

# News, Trends and Comments

## News

### **UNINET available for BRS, DIALOG users**

BRS have announced that they will offer full service on UNINET. Owned by United Telecommunications Inc., the third-largest independent telephone company in the US, the service will be offered at US\$6.00 per hour in the States - making it the lowest of the three networks. As of 1 June, BRS has also modified their subscription-only service approach, and extended their hours of availability.

DIALOG has very recently also become accessible over UNINET.

### **Library automation**

There is now an international group of users of DOBIS-LIBIS, an IBM system for library automation. The system is being used or implemented in over forty institutions in some fifteen countries. Secretariat: Universiteitsbibliotheek KU Leuven, Mgr. Ladeuzeplein 21, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.

### **Acquisitions, mergers, partnerships and other confusions**

A reciprocal marketing deal has been announced between West Publishing (WESTLAW) of the US and the European Law Centre (Eurolex); however, it was noted that transatlantic access awaits connection of IPSS.

It appears that Ziff-Davis, the US publisher, is seeking a buyer for its 80% interest in Wharton Econometrics. The remaining 20% is held by the University of Pennsylvania. CISI, the French computer service company and on-line vendor (whose subsidiary Uni-Coll is located in Philadelphia), has announced that it is negotiating to take over the company.

Latest tidbit on the continuing DIALOG saga states that the price is US\$80 million and that a major European publisher was turned down on an offer to acquire a part interest.

Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) has refused a US\$80 million offer from the International Thomson Organisation.

Heyden & Son Ltd.'s publishing programs have been acquired by John Wiley & Sons. Heyden's Philadelphia-based agency operations will continue.

#### **ASIDIC holds 3rd meeting on data re-use problems**

The March 1982 meeting of ASIDIC was the third and culminating meeting on this important topic. ISU is pleased to announce that the papers from this conference will be published in a forthcoming issue.

#### **Another newsletter**

Vol. 1, no. 1 of PTS Online News, from Predicasts Inc., 11001 Cedar Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44106, USA, is dated June, 1982. Announced frequency: quarterly. Price: free, apparently.

#### **Prestel gets Lloyds of London data base**

A data base tracing world-wide shipping movements will be offered on the British service based on information from Lloyds agents world-wide. Service will be offered to a closed user-group with estimated annual fees of US\$1,600 plus Prestel charges.

#### **Reports from IIASA**

Two reports from IIASA, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis:

- Annual report 1981.
- H. Maier and H.-D. Haustein, Innovation, efficiency cycle and strategy implications.

Contact: IIASA, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria.

#### **Management reshuffled at The Source**

Three top executives (Graeme Keeping, Chief Executive Officer; Marshall Graham, President, Source Telecomputing Corp.; and Aksel Olesen, VP, Technology) have recently left the Readers Digest owned organization. Lower-level STC managers are expected to fill in the gaps, but motivations of the resigned trio are still murky.

#### **Data bases**

PATLAW, a data base produced by the Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) based on the United States Patents Quarterly since 1970, has been added to the Pergamon Infoline system. PATLAW will be priced at US\$ 125 per connect hour; no telecommunication charge is made. The recently added Fraser-Williams Fine Chemicals Directory will be offered at US\$55 per connect hour plus US\$4 per record retrieved. World Textiles will also be now available on the system.

CAS Online has added an online document-ordering facility. Any article monitored by CAS can be requested when the user is connected to CAS Online, using the ORDER command. However, it is thought that most users will desire documents retrieved from the substance searching capability of CAS Online. Costs are \$12 for documents of up to 50 pages, and \$24 for documents of 50 pages or more.

As of 1 July, Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia will be accessible on-line from Dow Jones News/Retrieval Service. Grolier plans its first update of the encyclopedia for this autumn.

We have learned that Data Courier has withdrawn Pharmaceutical News Index (PNI) from BRS in order to put it up as an exclusive file on another system. ISU will follow up and notify readers of further developments.

Citing the significant systems resources required as not justifying continued commitment, BRS has removed the Science Citation Index file from the system. Environmental Impact Statements, produced by Information Resources Press, will be made publicly available by BRS at \$25 per connect hour. BRS has added its own PATDATA, and the file PRE-PSYC.

"La Base de Données Macro-économique" (BDM) is the name of a file which GSI-ECO intends to have available by the end of 1982 - containing macro-economic data on an international scale.

The German host INKA, in Karlsruhe, has added INKA-PHYS (the machine-readable version of Physics Briefs/Physikalische Berichte), containing more than 300,000 documents. Availability of this data base began in May, and it will be followed by a number of numerical files to be added in the course of 1982.

DIALOG has just added ASI (American Statistics Index - file 102), COFFEELINE (file 164), Harfax Industry Data Sources (file 189), and PATLAW (file 243). PAPERCHEM (file 240) is scheduled to be up this autumn. By that time, this vendor will also have available the three Bowker files Books in Print, Ulrich's (serials), and American Men and Women of Science.

Disclosure II is now available on NYTIS and Dow Jones News/Retrieval Service, as well as DIALOG. Updating on all three systems is weekly.

New on ESA-IRS is FLUIDEX (file 48), with ca. 100,000 abstracts and 15,000 annual additions.

From ISI: GeoSciTech (available in July of this year), on the ISI Search Network.

Autumn of this year is the scheduled period for the addition of LABORDOC and CIS-ILO (both from the International Labor Office in Geneva) to the QUESTEL system.

BNA's CHEMLAW is supposed to become accessible in November of this year.

**QUESTEL in Canada, Japan**

QUESTEL has announced the following agency arrangements: for Canada - Informatech Ltd., 9925 Ave. Pelouquin, Montréal, Québec H2C 2G7 (tel.: (514)388-2411); for Japan - Maruzen Ltd., Tokyo.

**New statistical service**

Congressional Information Service has announced its Index to International Statistics. This monthly print-publication is scheduled to begin in January 1983, and to be accompanied by an optional microfiche service providing full texts of the indexed publications. CIS plans quarterly and annual cumulations of the index; the microfiche collection will be available on an annual subscription basis. A pilot issue, without cost, may be requested now from CIS, 4520 East-West Highway, Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA; tel.: (301)654-1550, or (800)638-8380 toll-free in the continental US.

**Chemical Abstracts Service appoints advisory board members**

New appointments to the nineteen-member advisory board include Toni Carbo Bearman of NCLIS, Joseph Kanehann of the General Electric Company, and Thomas Sweeney of Ohio State University. In addition, Robert Chartrand of the US Congressional Research Service and Jay Lucker of MIT have been re-appointed to three-year terms on the CAS board.

**Tools of the trade**

The National Library of Medicine offers three new user aids. Two of these are: list of journals indexed in Index Medicus (\$6.50 US, \$8.15 foreign), and list of serials and monographs indexed for online users (order from NTIS at \$9, \$4.50 in microfiche). NLM chemical and toxicological files are to be supported by user guides for CHEMLINE, TOXLINE, RTECS (registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances) and TDB (Toxicology Data Bank); the set comes at \$30.

August 1982 is the publication-date of the CIS Online User Guide & Thesaurus of Index Terms. US\$75 (US\$60 before September 30) for US and Canadian orders, from Congressional Information Service, 4520 East-West Highway, Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA; tel.: (301)654-1550, or (800)638-8380 toll-free in the continental US.

We are a little late on this one, but COMPENDEX has a new search manual offered earlier this year at \$60 pre-publication. If you are interested, we suggest that you contact them for current prices.

Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux are issuing a free newsletter for online users. Entitled CAB Abstracts Online, it may be received from CAB, Farnham House, Farnham Royal, Slough SL2 3BN, UK.

The National Criminal Justice Thesaurus is now available for purchase (\$16.60 in the USA, \$21.- in Canada, \$26.- everywhere else), prepaid, from the National Institute of Justice/NCJRS, P.O. box 6000, Dept. F, Rockville, MD 20850, USA.

### **CLR management internships**

The Council on Library Resources in Washington is requesting applications for the 1983-84 Academic Library Management Intern Program. A maximum of five interns will be selected for stipends of up to US\$25,000. Applicants should be permanent residents or citizens of the USA or Canada, and have some library administrative experience. Contact: Council on Library Resources, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036; tel.: (202)483-7474.

### **Shaw out at RLG**

Patricia Battin (Columbia University Librarian) will serve as interim president of the Research Libraries Group until a six-member search committee can come up with a replacement for Edward E. Shaw who is "stepping down" in order to resume full time duties as director of Stanford University's Center for Information Technology. Word is that RLG has of late been suffering from considerable administrative, as well as technical, problems.

### **Automated acquisitions**

Effective 1 August, UTLAS will implement its integrated acquisitions control system known as ACCORD, complete with electronic ordering and follow-up facility with any vendor or publisher. Contact Leslie Straus, Manager Product Marketing - Acquisitions, UTLAS, 80 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2V1; tel.: (416)923-0890.

### **Mead Data Central continues management changes**

Latest wrinkle in the continuing reverberations at Mead is its announcement to move headquarters to Dayton, Ohio. Gossip has it that many, if not most, of the New York City staffers are reluctant to make the move.

### **Just published**

Two years after the appearance of his very successful work Personal Documentation for Professionals: Means & Methods (1st reprint 1981), V. Stibic has now published Tools of the Mind: Techniques & Methods for Intellectual Work (xiii + 297 pp., 160 figs., 375 refs., subj. ind., Dfl.85.-/US\$35.-, ISBN 0-444-86444-X). Among the areas covered are workplace organization, personal planning and accounting, personal information management, word processing, personal computing, graphical presentation, organizational charts, communication-technology and new forms of publishing. Both titles are available from North-Holland Publishing Co., Elsevier Science Publishers, P.O.box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands (in USA and Canada: Elsevier Science Publishing Co. Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017).

Abel Soulier is the author of a new book on automation and infor-

mation technology and their effects, intended for a broad audience. The title is l'Informatique et ses développements: micro-informatique, télématique, bureautique, robotique. 160 pp., FF60.-, ISBN 2-225-76197-3. The publisher is Masson, 120 Blvd. St.-Germain, 75280 Paris Cedex 06, France; tel.: (01) 3292160.

New from Gale in July: Abstracting and Indexing Services Directory, 1982/1983 edition, part 1 (first of three). Available on subscription, US\$85 for three parts. Gale has also now issued a seventh edition of its Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centers (2 vols. + supplements).

### **Network orientation**

"Getting the Most out of Euronet" is the title of a workshop scheduled for 21 September 1982 at Manchester University, so as to coincide with the opening of the Annual Conference of ASLIB. Cost is £35 (£30 for ASLIB members). For more information, contact the Conference Organiser at ASLIB headquarters.

### **REMARC**

According to REMARC Database News for July (vol. 2, no. 2), the one millionth REMARC record was delivered to the Library of Congress in May of this year. The same issue of this irregular publication describes Carrollton's plan to loan APPLE II micro-computers with special software at no charge to libraries wishing to participate in the retrospective conversion "search-key-input" program, and actual or potential agreements between Carrollton Press and several library networks in the US and the UK.

### **Miles Conrad Lectures to be commemorated**

As part of the 25th anniversary of the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services (NFAIS), the sixteen Miles Conrad Memorial Lectures are being collected for publication in a single volume. The Conrad Lectures honor the former Executive Director of Bio-Sciences Information Service and have been given by leaders in the information and abstracting area.

### **USBE**

As of 1 July, OCLC-users will be able to lodge requests on that system for materials from the Universal Serials & Book Exchange (Washington, DC) - whose existing arrangement with BRS will probably be downgraded. Recently USBE has also expanded its document-delivery services to other nations, and begun conversion to an automated inventory control system. USBE holds four million periodical issues, keeps a "core collection" of 10,000 titles always available (1,500 of these are identified as "high-demand titles"), processed 148,357 orders in 1981, and has so far distributed fourteen million items. There are in excess of 1,600 member-libraries in 59 nations.

### **Editors' group**

On 14 May of this year, the European Life Sciences Editors' Association and the European Association of Earth Science Editors officially merged to form the European Association of Science Editors. According to a press release, "membership is open to all editors and those working in the dissemination of scientific knowledge". Further information: Ms. Nancy Morris, EASE Secretary/Treasurer, P.O. box 33, Farnham, Surrey GU10 3JX, UK; tel.: 0252 723945.

### **WP "honor roll"**

Recently revealed results of a user-survey on word-processing systems include an "honor roll" of seven top-rated systems. The list is headed by the Philips Micom 2000/2001; second place is shared by the Lexitron 1202/2303, NBI 3000, and AB Dick Magna SL multi-terminal system. Contact: Datapro Research Service, Delran, NJ, USA.

### **People**

Former president of the New York Times Information Service, Robert November, has joined ITT as director of the Communication Operations and Information Services Group. William Kerr, formerly NYTIS VP, has been named acting president.

Stephen E. Arnold has been named VP Marketing at Data Courier.

Jessica Harris is now Vice President of NewsBank, New Canaan, CT. She was formerly with Research Publications Inc.

The National Federation of Abstracting and Information (formerly Indexing) Services has elected Ronald L. Wigington (CAS) as President. Inez Sperr (National Association of Social Workers) is President-elect.

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## Trends

### **Online systems**

BIOSIS/BIO7479/BIO6973 are now proximity searchable, an SDC release tells me. Who said what about jargon?

### **PTT-monopolies**

De-monopolization is on the move: the USA is disbanding part of AT&T, Britain has gone liberal, and now Japan is on its way: NTT (Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation) might be transferred to near-private or private ownership and, thus, might lose the government monopoly on communications services. European PTTs are very trendy in picking up videotex-technology, why not in relinquishing communication monopolies?

**New SIG**

At its 1982 mid-year meeting in Knoxville, The American Society for Information Science (ASIS) established a new special-interest group on international information issues (III). It should be moderately interesting to see just what will come of this initiative.

**Europe not content**

The European Community is developing a strategic plan for increasing its share of the information technology market world-wide. This plan - code-named "ESPRIT" - should be ready in its final version by the end of this year.

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## Comments

**Digital switching**

Digital switchers will be the heart of the future office, just as word processing is considered to be the back-bone. They are available: American telecommunications suppliers are developing their umpteenth generation; Ericsson showed their new digital PABX in the UK, already in April. Nevertheless, there is considerable reluctance in the continental PTTs to allow them to be connected. Approval of technical specifications, they say, takes a long time - which, for some countries, might postpone the introduction of digital switchers even to 1987. Are Americans and Englishmen really so clever? Or do we smell additional monopolistic flavours?

**Sweden to access Euronet**

Euronet and Telepak, the Swedish public data network, are expected to be linked over summer this year - which will allow two-way traffic between the two networks. We are a bit surprised about the rate of connection of non-EEC-member countries to Euronet, having heard of huge political problems in the past. Is this a positive sign of improving world-wide cooperation, or is Euronet possibly a bit under-used?

**Creps retirement becomes social highlight**

A dinner honoring John Creps, retiring executive director of Engineering Index, set the standard for information social events in 1982. More than eighty of the information 'elite' gathered at the Harvard Club on May 3, 1982, to mark this event. More than eleven distinguished speakers, including Dale Baker of CAS, Ed Kennedy of BIOSIS, Lynn Neufeld of NFAIS, heaped on the encomia and anecdotes. John received a variety of gifts including two volumes of a special edition of EI made from letters and photographs donated by friends from around the information world.

### **Information Technology Year**

If you have read George Orwell, you might predict that some people will propose to make 1984 the 'Information Technology Year' (though the UK has anticipated that date by two years). Right you are: there is an initiative to that effect in the Netherlands.

### **Videotex-systems**

Recently, in the Netherlands, a report has been published from the Steering Group for VIDITEL, the Dutch PTT Viewdata system. Interesting main conclusion: the system, in its experimental phase, still is a failure, but it should go on.

Two minor conclusions: a list of members of the 'Tweede Kamer' (the Dutch House of Commons) on VIDITEL might be a breach of Dutch privacy regulation, since one's political conviction is a sensitive private issue. However, a list in the system of 'women offering their services publicly', the report remarks naughtily, would present no problem at all from the point of view of privacy legislation.

Worry: what about the ethics of 'PTTs offering information services publicly'? Or is that a sensitive political issue?

### **Telecommunications**

If you have read our vol. 1, no. 4 issue (if you have not, get it!) you will agree that telecoms will be 'it' for the next few years, especially in the European situation. From that conviction stems your editor's love for INTUG, that group of highly motivated telecommunication-users (see News, Trends and Comments in volume 1). Their latest newsletter again is a must for telecoms people. The combined European PTTs in the form of CCITT are not exactly famous for their willingness to listen to simple users. Therefore, two quotes from the INTUG newsletter:

Criticism ... of CCITT as a whole is easy. There is however, much to admire and the balanced approach of INTUG appears to be gaining respect within the CCITT. ... We are beginning to wield some influence.

If INTUG had not submitted a contribution on this topic, it is most unlikely that the question of cheap rates would have been discussed (in a meeting about reduction of telecoms charges). INTUG members may wish to 'stimulate' their national PTTs (where necessary) in this connection while the subject is still in their minds.

Telecoms people, please, join hands! Information on INTUG: Donald Stephenson, Bywell House, St. Mary's Hill, South Ascot, Berkshire SL5 9AP, UK.

### **Thrillers**

Why do you read the all-too-complicated Robert Ludlum plots, if, in your own computer journals, the IBM/Hitachi/Mitsubishi-story tells you about some real thrillers? Theft (not just simple Reagan-forbidden

export) of strategic information with all the bells and whistles of modern spy stories: the FBI, bribery, everything you enjoy in a real thriller. Bottle of vodka, or sake, or plain American bourbon, for you if you write thrillery review of the story for ISU!

### **Employment**

A major controversy between experts is now looming: what will be the effect of new information technology on employment? US Department of Labour Studies show that office automation results in a major increase in the number of jobs. However, recently, in a conference in Copenhagen for the computer service industries, the gloomiest predictions were made public: The post-industrial information society is a myth; jobless growth (Clive Jenkins, UK). Information technology will lead to shorter working hours, instead of increase in consumption (Svend Auken, Denmark). Who is going to scrutinize these experts and help us, information managers, to sort out what we should say to our own people who are perfectly right to worry about their jobs?



*Depiction of Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands from a Dutch 65-cent postage stamp, recent issue (legend not reproduced; approximately two and a half times actual size). See Editorial, page 1.*