

## News

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### 1. General

#### *1.1. New school at Berkeley*

The Academic Planning Board of the University of California at Berkeley has approved a proposal to establish a School of Information Management and Systems.

The new school will meet the needs and opportunities associated with the rapid development of information capabilities and technologies.

Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien enthusiastically endorsed the Board's recommendation to create the new school, which would replace the School of Library and Information Studies. Admissions into that school were suspended last fall pending an in-depth review of the emerging field of information management and systems.

The proposal must now be presented to the UC Regents for approval.

The Academic Planning Board consists of 19 members, about half from the administration and half from the U.C.-Berkeley Academic Senate. It is charged with developing a series of five-year plans for the campus and strategies to achieve those objectives – a charge that has grown in importance due to reduced state funding for the university. The Board takes into account the future direction of research fields and recommends which opportunities the campus should seize and which forego.

Nancy Van House, Acting Dean of the School of Library and Information Studies, praised the proposal. "We now move into implementing a new research and educational program to meet the changing information environment and the needs of California", she said. "Information is of growing importance for our economy and quality of life. The impact of networked information has been compared to that of Gutenberg in changing how we use information". Discussions about the National Information Infrastructure are emblematic of the growing importance of information and information technology and the technical, social, and policy problems that need to be addressed, she said. "The challenge now is to filter and deliver the most useful information from the vast quantity available: to select, evaluate, connect, store, retrieve, and present information in all its forms, including text, images, and sound", she said. "The goal is to provide not simply data, but information that enhances understanding", said Van House.

To meet the needs of this evolving field, U.C.-Berkeley must now bring into existence a program appropriate to UC's mission and to California's needs. The mission of the new program will be to advance the understanding of the organization, manage-

ment and use of information and information technology, and the impact of information on individuals and institutions.

The school will have a technical component, addressing the design of information systems; and a social sciences component, concerned with the people who create and use information. This intersection of technology and the social sciences will be the strength of the new program, and necessary to a comprehensive approach to information.

C. Judson King, Provost of the Professional Schools and Colleges, said U.C.-Berkeley is the ideal place to address this challenge. "Berkeley is well positioned to take the lead in defining this new field, and in producing graduates who will put California at the forefront", he said.

The school will have a master's program that will educate professionals to design and manage information systems and functions in the public and private sectors. The new program will also address the educational needs of the emerging information industry and of businesses and other organizations. Undergraduates will benefit from course offerings that will help them understand information and information technology and its growing role in society.

Graduates of the doctoral program will teach in a wide variety of academic units; do research and development in the information industry, designing innovative information systems and tools; and work in all levels of government concerned with information policy issues. It is intended that these graduates will define and lead this emerging field.

As information is an increasingly important component of organizations of all kinds, so the need for people with skills in information management and systems is growing, said King.

Libraries, the major employers of the former school's graduates, will continue to be served by the new program. As the information world is changing, so are libraries.

This new program is being developed to secure U.C.-Berkeley's continued leadership in educating librarians for California and beyond, and will continue its role in ensuring access to information for people with all types of needs.

The new program is expected to be received favorably by the American Library Association and other professional organizations in the information field. The campus will begin a broad search for a dean to bring fresh leadership to the campus in this critical area.

The proposal for the new school was created by a special planning group, which deliberated at length and consulted widely. It recommended that the present School of Library and Information Studies be discontinued and that the new school, with its different charge, be established in its place. The proposal has been favorably received in many quarters including the faculty of the present school, its advisory committee and the School's Alumni Association Board.

The Office of Public Information at the University of California at Berkeley, Nancy Van House, Library/Info Studies, phone: +1 510 642 9980. Or Jes#s Mena, Public Information: +1 510 642 3734.

## 2. People

### 2.1. Appointment to Federal Information Highway Advisory Council

Dr. Mary Dykstra, Professor and Director of the School of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University, Canada, has been appointed to the Information Highway Advisory Council of the Canadian government. Established by Industry Minister John Manley, the Advisory Council of twenty-nine highly qualified Canadians is chaired by David Johnston, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University, Montreal. Dr. Dykstra is the sole appointee for the professional library/information studies community, as well as the only member from Nova Scotia.

“Together, as Canadians, we must decide how we want to develop and use the information highway for the economic, cultural and social advantage of all Canadians”, said Industry Minister Manley as he announced the membership of the national Advisory Council. He has also issued a discussion paper entitled *The Canadian Information Highway: Building Canada's Information and Communications Infrastructure*. Mr. Manley cited the federal government's objectives as: (1) to create jobs through innovation and investment; (2) to reinforce Canadian sovereignty and cultural identity; and (3) to ensure universal access at reasonable cost. He anticipates that the Council might form working groups to address the specific issues. “Canadians can expect to have the opportunity to work with council members on these matters”, he said.

For further information contact: School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, phone: +1 902 494 3656; fax: +1 902 494 2451; e-mail: DYKSTRA@ac.dal.ca.

### 2.2. Appointment to new Chair at Aberystwyth

Professor Patricia Layzell Ward has been appointed to the Chair and as Head of the Department of Information and Library Studies, having formerly held the Chair and been Head of the School of Information and Library Studies at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Western Australia.

She is the second woman to be appointed to a Chair and as Head of Department at the University of Wales at Aberystwyth.

Further information: Professor Patricia Layzell Ward, Department of Information and Library Studies, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, UK, phone: +44 970 622155.

### 3. Research

#### 3.1. Award to Dalhousie University, Canada

Dr. Bertrum H. MacDonald, Associate Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University has been awarded a three year research grant (1994–1997) of \$114,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. It was the second largest research grant awarded by SSHRC to Dalhousie University this year, and the largest in the Faculty of Management over the past five years. The study, entitled: "Information Diffusion in Scientific Research in Canada", will result in (1) a large bibliographic database of the historical assessments of science and technology in Canada published up to 1995, which will be merged with an earlier database, Science and Technology in Canadian History: A Bibliography of Primary Sources to 1914, and released on CD-ROM, and (2) an analysis of the place of information in scientific research.

For further information contact: Bertrum MacDonald, School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, phone: +1 902 494 3656; fax: +1 902 494 2451; e-mail: MACDONAL@ac.dal.ca.

#### 3.2. IMPEL

IMPEL is a joint research project between the Information Services Department (ISD) and the Department of Information and Library Management (DILM), University of Northumbria at Newcastle (UNN). It investigates the impact on library management and personnel of electronic information networks in the UK Higher Education sector and seeks to establish a model of "best practice" in managing quality provision.

IMPEL focuses on:

- Library staff and the changes in the environment in which they work;
- The library's relationship with other services and staff;
- The changing role of the library in the educational experience of students;
- The development of IT policies;
- The decision-making process in relation to networks;
- Training and skills for librarians working in an electronic environment;
- The effect of change on library management structures.

The research team is currently conducting a nationwide survey, to be followed by a pilot study at UNN and case studies in innovative institutions.

Results will be disseminated through conference papers, journal articles, workshops and seminars, progress reports via JANET and a major report in the library and information science literature.

If you would like to be kept informed, please contact: Catherine Edwards, Senior Research Assistant, DILM, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Newcastle upon

Tyne NE1 8ST, phone: +44 91 227 3222; fax: +44 91 227 4572; e-mail: catherine.edwards@uk.ac.UNN.

#### 4. Conferences

##### 4.1. 1995 ALISE Conference site

The Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) has selected the Doubletree Hotel, Philadelphia as the site for its 1995 annual conference, January 30–February 3, immediately preceding the 1995 Midwinter meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) in Philadelphia.

Ideally located in the heart of historic Philadelphia's business and cultural districts, the Doubletree Hotel is within walking distance from the Pennsylvania Convention Center, ALA's headquarters hotel, and is just 20 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport. Both the Academy of Music and the Merriam Theater are just across the street from the hotel, which is located at the corner of Broad and Locust Streets. Room rates will be \$95 single/\$110 double.

A full conference program and registration materials will be available in September. For more information, contact ALISE headquarters, 4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 201, Raleigh, NC 27607, phone: +1 919 787 5181; fax: +1 919 787 4916; e-mail: OMG@RUBY.ILS.UNC.EDU.

##### 4.2. FID/ET Seminar, Tokyo/Saitama, October 4–5, 1994 as part of the 47th FID General Assembly Conference and Congress, October 2–9, 1994

For practical reasons, this year's FID/ET Seminar is not a Pre-Conference arrangement, but it will take place during the FID Congress. It is outlined as a *Working Seminar* with structured and guided programme focussing interest on concepts such as multifunctionality, integration and multidisciplinary methods in the education and training of information professionals. The aim is to obtain results to support the development of training modules and the production of modern pedagogical materials to be used in various environments.

The programme is to indicate that FID aims to gear its activities into more strategic directions, meeting the demands of modern information professionals. Thus, FID/ET activities have to be linked to the development of new skills and competences for those professionals who must think, act and work in a new integrated way, and operate more globally than in the past.

The title of the seminar is *Multifunctional Information – New demands for training?*

Call for Papers were distributed in March–April 1994. Deadline for sending an extended abstract is July 1, and for the full text papers September 1, 1994. Presentations will be selected on criteria such as, strategic relevance and didactic qualities.

For more information, contact: Irene Wormell, Professor, FID/ET Committee Chair, The Royal School of Librarianship, Birketinget 6, DK-2300 Copenhagen 5, Denmark, phone: +45 31 58 60 66; fax: +45 32 84 02 01; e-mail: Biskiw@unidhp.uni-c.dk.

#### Programme outline

Tuesday, October, 4

- 09.30–10.00 *Opening* Yves Courier, UNESCO  
Ritva Launo, FID  
Irene Wormell, FID/ET
- 10.00–11.30 *Information professions.* Ritva Launo, FID  
What are they? Is there a need to link them in new training programmes?
- 11.30–12.00 Coffee break
- 11.30–13.00 *Linking different information professions.*  
Cases from some countries. Presentations by the participants, approx. 15 min each, depending on the number of papers presented.
- 13.00–14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00–15.00 Cases from some countries (continued)
- 15.00–15.30 Break
- 15.30–18.00 *Are there common training needs among different information professions?* What kind of training should we develop?  
Discussion in small groups.  
The results of the group work will be collected, analysed, and summarised during the night by the seminar organisers

Wednesday, October, 5

- 09.30–12.00 *Different possibilities in developing multifunctional training programmes.* Results of the group work will be presented.  
There will be also a discussion about the training models suitable for information professionals who want to have wider possibilities to develop a new type of information career.
- 12.00–13.30 Lunch break
- 13.30–16.00 FID/ET Open Forum  
Presentation of ongoing development activities
- 16.00–16.30 Closing
- 16.30–18.00 FID/ET Business Meeting

## 5. Databases

### 5.1. Distance Education Database

The International Centre for Distance Learning (Open University, England) database currently contains information about 27,000 distance taught courses in the Common-

wealth, a directory of nearly 800 distance teaching institutions and details of over 5,700 items of literature about distance education. The database now carries some 133 full text papers and reports.

On an experimental basis, the March 1994 CD-ROM version of the ICDL distance education database is available to new users in developed countries at £35.00 including postage and packing. European purchasers should note details of additional VAT (Value Added Tax) charges.

This greatly reduced price is offered in response to messages from many colleagues in several countries who have indicated that our 1993 subscription charge was beyond their reach. We hope to hold the price of future issues at a similar level if sufficient copies of the March 1994 version are sold. The next issue is scheduled to appear in October 1994. Remittance with order will help to hold the price.

Please note that online access to the database is currently free. To use the online database you need to be using a VT100 terminal. Telnet to `acsvax.open.ac.uk`. At the welcome message please log in to the Open University VAX cluster with the Username: `icdl`. (This message may be accepted as authorising you to use the OU computer to access ICDL.) For Account code: please enter your country name (English version) without spaces. Password: is then just AAA. If you have any difficulty or want to comment, please send e-mail to `n.ismail@open.ac.uk` or `l.r.a.melton@open.ac.uk`.

The Open University can also be reached via Janet, number 000041500030, EuropaNET, 204334504891, and by modem and telephone line to several numbers, including +44 908 271188. At the PAD> prompt CALL ACSVAX. Other phone numbers can be found by logging in as QDIAL.

### *5.2. Quality control*

The Centre for Information Quality Management (CIQM) has produced its first report for the information industry covering the last four months. The report summarises calls received from users of online and CD-ROM databases during this period.

While a number of calls have been received which deal with poor quality service from help desks and poor documentation, the vast majority of calls have had to do with the raw data. Calls have reported duplicate records, incorrect data, poor indexing leading to the exclusion of an important company from a search result, skimpy journal coverage, and a wrongly identified and therefore wrongly linked image in a CD-ROM encyclopaedia.

Of note, is one well documented case which seems to indicate that over a period of two years, two major company databases have contained faulty address and telephone information in between forty and fifty per cent of their records.

Chris Armstrong, the CIQM Manager, said, "It is quite clear from the report that quality control in databases is not all that it is cracked up to be and that the Centre has a major role to play in discovering where problems lie".

The Centre acts as a clearing house to which users of databases worldwide can

report database quality issues which are troubling them; the problem will be passed on to the appropriate person and a response routed back to the user. This activity allows CIQM to collect statistics on database quality.

“Without users reporting the problems to us, we cannot discover what is irritating them – if we are to improve database quality, users must understand that they have a ‘duty’ to report database quality issues to us”.

Users calling the Centre should have ready details of the database in use, its online host or CD-ROM publisher, the problem (with indexes or record number affected), and a note of their search strategy.

For more information or to report a quality issue, please contact The Centre for Information Quality Management, Penbryn, Bronant, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 4TJ, UK, phone: +44 97 421 441.

## **6. Training materials**

### *6.1. OCLC PRISM service training materials*

Dublin, Ohio, May 5, 1994 – A training package for using the PRISM service, OCLC’s cataloging and resource sharing system, will be available this summer with both computer-based training (CBT) and standard paper instruction.

PRISM Basics Training Materials will provide instruction for searching and navigating PRISM. The package is designed for new employees, student assistants and others who have never before used the PRISM service, or those who would like a refresher course in the basics.

By offering training materials in both CBT and paper form in the same package, students can learn at their own pace and can choose a learning style that is most comfortable or practical for them.

“We wanted to give students an option. If they don’t have access to a workstation for the CBT, they can use the paper instruction”, said Lynn Ziegler, OCLC training and implementation specialist.

The training materials were developed in response to requests by users and OCLC-affiliated regional network staff. The package was designed with input from the networks, and the materials have been tested in the OCLC Usability Lab.

“The PRISM Basics training package is not a replacement for network start-up training”, said Penny Mattern, OCLC consulting user training analyst. “It is meant to be used as a supplement to start-up training”.

PRISM Basics Training Materials will be available from OCLC-affiliated regional networks.

For further information call Nita Dean, phone: +1 614 761 5002.

## 6.2. BIOSIS training diskette

BIOSIS has announced the release of a diskette version of the Basic Training Course for its biological and medical database BIOSIS Previews. "Discovering BIOSIS Previews: An Interactive Disk", is accompanied by a detailed workbook. The disk includes simulated BRS, DataStar, Dialog and STN searches. It is available for IBM and IBM compatibles in 3.5 and 5.25 inch disks at \$45 from BIOSIS.

## 7. Publications and guides

### 7.1. Australasian directory

The following has just been published: *Directory of Library Schools and Lecturers in Librarianship in Australia and New Zealand*. Adelaide: Auslib Press. 4th edition 1994, size reduced to A5, 322pp. Aus\$38 plus Aus\$6 post, etc.

Contents: list of all library schools; directory of responding library schools; directory of lecturing staff; index to lecturers' teaching subjects, other interests, and areas of expertise.

Information given includes: addresses, courses of study, some statistics, details of lecturing staff (subjects taught, etc., qualifications, previous posts, publications, unpublished conference papers, consultancies).

Orders to: Auslib Press, PO Box 622, Blackwood, SA 5051, Australia, fax: +61 8 278 4000.

### 7.2. Information market (I'M) GUIDE

Developed under Action Line 3 of the Information Market Policy ACTions programme (IMPACT), I'M GUIDE is a directory of information products and services available in Europe. It includes not only databases and databanks, but also CD-ROMs, CD-I products, diskette-bases, image banks, etc., publicly available. For each product the database has detailed information about the contents, subject coverage, updating frequency, size, medium on which the service or product is available, etc., as well as information on the organisations producing or offering the products (information producers, hosts, information brokers, etc.).

I'M GUIDE contains information on:

- more than 2500 on-line databases and databanks;
- more than 2000 CD-ROMs and CD-Is;
- more than 800 other information products;
- more than 1700 producers of information;
- more than 800 services offering access;
- more than 1000 information brokers.

The database is produced by DG XIII/E of the Commission of the European Communities.

The content of the database is available in all nine official languages of the European Union. You can search it using the Common Command Language (CCL), or via a specially designed user-friendly menu-driven interface (currently available in English, Spanish, Italian, French or German).

I'M GUIDE is continuously updated, with the information collection carried out by a network of correspondents in all countries covered, monitoring the information scene in their region.

On-line access to the database is provided *free of charge* through ECHO (European Commission Host Organisation).

How to connect to ECHO via Internet. Now you can access ECHO with a simple TELNET command and the address: ECHO.LU (or 158.64.1.51). Once received our welcome screen "%THIS IS ECHO PLEASE ENTER YOUR CODE", you can log in with the following public password: LGUEST (or with your own personal password).

If you would like to register (registered ECHO users are provided with their own personal password and a detailed CCL Manual), or you would like to receive further information about ECHO and its databases, please send your *name* and *complete postal address* to: ECHO, European Commission Host Organisation, B.P. 2373, L-1023 Luxembourg, or to any of the e-mail addresses.

Jesus Bustamante, ECHO (European Commission Host Organisation), phone: +352 34981 220; fax: +352 34981 234; e-mail: POSTMASTER@ECHO.LU or JESUS.BUSTAMANTE@EUROKOM.IE.

### 7.3. *Library and Information Science Abstracts*

For twenty five years *Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)* has provided librarians with information that is always consistent, always reliable, and always up to date. Launched in January 1969 covering 250 journals from over 60 countries and in more than 20 different languages, in 1994 LISA is expanding to include 189 new journals, bringing the total number of periodicals abstracted to 539.

#### 7.3.1. *Landmarks in LISA's development: 1969–1994*

In 1977 LISA was made available online – with DIALOG and ORBIT (now BRS) – and on magnetic tape, paving the way for formidable expansion. Annual coverage increased from an initial 2,600 abstracts in 1969 to 6,000 abstracts by 1981, growing to almost 8,000 abstracts in 1993. By 1983 the related database *Current Research in Library and Information Science (CRLIS)* was included with LISA on the online file.

In 1987 LISA was launched onto the market on CD-ROM, making it both the first commercial database outside the USA and the unrivalled leader in the Library and Information Science field. Further CD-ROM developments in 1992 led to the launch of *LISA Plus* – an unbeatable combination of *LISA* and *CRLIS* on one CD-ROM.

In the past year layout and production of the print version have been reorganised to

give greater clarity and to allow for easier browsing. Now, in 1994, Bowker-Saur have even greater plans for the development of *LISA*. Coverage is to expand dramatically to include a further 189 journals, increasing the annual number of abstracts by 75% to 14,000. Subject coverage will also expand to bring in extra material on expert systems, artificial intelligence, communications and specific subject applications in medicine, agriculture and education. The *LISA* CD-ROM database is being substantially enhanced: a detailed thesaurus will be included during 1994 – its help with rapid subject searching will make *LISA* even more accessible than before. Electronic ordering facilities for acquiring documents are also being added as are British Library Document Supply centre shelf marks to assist document ordering and delivery.

For more information on the new developments in *LISA*, and of Bowker-Saur's celebrations to mark 25 years of publishing excellence contact: Richard Hollis, Maypole House, Maypole Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1HH, UK, phone: +44 342 330154; fax: +44 342 330192.

#### *7.4. Subject guides to Internet resources*

A number of new guides to sources on the Internet have been compiled by students at the University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies. Topics include: aerospace engineering, US government business and economics information, environment, neurosciences, US technology public policy, film and video, popular music. They are available from the Clearinghouse for Subject-Oriented Internet Resource Guides. Get them by ftp to [una.hh.lib.umich.edu](ftp://una.hh.lib.umich.edu), directory `i netdirsstacks`; or by gopher to [gopher.lib.umich.edu](gopher://gopher.lib.umich.edu); menu: Whats new and featured resources/Clearinghouse ...