

News

1. General

1.1. *Library School closures*

In order to offset Dalhousie University's deficit, the School of Library and Information Studies has been targeted by the university's administration. While the school is NOT yet closed, its future is uncertain.

On September 22, 1993, the President of Dalhousie University announced planned budget cuts. In his statement, the President decreed that our SLIS must become "*better integrated*" with the other schools in the Faculty of Management – Business Administration and Resource and Environmental Studies. He continued by saying: "This may be possible within the existing structure of the three units, but if not, I would propose to the faculty that it close the School of Library and Information Studies as an independent unit, integrate its expertise and resources in information management with those of the School of Business Administration, and *cease educating professional librarians.*" (Emphasis added in this paragraph.)

The President did not think that educating librarians contributes to the fulfillment of the university's central mission to provide quality higher education and to support significant research. He also questioned whether there is any "great need" or "high demand" for librarians, now or in the future.

1.2. *New chair for IFLA Professional Board*

Ian Johnson, Head of the School of Librarianship and Information Studies at The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen has been elected Chairman of the Professional Board of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. The Professional Board is responsible for coordinating IFLA's activities undertaken on behalf of members in 135 countries.

He has also recently been invited to join the British Library's National Advisory Committee for Bibliographic Services.

1.3. *The Centre for Information Quality Management*

In conjunction with the Library Association (LA) and the UK Online User Group (UKOLUG), Information Automation Limited is pleased to announce the inauguration of *The Centre for Information Quality Management*. Run on behalf of the LA and UKOLUG, the centre's primary role is to act as a clearing house through which database users can report quality problems.

Although many information providers and hosts already have quality management routines in place, users of online and CD-ROM databases routinely find errors as they search for information. Whether the problem is a mis-spelt word, lack of consistency in the use of controlled vocabulary (for example, publisher, producer or author names), or a factual error it is a potential irritant to someone.

One of the problems for users when they come across data-quality problems is knowing how best to deal with them. It may mean re-running a search; discovering whether the problem lies with the information provider, the host or the CD-ROM publisher; locating a contact number; and finding time to describe the problem – the Centre for Information Quality Management provides a one-stop telephone number for any quality problem.

The Centre for Information Quality Management will be funded by the information industry itself and will offer a free service to any database user, whether the database in question has been supplied online, on CD-ROM, diskette or tape. Users should simply report details of the quality problem to the centre who will forward the problem to the appropriate body and route any response back to the user. However, it should be stressed that it is not the centre's intention to act as a universal help desk.

- The centre's clearing-house activities will enable the collection of data on the kinds of quality issues which most trouble users and a series of reports will be produced.
- In the future, the centre will also undertake surveys of users and commission database reviews which will then be published.

If you are an online host, a database producer or a CD-ROM publisher who cares about the quality of the data you provide, the Centre for Information Quality Management would like to number you among its supporters. In return for a small annual donation, the centre will license the following logon banner for your use. You will benefit from both the explicit display of your concern for quality and from our quarterly reports on quality issues.

This host (information provider) supports database quality and CIQM. If you have a quality problem, please telephone the independent Centre for Information Quality Management on +44 97 421 441.

For further information on the centre's activities, please contact Chris Armstrong, at the Centre for Information Quality Management, Penbryn, Bronant, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 4TJ, UK.

1.4. Employment database on Internet

Forty leading U.S. corporations have formed a non-profit employer association to develop and manage a national public-access database on Internet for recruiting, out-placement, career assistance, and communications.

The Online Career Center database is now available on Internet, a world-wide web of 11,000 inter-connected computer networks for exchanging electronic mail, transfer-

ring computer files, and searching information databases which is accessed by more than 10 million people in the United States.

The extensive information database includes job listings and full-text resumé files with online keyword search to assist both employers and individuals in effectively using Internet. It also provides electronic distribution of information between Internet and major networks such as GEnie, CompuServe and America Online.

“Online Career Center has taken advantage of the exploding popularity and usage of Internet to provide recruitment and outplacement opportunities never before available to individuals, corporate recruiters or staffing managers”, says Rodger Sellers, recruitment executive at Computer Task Group in Atlanta.

Employers enjoy the freedom of unlimited employment advertising on Internet and other major networks plus the option of e-mail between corporate recruiters and individuals. Valuable assistance to displaced employees is available through access to thousands of employment opportunities – plus resumé distribution to potential employers nationwide. Employers support Online Career Center by paying a one-time association membership fee for development costs, administrative services, and technical support.

There are no charges for individuals to access the more than 8,000 job listings, view company information and profiles, enter resumé into the company-sponsored database, or e-mail resumé to potential employers. Individuals may also receive career assistance information on subjects such as career fairs, job searches, resumé writing, and other career resources.

Jan M. Ackerman, Director of National Recruiting for SHL Systemhouse and recently-elected president of the Online Career Center association, says “The newly developed software, Internet access, and link to other online networks provides corporate recruiters with an exciting new recruiting alternative at a very low cost. It is the most effective communications network in American business.”

Operating services for the Online Career Center are provided by Msen, Inc., an Internet services firm located in Ann Arbor, MI. “We have long been a proponent of effective commercial uses of the Internet”, notes Edward Vielmetti, vice president for research at Msen. “The Online Career Center is a fine example of how coordinated efforts between public and private networking efforts can combine to enrich the national information infrastructure.”

Corporate recruiters may access the Online Career Center database using computer terminals, workstations or PC's through company-provided or local Internet connections. Individuals may reach the service through public-access networks or through a local phone call using a PC and modem via UUNET Technologies or Performance Systems International's PSI World-Dial service.

Contact: William O. Warren, Executive Director, Online Career Center, 3125 Dandy Trail, Indianapolis, IN 46214, USA. Tel.: +1 317 293 6499.

1.5. Homework help at hand

A former executive of Telebase Systems has been having success planning a new online service for US school students.

Homework Helper has gained participation from 34 publishers, including Bowker, Compton's New Media, EBSCO, Prentice Hall, Reuters and Time.

Due for launch next year, at a price under \$20 per month, the system will be available for 20 hours a day and searchable in natural language. For example, the query "who said 'et tu Brute'?" might yield the Monarch Notes to *Julius Caesar*, the full text of Shakespeare's play, an encyclopedia article on Caesar, and other references.

The developer is Infonautics Corp, of Wayne, Pennsylvania, whose President is Marvin Weinberger, for many years a senior figure behind Telebase's *EasyNet*.

1.6. Job listings

LIS-JOBLIST is a new electronic list devoted to job openings for graduates in the field of library and information studies. All postings will be announcements for such positions within Atlantic Canada. LIS-JOBLIST is particularly open to announcements of entry-level positions.

Job listings received electronically, or by mail or fax directed to the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University, will be posted on the list as soon as they are received. The school is responsible for the maintenance of LIS-JOBLIST.

Please note that LIS-JOBLIST is 'only' for job postings.

1.7. Virtual Beermat

The Virtual Beermat is the name given to an IBM PC format promotional disk for Scottish Branch members of the Institute of Information Scientists. The branch promotes the use of electronic information via the use of an electronic mail list on JANET (Joint Academic NETwork) but has produced the disk of information to cater for the information requirements of members who do not have access to JANET (namely those outside the higher education sector).

As well as information (including committee portraits) about the branch and its activities the disk contains much valuable information on the use of the INTERNET and its myriad of information resources. Three software utilities are also included on the disk.

The information on the disk is accessed by a MENU system and is immediately ready for use. Permission has been given to allow library school faculty to copy the disk freely for student use.

For further information contact: George McMurdo, Department of Communication and Information Studies, Queen Margaret College, 36 Clerwood Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 8TS, Scotland, UK.

2. Research

2.1. Research awards

2.1.1. Sheffield University wins CEC contract

The Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield, (in association with the Centre for Technical Information for Industry of INETI, Lisbon) has won a major CEC contract within the IMPACT 2 programme for the training of information service specialists in the Less Favoured Regions. The project (total value in excess of 300,000 ECU) was won against considerable competition and will begin on 1st September 1993.

The content of the programme will be determined in association with the major actors in the field, including data-base producers, service operators, and educators in the LFRs and will include a practical placement. The course will take place in Sheffield between March and December 1994 and the final report (due in June 1995) will include recommendations on how the experience gained can be used to establish a Common European Masters degree in information management.

For further information contact: Prof. Tom Wilson, Head of Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, U.K., Tel. +44 742 825081; fax: +44 742 780300. Email: T.D.WILSON@UK.AC.SHEFFIELD on JANET; T.D.WILSON@SHEFFIELD.AC.UK on Internet.

2.1.2. OCLC

Dublin, Ohio, June 17, 1993 – The OCLC office of research has awarded three Library and Information Science Research Grants (LISRG) to university researchers for 1993.

“We are pleased to be able to support these projects,” said Martin Dillon, former director of the office of research and current director of OCLC’s library technical services division. “University-based research adds an important dimension to our research agenda, and these projects promise findings that should be of broad interest to the library and information science community.”

The grant recipients and their projects are:

– *Carolyn O. Frost*, PhD, associate dean, School of Information and Library Studies, University of Michigan: *An Empirical Test of Gopher Searching Using Three Organization Schemes*. Gopher is an example of a commonly used protocol for searching networked information. Although the use of networked information is proliferating at an astounding rate and is providing unprecedented access to information, the organization of this information has not kept up with its use. Likewise, there is need for a greater understanding of information searching in order to design better searching tools, organize networked information more effectively, and assist information providers in the mounting of networked sources. There has been little research on how people use Gopher, or its effectiveness as a searching tool. The proposed project will study Gopher users’ information searching behavior, identify patterns and problems in the searching behavior or with the information retrieval, and recommend changes for improvement.

– *Richard P. Smiraglia*, PhD, associate professor, Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University: *Toward the Bibliographic Control of Works: Derivative Bibliographic Relationships in the Online Union Catalog*. The purpose of this project is to further the bibliographic control of works by verifying the extent of derivative bibliographic relationships in the OCLC Online Union Catalog and by testing a conceptual model for a database of bibliographic works. The methodology employed will be descriptive survey research of a random sample of bibliographic families from the Online Union Catalog and qualitative examination of the most complex families to assess the efficacy of the conceptual model.

– *James H. Sweetland*, PhD, associate professor, and *Judith J. Senkevitch*, PhD, assistant professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of Wisconsin at Madison: *Evaluating Public Library Fiction Collections: Is There a Core List of Classics?* The project will address the following research questions: Is there a core of widely held adult fiction in the OCLC database which can be used as a list of classics? Does this core list relate to standard lists of recommended fiction supposedly relied upon by public libraries in selection and evaluation? Can one or more standard lists be recommended as those most likely to predict librarians' behavior? Is it feasible for OCLC to consider using the core list concept to develop a machine-readable product to assist public librarians in evaluating their fiction collections?

The OCLC Library and Information Science Research Grant program awards grants of up to \$10,000 to help foster quality research by faculty in schools of library and information science. Projects are generally completed within one year, and findings are published in the OCLC Annual Review of Research and in other scholarly communications. Application materials for 1994 will be available this November. For more information, contact: The Office of Research, OCLC, 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, OH 43017, USA.

2.1.3. Funding

Thinking about a research question? The Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant can help you find the answer. The Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant is given annually to one or more librarians or library educators who will conduct innovative research that could lead to an improvement in services to any specified group(s) of people. The grant was established eight years ago by Eric Baber in memory of his father. Applications are judged by ALA's Baber Jury and the winner is announced at ALA's Annual Conference.

Who may apply? Any ALA member may apply. Preferential consideration will be given to a project that involves both a practicing librarian and a researcher.

What is the amount of the award? \$7,500. When are applications due? March 1, 1994. Where do I get more information? An application packet is available from: Office for Research and Statistics, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, USA. Or call toll-free: 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4274.

Why should I apply? Because you have research questions about library service, a

plan for seeking answers, and a need for resources to put your plan to work.

Previous winners have included academic librarians, public librarians, school librarians, and library school faculty. Research questions have been asked about:

- Children's use of the online catalog;
- Library-based computer-assisted writing;
- A microcomputer-based collection analysis and acquisition system;
- An information literacy program;
- Public library information service to small businesses;
- High school students' use of databases;
- Evaluation of family literacy programs.

3. Masters degrees

3.1. Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

The School of Librarianship and Information Studies at the Robert Gordon University Aberdeen, United Kingdom, has recently received approval to enrol Fellows and Associates of the Library Association (UK) in the Masters degree stage of the postgraduate course in librarianship and information studies. They must prepare a research proposal, and write a dissertation of 20,000 words to be awarded the degree of MA or MSc depending on the topic.

Further details are available from the Course Leader, Douglas Anderson, SLIS, The Robert Gordon University, Hilton Place, Aberdeen AB9 1FP, United Kingdom. Tel. +44 224 283839.

4. Meetings

4.1. UNESCO expert meeting on education and training in Information Science in the Arab countries, Rabat Morocco, 10–13 May 1993

Ian Johnson (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen) represented IFLA at a workshop for LIS educators from the Arab world, held in Morocco in May 1993 with UNESCO support. The meeting was held at the Ecole des Sciences de l'information (ESI) in Rabat with support from UNESCO, the Moroccan government, IFLA, and other agencies including the British Council (which paid the SET Section Chairman's airfare). Mohammed Benjelloun, Director of ESI and a corresponding member of the SET Standing Committee, was the local organiser. The idea for this meeting has first been raised during the IFLA pre-conference in Nairobi, and it has since been a goal in the Section's Medium Term Plan.

The starting point for the meeting was the working document 'Education of infor-

mation specialists in the Arab region' which had been prepared by Dr. Abdelhamid Miski of ESI under contract from UNESCO PGI (Available in English or Arabic as PGI-93/WS/3). The purpose of the meeting was to hear the views of the experts from the region, and to formulate recommendations which would be relevant at the regional level. To supplement the working document, participants had been invited to contribute situation papers concerning the situation in their countries. These will be summarised in the meeting report, and published in full by ESI. The meeting offered ample opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the working document and the country reports, and concluded with a series of general resolutions and specific recommendations for action. These will be included in the official report on the meeting, which will be published by UNESCO PGI in due course.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed to establish an Arab Association for Library and Information Science Education to provide a focal point for collaboration between the 30+ schools which now exist in the Arab speaking world. Mohammed Benjelloun, Director of ESI, was elected as Secretary.

5. Publications

5.1. DDC workbook for small libraries

Dublin, Ohio, Oct. 7, 1993 – OCLC Forest Press, publisher of the Dewey Decimal Classification, has released a new Dewey workbook designed for classifiers and students working with the latest abridged version of Dewey (Edition 12, 1990).

The Classification Workbook for Small Libraries Using the Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification (Edition 12) by Sydney W. Davis follows the lesson plan initiated by the author in his earlier workbook on unabridged DDC 20. It explains in simple language how to make the most efficient use of the classification, including how to build numbers. Exercises and answers offer a hands-on approach to classifying with the 12th edition of the abridged DDC.

The workbook is intended for anyone concerned with the organization of information and assumes no previous knowledge of the subject. It can be used for self-instruction or in a classroom setting.

Sydney W. Davis has taught library classification in Australia, England, and Africa over a period of 25 years. His workbooks are based on this experience; they answer questions and problems commonly raised by students.

The workbook is published by OCLC Forest Press, Albany, N.Y. The 58-page paperback (ISBN 0-910608-48-2) costs \$17. To order, write to OCLC Forest Press, 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, OH 43017, USA.

5.2. Journals

5.2.1. *Journal of Information Science*

Leading library and information science publisher, Bowker-Saur, is taking over the publication of the Institute of Information Scientists' prestigious *Journal of Information Science*.

This highly-respected journal, edited by consultant Alan Gilchrist, offers in-depth reports on the practical aspects of information management, as well as the more theoretical side of knowledge and its communication. There is an international Editorial Board, with representatives from the public, academic and corporate sectors worldwide. The quality of the articles is ensured by a rigorous refereeing procedure. The Journal is published six times a year.

Bowker-Saur will take over the publication from the first issue of 1994 on behalf of the Institute of Information Scientists.

For more information, please contact: Geraldine Turpie, Publisher, Bowker-Saur, 60 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DA, UK. Tel.: +44 71 493 5841; fax: +44 71 580 4089.

5.2.2. *Current Studies in Librarianship*

Current Studies in Librarianship is the only journal which is exclusively devoted to publishing the work of current library science students. The journal is published once each year (December), is indexed in *Library and Information Science Abstracts*, is refereed, and comprises 10–12 articles which have been written by master's degree or doctoral students in library science.

The journal publishes historical pieces, state-of-the-art pieces, literature reviews, professional papers (i.e., final master's papers, doctoral dissertation literature searches), and opinion pieces which are substantiated with documentation. Any topic and any approach, as long as the paper is well presented and prepared, is acceptable.

Papers should be sent to: Rashelle S. Karp, Editor, *Current Studies in Librarianship*, Department of Library Science, 180 Carlson Building, Clarion University of PA, Clarion, PA 16214, USA. Email: karp@vaxa.clarion.edu; fax: +1 814 226 2150; voice: +1 814 226 2314.

6. Conference

6.1. *Call for papers*

23rd Annual International Association of School Librarianship Conference, July 17–22, 1994. School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA: *Literacy: Traditional, Cultural, Technological*.

Members of the IASL and other persons are invited to submit presentation proposals that deal with some aspect of the theme. Papers can address the topic at an introductory, intermediate, or advanced level. Suggestions include but are not limited to:

1. Traditional Literacy:
 - Reading & the Library;
 - Literature for Youth;
 - Aliteracy;
 - Students as Critical Readers.
2. Literacy in a Technological World:
 - Students & the Internet;
 - Using technology to retrieve information.
3. The Current State of Literacy:
 - Definitions of Information Literacy;
 - Helping Students Become Life-Long Library Users.
4. Preserving Cultural and Historical Literacy:
 - Oral History;
 - Multicultural Heritage;
 - Storytelling and the Oral Tradition.

Each proposal should include the title, a statement of purpose, a 500-word abstract of the content, the level of the presentation (introductory, intermediate, advanced) the form of the presentation, and any specific equipment or facilities that are required.

The working language of the conference is English. Proposals should be submitted to Dr. Blanche Woolls, School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, 135 N. Bellefield Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA. Phone: +1 412-624-9435; fax: +1 412-624-7001; e-mail: woolls@lis.pitt.edu. Deadline for Submission: January 31, 1994. Notification of acceptance by February 18, 1994.