

News

Items for publication in the News are welcomed and should be sent to:

R.F. Guy
National Library of Scotland
312–320 Lawnmarket
Edinburgh EH1 2 PJ
Scotland
UK

General

African council on communication education

The African Council on Communication Education (ACCE) was established in 1976 to conduct activities in communication training, research and publications. The activities include:

- i. assessing training needs and assisting in curriculum design;
- ii. creating a system of accreditation among training institutions and finding ways of exchanging students and scholars;
- iii. organizing workshops and training courses; and
- iv. cooperating with other international bodies for research, information and support.

The founding of the ACCE was discussed at several Unesco-sponsored fora between 1974 and 1976. These meetings brought African communication trainers and scholars together to identify common strategies for developing greater interaction and support among communication educational institutions in Africa.

The ACCE groups more than 68 communication schools and training institutions in about 33 African states. It also embraces over 200 communication researchers, scholars and media practitioners who constitute its individual members. Recently, national chapters of the Council have been set up to facilitate greater decentralization in its work.

The ACCE has a major programme in rural communication, audio-visual resource materials development and the use of traditional media (theater) for development.

The organization publishes a quarterly newsletter – *Africom: a research journal* – the *Africa Media Review* and the *Africa Media Monograph Series* which focus on media systems in Africa.

The ACCE has set up a major communication centre in Nairobi (Kenya) as part of its efforts to improve documentation on communication policies, research and development in Africa. This is the beginning of a network of such centres which will support communication educational institutions, scholars and researchers in the region. The regional network of the ACCE/ICDR Documentation Centre is envisaged to consist of national, sub-regional and regional, nodes which will increase the activities of the International Network of Documentation Centres on Communication Research and Policies (COMNET) in Africa.

For further information contact:

Mrs Rahab Gatura
African Council on Communication
Education (ACCE)
P.O. Box 47495
NAIROBI, Kenya
Tel. 27043/334244 Ex. 2068

Information technology at McGill University, Montreal

The decision has been taken to establish a local area network using Novell Netware 386 at the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies; the basis of the LAN will be IBM PS/2 Model 25 workstations together with an IBM PS/2 Model 80 server. This hardware was supplied to the School by IBM Canada Ltd. under the IBM Academic Information Systems Joint Study Agreement. Under this Agreement the School is to undertake research into human-computer interfaces.

Apple Canada Inc. has donated a Macintosh SE to introduce students to a range of library application software. Apple Canada has also agreed to set up for an extended period of time an Apple Macintosh IICI and an AppleCD SC compact disc player to promote CD-ROM applications for the library environment.

Online searching

DIMDI's GRIPS-Learn junior

GRIPS-Learn is a microcomputer-based package which – without taking its users online – teaches online skills and provides hands-on search practice with special reference to the German Life Sciences host, DIMDI. *GRIPS-Learn* has been available for almost a year in English, and for some months in German.

GRIPS-Learn (GRIPS is the name of the DIMDI search language) explains both about online searching and about DIMDI, its databases and the GRIPS command language itself. *GRIPS-Learn junior* performs the same task while leaving out those commands which are less relevant to new searchers.

GRIPS-Learn junior's three lessons start with some basic information about on-line searching and work through the practicalities of simple searches, leaving users in a position to undertake real searches competently. The blend of factual information, illustrations, sample searches, quick questions and interactive search practice, plus a powerful on-screen dictionary (from which the user may request information on online terms, commands and DIMDI databases) make the tutor ideal for training library staff or users, researchers or students in the basic skills required for online searching on DIMDI.

Either English or German versions of *GRIPS-Learn* cost GBP 90 while *GRIPS-Learn junior* is available for GBP 40. A 20% discount is available on both senior and junior versions on all educational orders and to recent attendees of DIMDI training courses. Orders for more than one copy attract a similar discount. Purchasers of *GRIPS-Learn junior* may upgrade to the full five-lesson package at a later date.

IAL has also marketed a similar package, *OSTjunior*, based on the IRS-DIALTECH/ESA-IRS host and databases for several years and a new package, *Q-cal*, is available for Questel searchers. All packages are currently available from IAL. Enquiries to the address given below.

Information Automation Ltd
'Penbryn'
Bronant
Aberystwyth SY23 4TJ
UK
Tel. +44 97 421 302

DIALOG menus: a new mode of searching

All users now have the possibility of searching more than 220 files through a menu-based system called DIALOG Menus. Using technology already developed for services such as DIALOG Corporate Connection and Knowledge Index, the Menu's service will appeal to business, research and information professionals with little or no on line experience.

Like command-mode searching, the cost for using DIALOG Menus is based on connect time, output and telecommunication charges. All users can access the service through their normal passwords.

New library school programme

Accredited library schools throughout Europe will soon have free, unlimited access to all 300 of the DIALOG Classroom Instruction Programme databases; the offer will also include free telecommunications via Dialnet and Tymnet GNS, free attendance on any DIALOG training course and the chance to sample the growing range

of OnDisc products, with up to six copies of the Discovery package being offered to each school. Commenting on the new initiative, Anne Caputo, Manager of DIALOG's Classroom Instruction Programme says "This programme makes DIALOG available to a larger and more varied audience of library and information science students, and underscores DIALOG's continued commitment to supporting information retrieval education in library schools."

Research

Expert system for online database selection

Loughborough University, July 1990 – March 1992, GBP 52,150. With the growth in the number of online business databases and online system hosts, selection of an appropriate database to meet specific needs is becoming more difficult for the trained intermediary and almost impossible for the end-user. It is the aim of this project to reduce this difficulty by designing a prototype expert system to demonstrate the selection of appropriate online business databases in a specific area, for example, company information. Knowledge acquisition techniques will be used to determine how trained information professionals select online databases. This information will be embodied in an expert system shell and this will be refined during a period of evaluation of the prototype. Contact: Anne Morris, Dept of Library and Info Studies, Loughborough Univ of Tech, Loughborough, Leic. LE113TU, UK

Conferences

Issues in book and serial acquisition

Call for Abstracts

The 1991 Charleston Conference
November 7–9, 1991 Charleston, S.C.

We are interested in abstracts in all areas of acquisitions and collection development. Examples of topics of interest include: publishing issues and the business of publishing; editorial quality and its role in collection development; buying, borrowing and leasing of materials; interlocking roles in acquisitions, collection development, cataloging, and reference; book and serial reviewing; manufacturing of books and journals; reprinting; new technologies; locating out of print and/or other difficult materials; finances and funding; faculty and external relationships in acquisitions and collection development; discounts; approval plans; costs, benefits, and disadvantages of electronic information, automation of acquisitions and collection development, etc., etc.

This year's conference will also include one-to-one (poster type sessions). Abstracts for these sessions are also welcome.

Send abstracts (50 words), papers, ideas, etc., by *June 1, 1991*, to: Carol E. Chamberlain; Head, Acquisitions Department; The Pennsylvania State University Libraries; E506 Pattee; University Park, PA 16802. (814)865-1858; FAX(814)863-7293. Bitnet: CEC@PSULIAS.

Projects in schools

Online access for schools

The New York State Library has invited up to 14 of the 46 school library systems in the state to participate in a pilot project. The project will provide a dial-up computer link to the resources of the state library and more than 50 public, reference, and research library systems across the state. The goals of the project are to improve access to research and other difficult-to-locate materials for students, faculty, and administrators at elementary and secondary schools. The year-long project will begin April 1. (*Library Hotline* XX(8): 3; 1991 February 25.)

Schools' CD-ROM project in UK

The United Kingdom Schools Minister, Michael Fallon, recently announced the allocation of £500,000 for piloting CD-ROM in schools during the next financial year. Speaking in London, Mr. Fallon said 'Future developments for the newer technologies in schools lie with CD-ROM, laptop computers and interactive video. This is because of the particular potential they offer and their widespread application across the curriculum. The standards of CD-ROM are well established. We now want to explore what the technology can do for schools. Prices are falling, so the time is now right to undertake a pilot.'

The pilot CD-ROM project will entail purchasing machines and software with supporting materials already commissioned from the National Council for Educational Technology. The most important aspect of the project will be to evaluate how effectively CD-ROM can be applied in schools.

Mr. Fallon called on manufacturers to produce a low cost, laptop computer which is portable, robust and with a long battery life and substantial screen for trials in schools. He said that the five interactive video Mathematics discs the Department is funding through the National Curriculum Council will be available in 1992 and that the Department of Education and Science is planning to undertake a thorough pilot of IT in 1992-93. £30.4m will be spent on IT in schools in the coming year. Contact: Dept. of Education & Science, Elizabeth House, York Rd., London, SE1 7PH, United Kingdom.

Publications

Information Science Revisited: Contemporary Reflection on its Origin, Evolution and Relations/Tefko Saracevic. – New Brunswick, NJ: School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, Rutgers University, 1990. – 61 p. – (Research Report Series, No. 90–24)

This essay explores the changing nature of information science and its complex relations, in order to suggest contemporary issues that need to be dealt with if information science is to continue to evolve and flourish. Problems addressed and solutions provided over time are analyzed in seven areas:

- * Origin
- * Evolution of definitions and problem-orientation
- * The social role of information science
- * Research agenda and the US government
- * Information industry and information science
- * Interdisciplinary relations
- * Information science education

These issues demonstrate that information science is at an evolutionary stage, characterized by redefinition and expansion toward new alliances. It's research, professional and educational agenda are being reformulated.

In the conclusion, the problems faced by information science are redefined and a broader framework for understanding the contemporary issues is provided.

For orders or further information, write to:

School of Communication, Information and Library Studies
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
4 Huntington Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
USA

Publications

Education and Training in Librarianship – Information and Documentation – the Archives in the Federal Republic of Germany, by H. Buck and H.R. Simon. Darmstadt/Frankfurt/Main, July 1990.

The editors designed this enlightening publication with special attention to international manpower for development. The volume provides information on courses of study in librarianship, information, and archives in the Federal Republic of Germany. Entries, arranged in tables, are listed in alphabetical order by type of course.

Training centers are divided into university and nonuniversity environments. Study courses at universities lead to doctorate or Masters degrees. Courses at nonuniversity settings lead to grades of Lower or Middle ranking, and "Senior Civil Servant." The choice among training centers is often determined by the preference of the employer for whom the student desires to work. Most training includes a period of practice in addition to coursework.