

# News, Trends and Comments

## News

### **Dial-up access from the UK**

With the implementation of the British Telecom Packet Switching Service (PSS), it is now possible to use higher speeds than 300 bps to access on-line systems outside the UK.

### **New approach to DIALOG**

Within the USA, DIALOG can now be accessed from the terminals supplied by Mead Data Central to users of LEXIS and NEXIS. Special procedures apply.

### **Netherlands-USA**

The only major Dutch on-line vendor, Samsom Data Systemen, has now implemented access for American users, via Telenet and Tymnet connections.

### **Industrial information transfer**

It seems that the realisation of a "European Association of Industrial Information Transfer Agents" may be approaching, under encouragement from the Commission of the European Communities. The suggestion arose out of the symposium of regional information transfer agencies held in Strasbourg last May, and was supported at a meeting convened in Luxemburg on 20 September. The next step is apparently to decide just what an industrial information transfer agent is, and to determine who are the individuals currently fulfilling such a role.

### **Euronet news**

The German on-line vendor DIMDI in Cologne has now completed modification of its software in order to allow on-line searching of its biomedical files from Bildschirmtext terminals. This means that now three of the Euronet hosts (the others being ESA-IRS and Télésystèmes-QUESTEL) can be accessed by videotex equipment (via gate-

ways and public packet-switched networks) for purposes of information retrieval. Other such arrangements are in the works. Also, it is possible to use Euronet to access a videotex system like Prestel. This is the result of work sponsored by the European Community on the interaction between videotex equipment and packet-switched data networks.

After approximately a year in operation, the German public data network Datex-P has now effected its connection to Euronet; connections with Transpac (France) and PSS (United Kingdom) were already in operation. The United Kingdom national packet-switched data network PSS is now also connected to Euronet, as is the Belgian national network DCS, which has just gone into regular service.

### **UK gears for IT push?**

Her Majesty's Stationery Office has just released the text of the Alvey Committee report under the title A Programme for Advanced Information Technology. The drift of this document is rather simple: If the United Kingdom is not to fall hopelessly behind its arch-competitors (Japan and the USA) in the economic exploitation - in the context of the world-wide market - of Advanced Information Technology (AIT), it must very soon begin a concerted effort to foster and fund sophisticated research and development in this area. The report recommends the expenditure of £352 million over a five-year period. Some interesting observations contained in the report are: "The supply of skilled manpower in this respect is totally inadequate for current and future needs." (section 2.20), "The programme must be run as a UK effort. Foreign multinationals should participate only where they can contribute a particular asset vital to the programme; where the results of their involvement will be available to the benefit of UK industry as a whole; and where it is guaranteed that valuable technical information will not leak from the UK." (section 2.11), "The US, Japan and countries in Europe are now all mounting programmes comparable to the one we propose for the UK. These rival [sic] programmes present a serious challenge to the UK, which we must face. The EEC ESPRIT programme [see ISU volume 2 number 1, p. 60] is complementary to the programme we propose." (section 2.18). The report recommends a very high level of government financial support for the programme, ranging up to 100% for "research and training in academic institutions", and in some cases up to 90% for industrial participation. Oddly enough, in spite of the first statement quoted above, the proposed budget allots only £20 million to education (6% of the total). The committee had been established in March by the UK Minister for Information Technology and was chaired by J. Alvey, Senior Director for Technology, British Telecom.

As a sort of culmination to Information Technology Year in the United Kingdom, The Information Technology Conference was held December 8 and 9 at the Barbican Centre in London. The Prime Minister delivered the keynote address. Though not referring directly to the Alvey report, she composed her remarks very much in the same tone, while achieving an even higher pitch of nationalistic fervor. Interestingly, however, she gave no indication that her government would be prepared financially to underwrite such a program to the degree proposed in the report - and

implied more or less the contrary, laying heavy emphasis upon the role of private enterprise. Mrs. Thatcher was followed to the podium by M. Etienne Davignon of the European Commission, who offered a pronounced counterweight in pleading for European Community coordination and cooperation in information technology development. The Prime Minister had, incidentally, in her speech endorsed a more or less liberal policy on the introduction of cable television in the United Kingdom - in follow-up to the recommendations of Lord Hunt and a corresponding announcement the previous week in the House of Commons. This policy was - not surprisingly - called seriously into question later on in the course of the conference.

#### **Garfield Award**

B.C. Brookes, sometime Reader in Information Studies at University College, London, has been honored with the 1982 Garfield Award, which is conferred in recognition of the best recent contribution published in the Journal of Information Science: Principles & Practice (published by North-Holland for the Institute of Information Scientists) - in this case Dr. Brookes' series on The Foundations of Information Science. The Award, established on basis of a donation by Dr. Eugene Garfield, president of the Institute for Scientific Information, was granted for the first time this year.

#### **CRL**

Looking forward to fulfilling its document storage and provision mandate "well into the 21st century", the Center for Research Libraries has now completed the first phase of its new construction program. Its new address is 6050 South Kenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637; telephone and telex numbers remain the same. Funding has come partially from the Ford Foundation. Meanwhile, under a US Department of Education HEA Title II-C grant, retrospective conversion of serial records to machine-readable form, employing the OCLC on-line system, has been undertaken. Completion of the project is scheduled for December of 1983. Also, the Center has now welcomed OCLC as a new Affiliate Member.

#### **International teletex**

The first international teletex link, between Western Germany and Austria, is now operational. By the end of this year, a connection between Western Germany and the USA is expected to be available. Further links between various countries have high priorities in the respective PTT's.

#### **Distinction for Stibic book**

On November 4th, the book Personal Documentation for Professionals - Means and Methods, by V. Stibic, was awarded the Kluwer Prize 1982, as

an outstanding publication in the field of information and documentation. Published by North-Holland, this book is now going into its second reprinting. Japanese and Spanish translations have already appeared.

#### **Tender information**

For reasons not entirely obvious, the Commission of the European Communities selected the occasion of the Frankfurt Book Fair in October to announce a new service developed in the context of "the Community's continual efforts to improve the assistance it could offer to European industry and commerce". The service is, in effect, the electronic dissemination of data on government calls for tenders, in no fewer than seven languages - corresponding to the hard-copy Supplement S to the Official Journal of the European Communities. Tenders Electronic Daily, as it is called, may be accessed at a low hourly rate over Euronet and other packet-switched networks, after payment of a subscription fee. After an initial three-month pilot phase, TED is to be fully operational on-line as of 3 January 1983. Producer and host is Saarbrücker Zeitung Verlag und Druckerei in Germany (connected to Datex-P), and the publisher - from which further information is available - is the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, P.O. Box 1003, Luxemburg. A user's manual, in the various official languages, has been prepared, and videotex access is in principle possible. It remains to be seen whether the data bank will be offered also on other systems, apart from SZ. A technical description of the service was presented at the Frankfurt meeting by F. Tonhofer of the Office for Official Publications, who also answered questions from the floor. According to him, licences will be sought for marketing TED. Furthermore, he confirmed that TED will be in TED.

#### **New report**

"One of the most comprehensive analyses of any information marketplace, and of the role that technology will play in creating opportunities in that marketplace" is, according to a recent news release, the 800-page report on the legal and regulatory information marketplace now completed by the Amicus Research Group. The scope of the report covers also to some extent scientific, technical, medical and business information - within legal and regulatory contexts. The data for the study were based on personal interviews, site visits, questionnaire-based surveys, and telephone-based surveys. The report is available only to the initial, and to potential supplemental, co-sponsors of the study. Contact either Dr. Carlos A. Cuadra at 2001 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 305, Santa Monica, CA 90403, USA (tel.: (213) 829-9972), or Lawrence H. Berul at 5010 Nicholson Lane, Suite 1, Rockville, MD 20852, USA (tel.: (301) 984-9400). A detailed prospectus is available.

## Data bases

The following data bases have become accessible on the DIALOG system since our last report: Textile Technology Digest (file 119, up since October, coverage 1978 to present); Engineering Meetings (file 165, up since November, coverage 1979 to present); Zoological Record (file 185, up since November, coverage 1978 + future updates); Commerce Business Daily (file 195 (194 as backfile), up since November, daily update); CHEMLAW (file 197, from Bureau of National Affairs and Fein-Marquart Associates, up since October); International Software Database (file 232, from Imprint Editions, with on-line ordering, up in December); Microcomputer Index (file 233, up in December); MATHFILE (file 239, up since October, coverage 1973 to present); CLAIMS Compound Registry (file 242, from IFI Plenum Data Company, up since November); REMARC (files 421-425, first alphabetic installment, up since October, coverage 1897-1978, files to be completed in 1983); Electronic Yellow Pages - Services (files 508-509, up since October), and Manufacturers (file 510, up in December), both from Market Data Retrieval, and bringing the number of EYP sections available up to seven (files 501-510). Also, the NTIS data base (file 6) has been reloaded, with numerous searching enhancements, and the 1982 3rd edition of the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms has been mounted.

TROPAG and TELECOMM (telecommunication equipment) are to be made available on Samsom Data Systemen (Alphen aan den Rijn, Netherlands). Samsom has now also implemented the Common Command Language.

New on ESA-IRS: SPACECOMPS (spacecraft components), file 22; IRRD (road research, coverage from 1974), file 43.

Predicasts has announced a new file comprising abstracts of and selected numerical data from annual reports and 10-K statements from thousands of publicly held companies. It is scheduled for access on DIALOG.

DIMDI has plans to add CATLINE (US National Library of Medicine cataloguing) and HECLINET (health care, bilingual German/English) to its collection of files.

After withdrawal from ESA-IRS and DIALOG, the RAPRA (Rubber and Plastics Research Association) file has been put up on Pergamon-Infoline in the United Kingdom, the only vendor who will be offering it. This is the result of a long-term marketing agreement signed last summer. Pergamon-Infoline is now accessible from the USA via Uninet, as well as Tymnet and Telenet. Also newly available on this system will be PACKLEGIS, INPADOC and PATCLASS (in 1983).

SLIGOS (Puteaux (Paris), France) has added DAFSA and KOMPASS (information on French companies) - subsuming them however into its AXESS file. It will also make available Mercatis (commerce in France).

Coralie (food additives) and Economics Abstracts International are now available on BELINDIS.

Now ready for searching on CISI is STATIS-BUND, produced by Statistisches Bundesamt in the Federal Republic of Germany.

FUTU (futures studies, coverage 1974 to present) is to be made available on Datacentralen.

To be added on DRI: Monthly Trade Information Service (statistical) and Metals Week.

TELEGEN (on biotechnology) is now offered by SDC and DIMDI, as well as by ESA-IRS and DIALOG.

#### **Data bases withdrawn**

PIRA	DIALOG
Defense Market Measures System	DIALOG

#### **Usage**

56% of western European on-line information retrieval business over public data networks is shared by only three hosts, according to Euro-net-DIANE News for December 1982 (p. 3), citing a recent survey by International Data Corporation Europe. These are (no surprise): DIALOG, Derwent-SDC, and ESA-IRS.

#### **Digital switching**

Philips has announced that it is intending to develop a digital PABX for the UK market, in cooperation with Rockwell. However, there are no indications that they have similar plans for other European countries.

#### **ILL**

RLG/RLIN has put into operation an enhanced on-line interlibrary loan system, which should accelerate and simplify the process of document provision by this means among the participating institutions. Further information is available from Barbara Brown, Research Libraries Group, Jordan Quadrangle, Stanford, CA 94305, USA; tel.: (415) 328-0920.

#### **Tools of the trade**

Now available from the American Mathematical Society (P.O. Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940, USA) is the MATHFILE User's Guide: Mathematical Reviews Online. The price is US\$50, but Society members receive a \$12 discount.

For US\$25 one may now order from Data Courier (620 South Fifth Street, Louisville, KY 40202, USA) the new Pharmaceutical News Index user's guide called Search PNI, designed specifically for searching on the DIALOG system. Price includes half-yearly updates.

The 1982 INSPEC Classification, which now indicates interrelationships among the three INSPEC sections, is available from the Institu-

tion of Electrical Engineers, Station House, Nightingale Road, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 1RJ, UK. Price is £10 in the UK, slightly higher for foreign orders.

Free from Business International Corporation (attn. Diane Olenick, On-line Services, 1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA) is the BI/DATA Database Glossary: Definitions and Codes.

The BIOSIS Search Guide, 1983 edition, will shortly be available, and purchasers of the previous (1981) edition may order it at a special discounted price from BIOSIS Customer Services, 2100 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA.

Persons already in possession of the Management Contents Thesaurus may now for US\$25 order the Indexer's Manual and Dictionary from the producer at 2265 Carlson Drive, no. 5000, Northbrook, IL 60062, USA.

The revised edition of Subject Headings for Engineering may be ordered from Engineering Information, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017, USA, at the price of US\$35.

### **Ethernet**

A breakthrough for Ethernet might be the installation of a network for the Scientific Branch of the Greater London Council in October this year. The network connects about 30 smaller systems and is, presently, the largest Ethernet configuration in the UK.

### **Research news**

The RADIALS Bulletin, published by the Library Association (United Kingdom), has been laid to rest - to be replaced by Current Research in Library & Information Science. This will be a quarterly publication, aiming at international coverage, and including notices of theses and dissertations. On-line access is foreseen for 1983. Further information: Library Association Publishing, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE.

### **Zoom**

The largest European on-line vendor, ESA-IRS in Frascati, Italy, has implemented what it calls "an entirely new and extremely powerful on-line retrieval command", the result of "extensive research, detailed evaluation and thorough optimisation", which furthermore "cuts online thinking time to the irreducible minimum". After creating a set of items by a rudimentary strategy, one need only key in a Z (for ZOOM) in order to generate a list of further retrieval concepts. For further details, contact ESA-IRS. Please note also that Telecommunication charges over ESANET have been significantly reduced in the course of 1982.

### **New periodical**

October saw the appearance of the first issue of the Dutch-language Informatiseringsmagazine. Its subtitle, translated, is "Monthly Publication for Communication, Organisation, Information, and Inspiration", and it claims to be "primarily applications-oriented". The opening issue contains articles on the misfit between new technological systems and inherent human mental processes, and trends in automation and communication, as well as an introduction by the former Minister for Science Policy in the Netherlands, news, product information, and other items. Publisher is Benelux Periodieken, Vendelier 35, 3905 PB Veenendaal, The Netherlands.

### **People**

The Information Industry Association has presented its Hall of Fame Award to Dr. Roger K. Summit, president of DIALOG Information Services, Inc.

As of 1 November, Christopher Leamy has become Head, Library and Information Services Division, Office of Arts and Libraries, in the United Kingdom. He had previously been Head of the Corporate Studies Office in the British Library, and had been involved in the establishment of BLAISE.

Betty A. Davis, formerly with DIALOG, is now vice president for marketing at Pergamon International Information Corporation (McLean, VA), with responsibility also for user support, training, and customer service for Pergamon Infoline in the USA.

The Library and Information Technology Association (a Division of the American Library Association) has conferred the 1982 LITA Award for Achievement in Library and Information Technology on Philip L. Long, now a consultant with Infotech in Salt Lake City, Utah - and previously the principal designer of the OCLC system.

The new vice president, commercial services division, SDC, will be Elijah V. Triplett - replacing Robert K. Floyd, who has moved to the position of vice president, finance & administration.

Jerome S. Rubin, formerly president of Mead Data Central, will become group vice president, professional publishing, at Times Mirror.

### **Information for chemistry**

If you have \$10,000 left to spend, then you might consider ordering (from the Institute for Scientific Information, Chemical Information Division, Marketing Department, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA) the new Current Abstracts of Chemistry and Index Chemicus. Coverage is 1960-1981, and annual updates will begin with 1982. You even have a choice of format: either microfiche or microfilm! Educational institutions pay half price.

**Conference cancellation**

At first glance it appeared a bit peculiar that the Library Association would schedule its ambitious First Eurinfo International Conference (see ISU volume 2 number 2, p. 123) in direct conflict with the now well established International Online Information Meeting in London, which comes round every year in early December. Overlapping with both was the UK government's Information Technology Conference (see separate item above), also in London. In the event, the Eurinfo affair, set for Brighton, was cancelled for lack of interest in the form of paying registrants. Interestingly enough, attendance at the Online Meeting was reported to be down this year. The reason for these developments is not altogether clear, but perhaps one can blame them on the recession, and let it go at that. (The IT Conference was free, but by invitation only, and had been aimed at a different class of audience.)

**Computer Contents**

Management Contents, of Northbrook, Illinois, has decided to issue a new bi-weekly contents-page publication covering approximately three hundred periodicals in the areas of data- and information-processing. This is an outgrowth of the corresponding section in the publication Management Contents. Computer Contents will apparently include within its scope also journals dealing expressly with information science and services.

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## Trends

**Telecommunications market**

Frost and Sullivan have predicted a boom for the European telecommunications market: equipment for optical communication will grow from the present annual \$80 million to \$1.4 billion in 1990; the market for voice digitizers will increase seven-fold in five years; and the market for communications processors will have a peak in 1984.

**Computer market maintains growth**

Recent studies predicted a market growth for computers of 15% per year. This is an average: the market for small systems and office automation will grow much faster, that for larger systems slower.

**OA market in North America**

Exhibit Surveys Inc. has released an "Audience Survey of the 1982 Office Automation Conference", conducted on behalf of AFIPS. Among a wealth of statistics, the following may be of some interest to our readership: planned purchases over the coming year were on the average by far the highest for communications equipment (up 3,457% since 1980!); less than half the amount was foreseen as being spent on data processing equipment (up 946% since 1980); far down in sixth place was (devoted) word processing equipment (up 184% since 1980) - below microfilm/microfiche equipment, and just above data processing/word processing services (including software packages (up 48% since 1980)). Oddly enough, when asked what sort of products they would most like to see exhibited in the future, word processing stood at the top of the list (followed by software packages), having been mentioned by more than three times as many respondents as was the case for communications equipment. Clearly, interest in word processing hardware is still very high (though down about 25% from two years ago, when 38% of respondents indicated that they were planning to make purchases in this area), but intended investments are not dramatically increasing, according to this survey. Interest in communications equipment has been steady (at about one fifth of those replying), while willingness to sink vast amounts of money into acquiring it is far more obvious than two years ago. So far as word processing goes, preference for stand-alone and for multi-station systems was about equally divided. Surprisingly, only 13% of respondents (12% in 1980) expressed an intention to buy integrated data processing/word processing systems. Conference registration was almost 16,000, up 140% from the previous year. The Conference was held in San Francisco. 97% of registrants were from the USA, 84% from California.

**Users group**

An association entitled *Défense des Intérêts des Lecteurs de la Bibliothèque Nationale* has been incorporated in France. Headquarters address is 92 rue Royale, 78000 Versailles. This certainly represents an encouraging trend, which deserves to be followed in other countries.

**Information industry**

There has recently come to our attention the text (in German translation, published in the fall of this year by the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic - East Germany) of remarks made by A.I. Mikhailov, Director of the Soviet All-Union Institute for Scientific-Technical Information (VINITI) on the occasion of the March, 1982 annual meeting of the Soviet Academy of Sciences - in which he discusses the restriction on delivery of data bases in machine-readable form from the USA to the communist nations. He speaks explicitly of the preparedness on the part of the Soviet Union to construct "its own information industry", as an integral part of the "state system of scientific/technical information", based on the domestic production of data bases of international scope. The figures given by Mikhailov for 1981 activity are not terribly impressive, but his opinion is interesting

that the USSR should not "place the augmentation of its information resources in alien hands". He goes on to discuss Soviet-East German cooperation in the elaboration of an information system for chemical structures, which ought to be completely operational by the end of 1983, and foresees by 1985 the full automation of VINITI's information services. This institute will also be developing new abstract-publications - for example in the fields of biotechnology, industrial robots, and non-conventional and regenerative energy sources. In spite of all these efforts, the major problem in the Soviet Union seems to be - and will very likely remain - the freedom, ease, speed and efficiency of access to the information which has been gathered and processed. Furthermore, many persons have over the last year or two expressed concern about impediments to the open flow of information on a world-wide scale. At this point, it doesn't look as though such a flow, or the development of a really international and rationalized information industry, is any closer to realization.

At the same meeting, E.P. Velichov, Chairman of the Scientific Council for Research Automation of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, outlined a case for increased attention within the USSR to the advisability of fostering advanced research and development programs in the areas of next-generations computer technology and micro-processors. He referred to recent developments in Japan and the United States in these fields. Furthermore, he recommended the establishment of a new division within the Academy of Sciences, for computer technology and automation.

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## Comments

### **Full-text retrieval**

For some months now Bibliographic Retrieval Services has been giving access to the full-text version of the Harvard Business Review. This is the realization of already very old predictions: on-line storage will become so cheap that we can afford to have full text online. What about some further research in that area? What about the number of false drops you can expect in a full-text search? Who is going to manage the information content of a full-text system?

### **German modem monopoly**

An item taken from the latest issue of the INTUG Bulletin - as always, very informative: "The EEC Antitrust and Monopoly Abuse Commission is investigating the claim that data communication suppliers are being commercially damaged as a result of the Deutsche Bundespost expanding its monopoly. The enquiry is concerned with the supply of modems following the DBP announcement that from the end of September no new installations of private modems will be permitted and from the end of March 1985 all private modems must be replaced by the DBP's own modems. The EEC is particularly interested in the impact of this policy decision on the Datacom leased line service. The extension of the mono-

poly is likely to have serious repercussions for manufacturers, because the West German market is (after the UK) the second largest in Europe. The German Chamber of Industry and Commerce has been asked to respond to a questionnaire, as have various companies (suppliers and users). The inquiry is expected to be concluded soon. The EEC is also reported to be investigating a complaint that the DBP failed to invite tenders from foreign companies for the large-scale contract to supply baseband modems for its new public digital network. If the EEC finds that the DBP has broken Common Market competition rules, then the recourse is to the European Court. From the point of view of private suppliers, a test case there may have the useful effect of stopping the DBP exploiting its position in new areas of technology, but legal delays mean that even if the Court decision were to favour them, private suppliers will in practice almost certainly lose out." Funny trend, despite the pessimism at the end: Government-upheld monopolies are breaking down, as a result of supra-governmental pressure. Politics: game or science?

#### **Euronet**

It has been announced that the administration of Euronet will go back to the PTT's. They will run it as a commercial operation. That might well be the herald for some substantial increases in Euronet-DIANE tariffs, which might lead to an even lower use of the network.

#### **Copyright**

Bibliographic Retrieval Services has now sent a memo to their customers with details of the copyright position for the databases they offer. This is certainly an applaudable step, since it is often difficult for simple users to find out what the exact position is. Nevertheless, this area is still rather diffuse. Is there anybody who can write a good review on the international implications of database-copyright?

#### **Information dissemination Soviet style**

"For all Soviet scientists it is a great honor, and at the same time a solemn duty, to disseminate political and scientific information among the populace, and thereby not only to perform an essential ideological task, but likewise to help in further accelerating scientific/technical progress.", according to V. Gol'dansky, member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, in remarks before a gathering of members of the Soviet intelligentsia and industrial leaders last July.