News

1. Conferences

1.1. LIBRARIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE (LIDA) 2004 25–29 May, 2004, Dubrovnik and Mljet, Croatia

Conference themes:
1. Human information behavior in digital libraries
2. Competences and education for digital libraries

Deadlines:
For papers and workshops: 10 January 2004.
Acceptance notification by 10 February 2004.
For demonstrations and posters: 10 February 2004.
Acceptance notification by 1 March 2004.

Conference website: http://www.pedos.hr/lida
We ask you to disseminate this call for papers to your colleagues. And, hope to see you at LIDA in 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PARTICIPATION
Annual Course and Conference:
LIBRARIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE (LIDA) 2004
Dubrovnik and Mljet, Croatia
25–29 May, 2004

Inter-University Centre (http://www.hr/iuc)
Don Ivana Bulica 4, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia, and
Hotel Odisej, island Mljet, Pomena, Croatia
(http://www.hotelodisej.hr)
Course web site: http://www.pedos.hr/lida
Course email: lida@pedos.hr

The general aim of the annual conference and course Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA), started in 2000, is to address the changing and challenging environment for libraries and information systems and services in the digital world, with an emphasis on examining contemporary problems, advances and solutions. Each year a different and 'hot' theme is addressed, divided in two parts; the first part covers research and development and the second part addresses advances in applications and practice.

LIDA seeks to bring together researchers, practitioners, and developers in a forum for personal exchanges, discussions, and learning, made easier by being held in memorable locations.

Themes LIDA 2004

I. HUMAN INFORMATION BEHAVIOR IN DIGITAL LIBRARIES

One of the reasons for the world-wide success of digital libraries is that technologies provide unprecedented access to a growing variety of library resources and services. But another, and probably the main reason for their success, is related to the remarkable growth of their use. Digital libraries have struck a chord with users. We know quite a bit about users and use of traditional libraries, but not nearly as much about users and use of digital libraries. A better understanding of human information behavior in digital libraries has implication, among others, for better designs and operations of digital libraries.

The first part of LIDA 2004 covers research-based treatments of the ways in which people conceptualize their information needs, solve problems and seek answers to questions through information and how they use information, all in the context of digital libraries. Invited are contributions (types described below) covering the following and related topics:

– information seeking in the environment of digital libraries
– advances in study of users and use of digital libraries, as well as outcomes of use
– what do we know how do users go about the general processes of Selecting, Finding, Identifying and Obtaining materials and services in digital libraries?
– use of a various features, processes, modes of access, and types of resources
– usability studies; evaluation measures, methods and studies for digital libraries
– theories and methods for study of human information behavior in digital libraries
– barriers and obstacles to use, satisfaction, and success.

II. COMPETENCES AND EDUCATION FOR DIGITAL LIBRARIES

A variety of academic institutions and professional organizations became concerned with digital library education and with professional competencies necessary for successful development and operation of digital libraries. Educational and training offerings in many settings proliferated. The basic recognition is that success of digital libraries is to a great extent dependent not only on technology and resources, but more fundamentally on well educated and competent professionals that deal with digital libraries.

The second part of LIDA 2004 is focused on education for digital libraries, and even more broadly on professional responses to human information behavior, for which we are using the term 'competences'. This is the term used in the UK Library and Information Commission report 2020 Vision, which identified the three

key elements for working in a digital environment as Connectivity, Content and Competences. Used in this way, Competences covers the whole range of relevant skills and learning strategies at core and specialist levels. Contributions are invited that approach competences from a number of perspectives, covering the skills required both by users and the information professionals who serve them. These include:

– competences for research, scholarship, publishing and disseminating results in the digital context
– education for librarians and information professionals
– educating and training users
– information literacy for children, young people and older members of the community
– broader user concerns (with skills and know-how implications), such as: economics, copyright, freedom of expression, and ethics.

Types of contributions

Invited are the following types of contributions:

1. *Papers:* research studies and reports on advances that will be presented at the conference and included on the conference Web site. Papers of up to 4000 words in length should be submitted, following the American Psychological Association (APA) style, followed, among others, by the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST) and Information Processing & Management (IP&M). The papers will be refereed and published in LIDA 2004 Proceedings.
2. *Posters:* short graphic presentations on research, studies, advances, examples, practices, or preliminary work that will be presented in a special poster session. An award will be given for the Best Posters. Proposals for posters should be submitted as a short, one or two-page paper.
3. *Demonstrations:* live examples of working projects, services, interfaces, commercial products, or developments-in-progress that will be presented during the conference in specialized facilities or presented in special demonstration sessions. These should involve some aspect of users and use. Proposals for demonstration should provide short description and a URL address, if available.
4. *Workshops:* two to four-hour sessions that will be tutorial and educational in nature. Workshops will be presented before and after the main part of the conference and will require separate fees, to be shared with workshop organizers. Proposals for workshops should include a short description, with indication of level and potential audience.

Submissions should be in electronic form (as attachments to email). Please send submissions to both: Prof. Paul Sturges at r.p.sturges@lboro.ac.uk and Prof. Tatjana

Aparac at taparac@pedos.hr. Full addresses are provided below. All submissions will be refereed.

Deadlines:

– For papers and workshops 10 January 2004. Acceptance by 10 February 2004.
– For demonstrations and posters: 10 February 2004. Acceptance by 1 March 2004.
– Final submission for all 15 March 2003.

Invitation to institutions

We are inviting libraries, information agencies, professional organizations, and service providers to consider participation at LIDA by providing a demonstration, workshop, or exhibit about their advances, or by presenting a paper or poster about their activities. Sponsorship of an event is also invited. Institutions can benefit as well: We will provide course materials and virtual tutorials to participants so that they can communicate, instruct, and transfer topics of interest to their institution. Thus, we are organizing LIDA to reach a wider audience.

Organization and submission addresses

Course co-directors and Program Chairs for Part I:
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GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AT THE ADDRESS OF Prof. TATJANA APARAC

Venues

The first part of LIDA, 24–26 May 2004, will be held in Dubrovnik and for the second part, 27–29 May 2004, the conference will move to island Mljet, less than a two-hour ride from Dubrovnik on a fast catamaran. Pre-conference workshops are planned for 24 May 2004.

Dubrovnik, Croatia is among the unique cities in the world, recognized as one of the World Cultural Heritage sites by UNESCO. It is a walled city, preserved as it existed in medieval times. A beautiful natural location on the Adriatic Sea, a lavish architecture of squares, palaces, and churches, small, intriguing hill-hugging streets, pedestrian-only traffic within the walls, outings to the enchanting near-by islands – all these and more combine to make Dubrovnik one of the most popular destinations in Europe. For Croatia see http://www.croatia.hr/ and for Dubrovnik http://dubrovnik.laus.hr/; travel information at http://www.dubrovnik-online.com/.

Mljet is one of the most enchanting islands in the Adriatic, a sea that abounds with beautiful islands to start with. Hotel Odisej is in a small harbor. Near the hotel is the entrance to Mljet National Park with lush vegetation surrounding three inland lakes, a small island with a monastery in the middle lake, paths for walking, and spots for swimming in the blue and green sea. For Mljet National Park see http://www.np-mljet.hr/ and for hotel Odisej (with further information about the surroundings) see http://www.hotelodisej.hr.

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1.2. *THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE BOOK, Beijing, China, 29–31 August 2004*

http://www.Book-Conference.com

Following the success of our 2003 conference, held in Cairns, Australia, the Book Conference 2004 will provide a forum for participants in the book publishing industry, librarians, researchers and teachers from around the world to discuss the future of the book. It will also provide a window to the past and the future of the book in China. The conference is to be jointly hosted by the China Book Business Report, and will be held immediately before the 2004 Beijing Book Fair.

The conference will include a mix of keynote address, paper, workshop and colloquium sessions, with speakers discussing topics as varied as: the effects of print on demand and ebooks; the future of the book from a library perspective; emerging standards for electronic and printed books; learning in the electronic age; trends in reading and literacy; and strategies to enhance the viability the publishing industry.

The International Conference on the Future of the Book will provide you with an opportunity to share your own work with recognised leaders in the fields of writing, IT, business management, librarianship, publishing, printing, educational materials production, as well as university teachers and researchers in areas related to writing, publishing, books and literacy.

Papers submitted for the conference proceedings will be fully peer-refereed and published in print and electronic formats in the new International Journal of the Book. For those unable to attend the conference in person, virtual registrations are available. These provide access to the online edition of the conference proceedings. Virtual participants can also submit papers for refereeing and publication in the International Journal of the Book. For in-person presentations, 30 minute, 60 minute and 90 minute colloquium sessions are available. The deadline for the first round call for papers is 31 October 2003. Visit the conference website for the closing dates of subsequent rounds.

Full details of the conference, including an online call for papers form, are to be found at the conference website.

Howard Dare
Collie Director, International Centre for Graphic Technology
RMIT University
Melbourne, Australia

2nd International Conference on Politics and Information Systems: Technologies and Applications (PISTA =B404) July 21–25, 2004, Orlando, Florida, USA

http://www.confinf.org/pista04

PISTA '04 Organizing Committee invites authors to submit their original and unpublished works, innovations, ideas based on analogical thinking, problems that require solutions, position papers, case studies, etc., in the fields of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). ICT researchers are invited to present their research results. Practitioners and consultants are invited to present case study papers and innovative solutions. Corporations are invited to present political information systems and software based solutions. Public servers are invited to present case studies, information systems developed for specific purpose, and innovative ideas and designs. Political and social scientists are invited to present research or position papers on the impact and the future possibilities of ICT in Societal systems and political processes. Politician and political consultants are invited to present problems that might be solved by means of ICT, or solutions that might be improved by different approaches and design in ICT.

All are invited to organize panel or invited sessions. Panel sessions with panelists coming from both: ICT researcher/practitioners and political consultants or politicians are highly encouraged.

Submitted papers must describe work not previously published. They must not be submitted concurrently to another conference with refereed proceedings.

You can find complete information about the conference in our web page http://www.confinf.org/pista04.

PISTA '04 Organization
General Chair: Prof. Jose Vicente Carrasquero
Organizing Committee Chair: Prof. Angel Oropeza

Organized by the IIIS: The International Institute of Informatics and Systemics

Conference Areas

– Informatics And Society
– Informatics, Voting and Political Parties
– Informatics And Government
– Ethical and Legal Issues related to Informatics

Abstracts and Paper Drafts Submission Form=20
Papers might be submitted via web page
http://www.confinf.org/pista04/website/submission.asp, as extended abstracts (500–1500 words) or as full papers drafts (2000–5000 words).
Reviews will be done for both kinds of submissions.

Invited Sessions proposals can be done filling the form given in the web page http://www.confinf.org/pista04/invitedsession/organizer.asp

More information about Invited Sessions Organization could be found at the web http://www.confinf.org/pista04/website/ISOrganization.asp

Important Dates

December 22nd, 2003: Submission of extended abstracts (500–1500) words or paper Drafts (2000–5000) words.

December 22nd, 2003: Invited session proposals.

February 13th, 2004: Notifications of Acceptance.

April 13th, 2004: Submission of final versions: hard copies and electronic versions.

Some invited sessions might have a different timetable according to its organizer and chair

Papers Reviewing And Publication

Submitted papers will be reviewed. Accepted papers, which should not exceed six single-spaced typed pages, will be published by means of paper and electronic proceedings. Authors of accepted papers must sign a copyright release form.

The Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics will publish, at least, the best 10% of the papers presented at the conference.

School of Information Receives Major New Grant

AUSTIN, TX – The School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin has been awarded a $341,294 grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services for "Honoring Generations". This three-year program will recruit and train six American Indian students who will be prepared to take leadership roles at tribal school, tribal college, and tribal community libraries. Students will receive mentoring by members of the American Indian Library Association. They will also participate in community-based service experiences including, "If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything," a national reading club for Native children headquartered at The University of Texas. According to Dr. Loriene Roy, Principle Investigator, "Honoring Generations will be a testament to the role of librarians in indigenous communities. They serve as the cultural bridge between honoring generations past and generations yet to come." Dr. Loriene Roy is Anishinabe, enrolled on the White Earth Reservation and a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Expressing his delight with the award Dean Andrew Dillon of the School of Information noted "we intend to educate a select group that will have significant long-term impact on tribal education and in so doing demonstrate the power of an education in information studies to transform lives."

For further information, please contact Dr. Roy at (512) 471–3959 or email her at loriene@ischool.utexas.edu.

2. Schools

2.1. Florida State University

TALLAHASSEE, FL – The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced the award of a $449,750 project grant to the School of Information Studies at Florida State University this week. The project, "Extending the Web of Our Future: Recruiting and Educating the Faculty Who Will Educate the Next Generation of Library Professionals," is one of only 27 proposals accepted under IMLS's new program "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century." It expands the work of "Project Athena: Spinning the Web of Our Future."

Drs. Kathleen Burnett, Jane Robbins, Judith Mulholland, and Laurie Bonnici serve as principal investigators for both grants. Both projects employ a web recruitment model to attract and educate Ph.D. students who will eventually become faculty members and provide instruction for the next generation of LIS professionals. "Extending the Web of Our Future" will also involve designing and implementing a program to help doctoral students make career-related choices.

For further information contact Dr. Kathleen Burnett at (850) 644-5772 or burnett@lis.fsu.edu

Project Athena website: http://www.projectathena.lis.fsu.edu/

2.2. University of Iowa

The UI Libraries and UI School of Library and Information Science have received a $392,347 grant that help will recruit and train a new generation of librarians.

The grant will be shared with libraries at Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska. It's one of 27 awarded nationally as part of a $10 million initiative from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to make up for what is expected to be a significant shortage of librarians in the 21st century, said Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian. The grant will focus on the recruitment and education of university librarians serving the sciences and health sciences.

"We need librarians from a wide range of academic disciplines to work effectively with the full university community," said Baker. "Traditionally, it has been difficult to attract students who major in the scientific and technical disciplines to the profession even though librarianship offers them a special opportunity to use their scientific and technical knowledge throughout their career."

She added that the grant provides an opportunity for the libraries to experiment with effective ways of recruiting students with baccalaureate or graduate degrees in scientific or technical disciplines to UI's School of Library and Information Science where they will earn a Masters in Library and Information Science. The pilot project also offers an opportunity to couple coursework via the Iowa Communications Network with intensive work experience. Concurrent with their coursework, nine graduate students will be funded on assistantships at one of the three participating

universities to work alongside experienced science and health science librarians. The project will draw from the knowledge and expertise of librarians as well as the unique environments at all three universities.

"The opportunity for library school students to work side-by-side with information professionals is one that benefits both parties immensely. Practice improves learning, and learning informs practice" said Olivia M.A. Madison, Dean of Library Services at Iowa State University.

Susan Marks, coordinator for Human Resources and Diversity, UI Libraries, is the principal investigator for the grant.

STORY SOURCE: University of Iowa News Service, 300 Plaza Centre One, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2500.

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2.3. *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

by Catherine Lazorko, SILS Communications Director

The School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has received a $496,370 project grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) to support doctoral students pursuing studies in academic librarianship. It was one of 27 programs selected for a share of a $10 million initiative aimed at recruiting "a new generation of librarians" to fill anticipated shortages due to pending retirements.

The UNC-Chapel Hill grant, titled "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century," will support five doctoral students studying academic library research issues at SILS. They are expected to prepare for careers as library faculty. As part of the grant, attention will be given to recruiting minority doctoral candidates who can act as role models for future master's and doctoral students.

"We are very excited about this dynamic partnership with the Triangle Research Libraries Network and the support received from the Association of Research Libraries and the Medical Library Association," said SILS Dean Joanne Marshall, who serves as principal investigator for the grant. "We look forward to recruiting Ph.D.

students who will link research to practice and contribute to the education of future cohorts of academic librarians."

The program's long-term goal is to increase the supply of academic librarians, as well as the quality and depth of the education received by future library professionals. Librarians, as a group, are aging at a faster rate than other professions. According to Library Journal magazine, 40 percent of the nation's library directors plan to retire in nine years or less. While the trend affects all branches of the profession, studies have shown that academic librarianship – or, those librarians who work in university and college settings, will be in particularly short supply.

The program involves a partnership among four academic libraries – UNC Chapel Hill, Duke University, North Carolina State University (NCSU) and North Carolina Central University (NCCU); two major library associations – the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Medical Library.

Association (MLA); and senior library leaders who will act as mentors. Four of the selected doctoral students will be assigned to work on research issues at UNC, Duke, NCCU and NCSU. The fifth student will work jointly with the health sciences library directors of UNC and Duke.

2.4. *University of Maryland*

The University of Maryland has received a grant of $209,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to prepare new Library Media Specialists for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). The grant-announced on October 28 by Dr. Robert S. Martin, Director of IMLS – will provide full-tuition stipends for 10 current DCPS teachers and paraprofessionals to pursue their Master's of Library Science degrees at the College of Information Studies at the University. Students who are selected for the program will pursue specialized graduate courses in the College that will prepare them to work in elementary, middle, and secondary school library media centers throughout the District of Columbia.

IMLS is an independent Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership, and a lifetime of learning by supporting museums and libraries. The University of Maryland grant will be funded through a special program of the agency designed to recruit and train the next generation of librarians to replace the large numbers of current librarians who are reaching retirement age. While other grants through the program will focus on educating new librarians to work in public, academic, and other libraries, the University of Maryland grant will focus specifically on preparing library media specialists to serve K-12 students across the District of Columbia.

Students who are selected for the program will retain their current positions in the DCPS while they take courses part time and participate in a special mentoring program over three years. After graduation, they will commit to working in library media centers in the DCPS for at least three years. Dr. Bester Bonner, Director of Library Media for the DCPS, will oversee the selection of students, the design of the mentoring program, and the placement of the students in the practicum component

of the program. As a sign of its commitment to the project, DCPS has agreed to provide substitutes for the four to six weeks that each student will need to complete the practicum requirement.

The program builds on partnership programs that the College of Information Studies has conducted with school districts in the State of Maryland to encourage school district personnel to become library media specialists. Dr. Delia Neuman, Associate Professor in the College and Principal Investigator for the project, was encouraged by the success of these partnerships to apply for IMLS funding to design and implement something similar for the District of Columbia, where she has lived since 1988. Dr. Neuman will oversee all aspects of the students' experience at the University, from the application process to the graduation ceremony.

For more information on CLIS and its programs, please check our web site, www.clis.umd.edu, or contact Ms. Kimberly Allen, Program Services Coordinator, kallen7@umd.edu, 301-405-3600

2.5. Syracuse University

The Information Institute of Syracuse (IIS), a research center of Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, has received a $250,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Studies to create a nationwide digital reference education initiative. The grant, led by co-principal investigators and SU assistant professors Abby Goodrum and R. David Lankes, with Joseph Janes of the University of Washington, will help prepare librarians, students and paraprofessionals to deliver high-quality reference service on the Internet.

"The Internet has become an essential tool for libraries to interact with patrons. Digital reference allows the heart of the library, the librarian, to be just as accessible as the online catalog," says Goodrum. "This helps those librarians get to the patrons and makes libraries more central to the communities they serve."

The grant will be used to educate librarians, students and paraprofessionals in digital reference and build a Web portal for them to access training materials, online courses, and hands-on experience with digital reference software. The portal will also provide a common place for posting digital reference job and internship opportunities.

The project will begin with meetings at this year's Virtual Reference Desk Conference (http://www.vrd2003.org/index.cfm), to be held November 17–18 in San Antonio.

According to Lankes, the digital reference community is very tight and results-oriented. "Every year at the Virtual Reference Desk Conference, the community sets an agenda. This has included developing quality measures, a research agenda and open standards," he says.

"Last year, the community determined that we needed a community-wide effort to bring together and enhance training. IMLS has made this possible."

The effort has already formed partnerships with Library Science Schools including SU, the University of Washington, the University of Michigan, the University of

Illinois, the University of Maryland, Florida State University, Kent State, Emporia State, UCLA and Drexel. Software providers are OCLC, 24/7 Reference, LSSI and LiveAssistance. Libraries include Washington State Library, the Library of Congress, the National Library of Canada, the Library of the Netherlands, the National Library of Australia, Multnomah County Public Library, the Alberta Public Library Consortia, Grant MacEwan College, and Brigham Young University.

The IIS (iis.syr.edu) is the umbrella organization for a number of highly visible and widely successful digital education information services and projects. IIS projects bring together universities, government agencies, and private enterprises: together they promote easy access to high quality educational information for a diverse user population. The School of Information Studies at SU is a nationally ranked center for innovative programs in information policy, information behavior, information management, information systems, information technology and information services. The School offers an undergraduate degree, three professional master's programs, and a Ph.D. program.