News

1. General

1.1. Proposed closure of major Library School

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Chancellor Young is recommending that the UCLA GSLIS be totally shut down as of July, 1994, as part of a general consolidation of UCLA professional schools.

The following text is from Chancellor Young's Professional School Reorganization Initiative of June 3, 1993:

"Recommendation No. 7: Integrate Appropriate Components of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science into the Graduate School of Education and Disestablish the Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science, with fourteen ladder faculty, is the smallest of UCLA's schools. It offers and has a small Ph.D. program.

UCLA is one of four (sic) institutions in California that offers the M.L.S. degree, a current requisite for professional librarians. UCLA's program is experiencing difficulty. The leadership and resources that would be required to make the program meet UCLA's standards are not available in this budget climate. After considering all other alternatives, it has been determined that the M.L.S. degree should be discontinued.

No further investment in faculty appointments in this area within the existing Graduate School of Library and Information Science will be undertaken. The Department of Library and Information Science will move to the Graduate School of Education. There the faculty, if their research and instructional abilities match, can be moved into the Department of Education and contribute to the development of Education's instructional technology area. The Ph.D. in Library and Information Science should also be discontinued."

There was a town meeting withing GSLIS at 3 pm which lasted two hours. A committee was formed to respond to the Administration's recommendation. The UC system has a history of share governance. Administration has the authority to disestablish schools, departments, etc. Academic Senate faculty have the authority to disestablish degree programs (i.e., the MLS and Ph.D. degrees).

We will keep you informed of new developments and request your supports as soon

as the committee formalizes its plan of actions. People to contact include: Chancellor Charles Young: + 1310 825 2151; GSLIS Dean Beverly Lynch: + 1310 206 9372; e-mail iyh7bp1@oac.ucla.edu; Professor (and Secretary of the Faculty) Elaine Svenonius + 1310 206 9362; e-mail ifi6efs@oac.ucla.edu.

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1.2. Virtually There! Cultural exchange in virtual communications

First ever Anglo-German Virtual Reality link to be established
Virtual Reality, the sensational technology of the future, is about to make the world a smaller place. Shrinking time and distance, the new British charity for cultural exchange International Colour is about to produce the world's first ever shared virtual world in a fully immersive network link.

BT's pioneering Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) will allow Britain to take part in a German vision of virtuality in September 1993, led by the Gesellschaft für Mathematik und Datenverarbeitung (GMD labs) in Bonn.

Virtually There is part of an ongoing programme of shared immersive VR links across the world planned by International Colour. The aim is to produce a globally VR generated cyberstudiospace for art and cultural exchange.

Coming soon is a Europe-New Zealand VR "art-link" in Febuary 1994 as part of the NZ International Festival of the Arts. This will feature the pioneering British cyberartist William Latham. The NZ Festival's Visual Arts coordinator says "Virtually There is a truly wonderful project."

Stop press: It has been announced that the terminal in Britain will be the world's largest cinema screen IMAX at the National Museum of Photography Film and Television. Viewers at the IMAX will feel totally immersed in the Virtual World and will in fact be Virtually There.

Through Virtually There, for the first time in history, art will be available down the phone. For further information please call James Holyoak, Artistic Director, on + 44 021 554 8789.

2. Conferences

2.1. Third international ISKO conference

The International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO) will conduct its *3rd International Conference (ISKO 3)* in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 21–24, 1994.

The theme of the conference is: Knowledge Organization and Quality Management. Papers are invited in eight major areas as follows:

1. Quality in knowledge organization: professional aspects, education and training, quality management, user studies, indexing and classification, knowledge retrieval and evaluation,
2. Theory of knowledge organization: paradigms, philosophy, societal aspects, division of the sciences,
3. Knowledge organization through classification schemes and thesauri and their creative use, e.g., in expert systems: concept relations, compatibility, metathesauri, switching languages, universal systems, national bibliographies (future prospects), OPACs, thesaurification of classification schemes,
4. Knowledge organization in specific domains: image classification, structural analysis, cultural artefacts, commodities, interdisciplinary aspects,
5. Concept representation in systems design: knowledge-based systems, multimedia architectures, object-oriented analysis and design, conceptual graphs,
6. Linguistics in knowledge organization: special purpose languages, multilingual aspects, natural language processing, full text databases,
7. Communications and knowledge organization: collaborative work, distributed knowledge bases, Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), distance education,
8. New technologies for knowledge organization: thesaurus and classification software, technology assessment, index preparation, visualization, electronic imaging, neural networks, electronic publishing, dissemination of knowledge.

Theoreticians, researchers and practitioners in the fields of knowledge organization and quality management are invited to submit abstracts of between 500–1000 words, by October 4, 1993, to Hanne Albrechtsen, Conference Commissioner, The Royal School of Librarianship, Birketinget 6, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark (phone: +45 31 58 60 66, fax: +45 31 84 02 01). An international program committee will select the papers for presentation, and authors will be notified by January 21, 1994. The deadline for submission of papers for the printed conference proceedings will be April 5, 1994.

3. Online systems

3.1. New ESA-IRS National Centre in Germany

On 21 April Technologie-Vermittlungs-Agentur Berlin e.V. was opened as a new ESA-IRS National Centre. All ESA-IRS customers in the Federal Republic can now take advantage of local online information services.

TVA is a recognised technology transfer and technology consulting institution in

Berlin founded in 1980 and has been offering information services for many years. The database group and its activities are well known throughout the whole federal republic. Currently one of its main activities is the installation of innovative online search services and staff training.

As a national centre the TVA will offer training and help-desk support, issue access contracts, allocate passwords and invoice the ESA-IRS customers in Germany. TVA will also be the distribution point for the offline-prints, SDI's and user documentation.

ESA-IRS and TVA will have a joint stand at the INFOBASE'93 exhibition.

The contact person and the address of the new ESA-IRS national centre in Germany are: Mr. Erhard Notzel, Technologie-Vermittlungs-Agentur Berlin e.V., Informationsdienste, Kleiststrasse 23–26, 1000 Berlin 30, Germany, tel: +49 30 210003 46, fax: +49 30 310807.

3.2. New distributed databases from ESA-IRS

Four news databases and a database on EC legislations are now available to ESA-IRS customers, i.e., *Reuter News*, *Spice Centre for Europe*, *Evening Standard*, *The Herald*, and *The Mail*. Reuter News adds over 1000 news items every day and includes news on politics, finance, economics, and corporate affairs. Articles are online within 24 hours and the archive goes back to January 1992. Spice Centre for Europe contains over 22,000 abstacts of every EC Proposal, Directive and Regulation. Also included are Recommendations and Opinions plus all Decisions, Standards, Compliance Requirements, written EC Parliamentary Questions and Court of Justice decisions dating from 1990. Evening Standard, The Herald and The Mail are high-quality British newspapers now available full-text to ESA-IRS customers 48 hours after publication.

For further press information, please contract: Marino Saksida, Head of ESA-IRS, Tel: +39 6 94180288.