lillian Lewis, when she served as ALA Minority Fellow in 1995 as part of her independent project to address diversity issues. Lewis is now executive director of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), a division of ALA.

According to Lewis, the success of last year's program prompted Lucent Technologies to host the program again. "We hope this program will serve as a model for other corporate libraries interested in providing summer internships", said Lewis.

Applicants for the summer employment program must be college sophomores or juniors, have a minimum 2.75 grade point average, be a computer science, engineering,

mathematics or natural science major, have good oral and written communication skills, excellent interpersonal and computer science skills and have a customer service focus.

For more information, contact: Lillian Lewis, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, USA. Tel.: 800 545 2333, ext. 4396; Fax: 312 944 8085; Email: llewis@ala.org.

6. Publications

6.1. FID

Copernicus and Cyberspace Papers can be ordered now! Throughout 1995, The International Federation for Information and Documentation has been celebrating its 100th anniversary, culminating in the Centennial Conference which was held on 9 and 10 November 1995 in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The keynote speakers at the Conference which was entitled: "*Copernicus and Cyberspace. The Information Superhighway: A New View of The World*" all addressed a different aspect of the effect that the Information Superhighway would have on industry and society. Presentations were given by distinguished speakers as: Mr. L.A. Geelhoed. Secretary-General of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Industry of the Netherlands; Dr. Hisham el Sherif. Advisor to the Minister of Public Enterprise and the Minister of State of Egypt and Director of the Cabinet Information and Decision Support Centre, Cairo, Egypt; Dr. Michel Menou. Professor of Information Science, University of Bordeaux III, France; Mr. Marshall Spence. President and Chief Executive, EDI Council of Canada, Canada; Mr. Jukka Liedes. Senior Advisor to the Minister of Education & Science, Finland; Mr. Terence Huwe. Head Librarian, Institute of Industrial Relations Library, University of California, Berkeley, USA; Mr. Michael Bauwens. New Knowledge Organization/Cybrarian, Inc. in Belgium; Mr. Frank Melis. Director, Expertise Centre, Advanced Information Services, AT&T, Netherlands; Dr. Juan Rada. Managing Director of the Environmental Partnership in Geneva, Switzerland and Member of the Club of Rome; Dr. Toni Carbo Bearman. Member of President Clinton's Task Force on the National Information Infrastructure (NII), USA; Dr. Walter Koch, Director of the Joanneum Research Institute for Information Management in Graz, Austria.

FID is pleased to announce that the Copernicus and Cyberspace Papers will be published in the FID News Bulletin, 1996 Vol. 46 Nos. 1 and 2. These issues are available together at the price of NLG 50,- which included handling charges and the costs of dispatch. EU countries only: please remember to inform us of your VAT-number. FID members and subscribers to the FID News Bulletin will of course receive the papers automatically.

For orders (without pre-payment), please contact the FID General Secretariat; P.O. Box 90402, 2509 LK The Hague, Netherlands. Tel.: +31 70 3140671; Fax: +31 70 3140667; Email: secretariat@fid.nl.

7. Projects

7.1. National Environmental Information Systems

FID announces that the Special Interest Group on Environmental Information (SIG/EI) will be conducting its first global project on environmental information. The project is entitled *Framework for the Development of National Environmental Information Systems* (NEIS).

The Framework will provide a macro-level model in which the relevant components for a NEIS will be identified and their relationships defined – building on environmental information needs of selected developed countries. Major components which will be included are information management systems, application of information technologies, environmental information policies and capacity building.

The following groups will benefit from the proposed framework:

- a) Administrators of National Environmental Management Agencies;
- b) Technocrats and information professionals who work in government ministries and organizations responsible for various aspects of environmental programmes;
- c) Manufacturers and the business community who need to devise and implement corporate environmental policies;
- d) Officials of environmental NGOs functioning at the national level;
- e) Administrators of Schools of Library and Information Science;
- f) Project officers of multilateral Agencies;
- g) Indigenous groups which possess and utilize environmental information systems based on oral traditions.

FID through SIG/EI will be collaborating with other agencies in responding to the need for exchange of information and experiences and the strengthening of national capacities as outlined in Agenda 21: chapter 40. The overall objective of this project is to provide developing country Governments with a framework which could assist them in the development, implementation and maintenance of national environmental information systems. Experiences of existing environmental information systems will be captured for inclusion in the Framework.

This project will bring in to focus the expertise resident in FID Committees and SIGs and will require the active participation of current and future members of SIG/EI. Since this is a global activity the cooperation of Presidents of Regional Commissions will be required. Beneficiaries will participate actively in the formulation of the Framework through participation in electronic messaging and conferencing. Others who cannot participate in this way can make their contribution by mail or by fax.

The International Development Research Center (IDRC) has provided a grant to assist in the execution of this project. UNIDO will be one of the project collaborators and discussions are ongoing with other interested parties.

The project Leader for this project is the Chair of the SIG on Environmental Informa-

tion, Mrs. Barbara Gumbs who formulated the project proposal based on wide consultation over a 20-month period.

The FID Secretariat will be preparing a web page with updates on the project. For further information on technical aspects of the project, Mrs. Gumbs can be contacted at: 22 Springfield Ave., Valsayn Park, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel.: (809) 662 4225; Fax: (809) 662 8842; Email: bgumbs@eclaps.undp.org.