

News

1. General

1.1. Personal member representative to FID Council

Professor Irene Wormell (Denmark) was elected as Personal Member representative on the FID Council by the Personal Members of FID by postal ballot on 15 September 1994. The appointment is made for the period 1995–1996. Her election was announced in the General Assembly meeting on 5 October 1994.

Irene Wormell has been active in FID for a number of years as the Chair of the FID Education and Training Committee and as Director of the FID/ET Clearinghouse at the Royal School of Librarianship in Copenhagen, Denmark*. In this capacity she is also the Editor of the FID/ET Newsletter, a quarterly publication (supported by the Danish International Development Authority and Unesco General Information Programme) which reports educational opportunities, grants, courses, and publications in the field of education and training of information professionals.

For more information on FID please contact the FID General Secretariat at this address: FID General Secretariat, P.O. Box 90402, 2509 LK The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 70 3140671; fax: +31 70 3140667; e-mail: Secretariat@FID.NL.

1.2. FID Distinguished Information Professional Award

The FID Distinguished Information Professional Award is given biennially during the FID Conference and Congress. The first to receive this award was Professor Yukio Nakamura of Japan in 1992. In 1994, during the 47th FID Conference and Congress in Omiya, Saitama in Japan, the award was given to Professor Rosa M. Vallejo for her impressive career in the international information profession, in particular her important contributions and creativity in the education and training of information professionals.

For more information about the Award, contact the FID Secretariat at the address below. Nominations are made by FID Members. However, non-FID Members may nominate individuals by proxy via an FID Member who is willing to sponsor the nomination and submit the supporting materials to FID Headquarters in The Hague. FID General Secretariat, P.O. Box 90402, 2509 LK The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 70 3140671; fax: +31 70 3140667; e-mail: Secretariat@FID.NL.

* Professor Wormell is also a member of the Editorial Board of *Education for Information*.

2. Library/information schools

2.1. *CASIS* – The Consortium of African Schools of Information Science was established in April 1994. Founding members are the African Regional Centre for Information Science (University of Ibadan, Nigeria), School of Information Studies for Africa (University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), Department of Library and Information Studies (University of Botswana), Ecole des Sciences de l'Information (Rabat, Morocco). *CASIS* aims at facilitating steady cooperation among the schools in teaching regular and continuing education courses, research, consultancy and advisory services and institutional strengthening. *CASIS* is primarily open to schools with masters' programs in information science and with evidence of, and commitment to, a research program but intends to play a catalyst role among all information science schools in Africa. It may also be instrumental in facilitating cooperation with the information science academic and research community in other parts. Contact Prof. P. Havard-Williams, DLIS, University of Botswana, P.B. 0022 Gaborone, Botswana. Fax +267 356591; e-mail: Havardw@motswedi.ub.bw.

3. Courses

3.1. *Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen*

An international award for the best contribution to the development of information science has been made to a course at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. The Institute of Information Scientists has awarded the 1994 'Jason Farradane Award' to Mrs. Rita Marcella and the Course Team for their work in developing a unique new course in Information Analysis.

The Postgraduate Diploma and linked Masters degree in Information Analysis was launched in 1992/93 by the School of Librarianship and Information Studies with the support of other Schools in the University's Faculty of Management. It aims to provide managers with an understanding of how information can be acquired and used to assist decision making in business and government.

The Award is presented annually to an individual or group for an outstanding piece of work in the information field, which has led to significant progress anywhere in the world in the practice or theory of information transfer. It is named after Dr. Jason Farradane, who helped to establish the Institute in 1958, and who introduced the world's first course in Information Science at The City University, London in 1961.

For further information contact Rita Marcella, The Robert Gordon University, Hilton Place, Aberdeen, AB9 1FP, UK. Tel: +44 1224 283800; fax: +44 1224 488545.

3.2. *University of Wales Aberystwyth*

The 1995 International Graduate Summer School (IGSS) in Librarianship and Information Science will be held from 21st June to 15th July at the Department of Information

and Library Studies, University of Wales Aberystwyth. The school aims to provide an opportunity for librarians and information scientists from all over the world to discuss matters of common concern and learn of recent developments, particularly in the areas of multimedia, networking and the use of computer systems generally in libraries. The 1995 school has been scheduled to link in with the biennial conference of the UK Library Association to be held in Manchester. IGSS is held in conjunction with the School of Librarianship and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. The 1700 pound (sterling) fee covers all tuition, accommodation, meals and study tour (to Oxford and British Library, Boston Spa).

For further details and application form please contact Joyce Wallace, IGSS Administrator (e-mail: zyo@aber.ac.uk) or Lucy Tedd, Director IGSS, e-mail: lat@aber.ac.uk; fax: +44 1970 622190.

3.3. 1995 Senior Fellows Program

The Palmer School of Library and Information Science at Long Island University (LIU) will host the biennial Senior Fellows Program beginning in 1995 at the C.W. Post Campus. Scheduled for July 12 through August 4, 1995, the program is a renewal of the leadership development program for academic/research library managers originally supported by grants from the Council on Library Resources to the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at UCLA.

Fifteen directors or individuals with goals that include management of academic/research libraries and information services in higher education will be selected to participate in the 1995 program. Participants, with guidance from expert faculty and seminar leaders, will explore public policy concerns, issues pertaining to higher education and its academic support services, and inter-organizational and current questions. Each Fellow will undertake a research paper on a topic of personal interest or will collaborate with colleagues on a joint project.

Application materials or requests for more information are available from: Anne Woodsworth, Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University, Brookville, NY 11548, USA. Tel: +1 516 299 2855; fax: +1 516 299 4168; Internet: WOODSWOR@AURORA.LIUNET.EDU.

3.4. Special information centres' resource management course 3–15 September 1995, University of Brighton, UK

Special libraries are under increasing pressure to make time effective and cost effective use of reducing resources to service their users and to improve their value for money and efficiency. The quality of all services ultimately depends on the effective use of resources available.

This seminar is aimed at senior managers of special information centres and libraries, predominantly in Third World and Eastern European countries. One objective is to raise

the awareness of the value of bibliographic information, together with the importance and sustainability of its use. Proficient management of resources is necessary to ensure maximum and continued exploitation of the available information sources. Thus it will deal with resource management related to the relevant services and activities.

The methods to be used in achieving these objectives will be lectures, videos, demonstrations, practicals, group exercises, case studies included in the descriptions of their own information centres/libraries and these will form the basis for some group work and deeper analysis. Much of the management of computer resources will be based on the use of micro CDS/ISIS. Participants will have access to the full range of the IDS Information Resource Unit (IRU) facilities, which include the IDS Library operating under the title of the British Library for Development Studies.

Topics to be covered are: strategic planning, total quality management, time management, human resource management, computer resource management, micro CDS/ISIS, information technology impact, network management sustainability, performance indicators, proposal writing, marketing repackaging, project analysis, preparation and design.

Participants will have access to the British Library for Development Studies situated within the Institute's building. It is a national centre for document on Third World Development and is a depository for UN publications. The collection now exceeds 250,000 non-serial and 15,000 serial titles.

The seminar will be directed by Bill Posnett, Head of the Information Resource Unit (IRU) and Librarian of the British Library for Development Studies (BLDS). He and his colleagues at IDS have carried out a wide range of relevant activities in the United Kingdom (UK) and many Third World countries. These include training, advisory/consultancy missions, manual and computerised information systems and networks, library planning and designs, with accompanying strategies for implementation. Much of their work has been published.

The seminar will be of interest to heads of special information centres and libraries from around the world, who wish to become more aware of the value of bibliographic information, the importance and sustainability of its use and the management of resources to ensure continued exploitation.

There are places for 20 participants. The fee is £ 1,680 (including accommodation, food, medical insurance, etc.).

Applicants are advised to apply before 2 June 1995.

Expressions of interest may be notified by telephone or fax to International Seminars Department in London, but must be followed up with a completed application form before the date shown above to be assured of consideration.

Further information and application forms: International Seminars Department, The British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN, UK. Tel: +44 71 389 4264/4252/4226; fax: +44 71 389 4154; telex: 8952201 BRICON G; e-mail: Jennifer.Vickers@britcoun.org. For information on British Library for Development Studies: p.ferguson@susx.ac.uk.

4. Research

4.1. OCLC Research Fellow Program

The OCLC office of research has immediate openings in the 1995–1996 OCLC Research Fellow program.

The OCLC Research Fellow program brings scientists, educators and administrators with demonstrated research capabilities to OCLC to conduct research with OCLC staff, facilities and data resources.

An OCLC research fellow is expected to conduct research that focuses on problems of significance to the library and information science community; the research need not be specific to OCLC's development and production activities.

Successful candidates must have doctoral degrees or equivalent training in library, information or computer science; applied mathematics; statistics; psychology; or human factors. Experienced researchers will be expected to perform independent research at OCLC, while those at the start of their careers will generally be assigned to one of OCLC's ongoing research projects under the direction of a research scientist.

OCLC expects research fellows to publish research results in the open literature. Publications stemming from research conducted while at OCLC are attributed to the OCLC research fellow; acknowledgment of OCLC's support is required, and coauthorship is expected when OCLC staff make significant contributions to the research effort.

The length of appointment for an OCLC research fellow is variable, traditionally six months to one year. OCLC offers a competitive salary and benefits, and relocation assistance is available.

Candidates should submit a letter of interest, including a curriculum vitae, date of availability, and specific research interests to: Dr. Terry Noreault, Director, Research and Special Projects, OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017–3395, USA.

The OCLC office of research conducts mission-oriented research to provide the library and information science community with theoretical findings and practical applications.

OCLC is a nonprofit computer library service and research organization whose computer network and services link more than 19,000 libraries in 61 countries and territories. (KS/NC)

For more information call Keith Shafer: +1 614 761 5049; e-mail: keith_shafer@oclc.org or Nita Dean: +1 614 761 5002; e-mail: nita_dean@oclc.org.

4.2. Research Awards

4.2.1. Distance learning

The Division of Education, University of Sheffield was awarded a grant from the British Library Research and Development Department earlier this year to investigate "The Role of the Library in Distance Learning".

The project will investigate the extent to which library facilities are easily accessed by postgraduate distance learning students in the UK. Course providers, librarians and a national sample of 1,000 students will be surveyed through questionnaires and interviews to identify both difficulties experienced and good practice. A national conference will be held and guidelines for course providers and librarians will be produced.

Kate Stephens joined the Division on 19th September as Research Associate for the project and will work with Dr Lorna Unwin, the Project Supervisor and Professor Neil Bolton, Director of the Flexible Learning Centre.

If anyone would like further details could they please contact Kate Stephens: Education Building, 338 Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK or by e-mail: denise.harrison@sheffield.ac.uk.

4.2.2. The use of IT in public libraries

The Department of Library and Information Studies at Manchester Metropolitan University has been awarded a grant of 9060 (pounds sterling) by the Department of National Heritage, through the British Library Research and Development Department, to identify issues in the use of Information Technology by Public libraries in England and Wales. The Study will run from 1 September 1994 to the end of February 1995. The aims of the study are to:

- 1) identify current and potential IT developments that are likely to have an impact on public library systems and services.
- 2) highlight those IT issues that are likely to have a significant effect on the delivery of public library services by the end of the decade.
- 3) identify for the DNH those specific issues requiring further study and to suggest appropriate strategies for this.

Evidence will be collected from a wide range of organisations and groups; from public libraries; and from a sample of vendors, including suppliers of library management systems, networking providers, publishers and library suppliers.

Tony Wood, Head of Department, is Project Director and will be assisted by Tony Oulton, with Shelagh Fisher, Margaret Kendall and Jonathan Willson.

While the active research programme will gather evidence from targeted samples, interested parties who wish to submit comments may send them to: Mr. A.J. Wood (IT in PL Study), Department of Library and Information Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University, All Saints, Manchester M15 6BH, UK. E-mail: a.j.wood@mmu.ac.uk; fax: +44 161 247 6351.

4.2.3. Information for arthritis and rheumatism sufferers

Arthritis and rheumatism sufferers obtain information and advice about the drugs they use from a variety of sources, including not only doctors and chemists, but also from books, popular magazines and other media. How well their needs for information are met by existing information services in the Grampian region are to be assessed as the first part of a major development of the research activities of the School of Librarianship and Information Studies at The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. The research project will be directed by Mrs. Jane Farmer, a Lecturer in the School, who is also a member of Grampian Local Health Council, and research assistant Melanie Peffer. Patients attending clinics, and providers of drug information will be interviewed over the next year as part of the project, which is being supported by a £ 19,000 grant from the British Library's Research and Development Department, and which should lead to better information services for anyone using prescribed drugs.

For further information contact Jane Farmer, The Robert Gordon University, Hilton Place, Aberdeen AB9 1FP, UK. Tel: +44 1224 283800; fax: +44 1224 488545.

4.2.4. Database quality

The Centre for Information Quality Management (CIQM) has been funded for seven months preliminary research into database quality by the British Library Research and Development Department.

The research will add to work already being undertaken to establish the nature and extent of database quality issues. Chris Armstrong, who manages the Centre, commented, "This is very exciting – the project will enable us to begin work on establishing how the quality of a database can be measured and recorded". The long-term aim of CIQM is to establish a methodology for labelling a database so that users can be certain that it will live up to their expectations; this project will not only provide further proof that quality problems exist, but will begin to establish a methodology for database quality assessment (DQA).

Work at the Centre to gather statistics on quality issues will continue side-by-side with the new project. As database users telephone the Centre to report a quality issue, the information is logged and added to the growing base of statistics which is to be used to demonstrate which are the areas to need most immediate attention. The British Library project will use questionnaires to test user concerns and evaluations of databases to begin the work on establishing how databases can be measured for their quality. It is hoped that a second project will extend this work. Database publishers have already shown interest in the idea of labelling their products in this way.

So far most calls to the Centre have come from within the UK but with the new e-mail address, it is hoped that the Centre will attract more calls from overseas. The e-mail address is lisqual@cix.compulink.co.uk. Details from: Chris Armstrong, The Centre for Information Quality Management, Penbryn, Bronant, Aberystwyth SY23 4TJ, UK. Tel/ fax: +44 97 421 441; e-mail: lisqual@cix.compulink.co.uk.

4.2.5. Unesco contracts for the Robert Gordon University

Dr Dorothy Williams of the School of Librarianship and Information Studies at The Robert Gordon University has been awarded 2 contracts by Unesco. The first was to prepare a briefing paper for government ministers and senior officials to make them aware of the need for proper information when taking decisions on environmental matters. This was presented to a group of African ministers at a recent conference in North Africa. The second task is to prepare guidelines and materials for teaching the management and use of information about sustainable development. This is expected to be completed by next summer and will then be run as demonstration courses in Eastern Europe and Africa.

For further information contact Dorothy Williams, The Robert Gordon University, Hilton Place, Aberdeen AB9 1FP, UK. Tel: +44 1224 283800; fax: +44 1224 488545.

5. Publications

5.1. ERIC publications show how the Internet and new information technology are affecting education, the economy, and society

Two new monographs which highlight current communications technologies and how they are affecting curriculum, the economy, and society have been published by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA.

An Educator's Guide to Electronic Networking: Creating Virtual Communities by Barbara Kurshan and Marcia Harrington, revised and updated by Peter Milbury, offers network novices an introduction to the Internet and the benefits of network resources, a comparison of 28 commercial and non-commercial service providers, and an extensive glossary of more than 200 common networking terms. This guide assists teachers and administrators in making informed decisions prior to implementing network technologies in their schools.

Christina Doyle's Information Literacy in an Information Society: A Concept for the Information Age, recognizes the change in American society from an industrial economy to an economy based in services and information. This monograph encourages educators to prepare students for success in the new working environment by teaching them to access, evaluate, and use information from a variety of sources.

To order the above publications, call: Janet LaFrance, Database Secretary, +1 800 464 9107, or write: ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology, 4-194 Center for Science and Technology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13244-4100, USA. Fax to: +1 315 443 5448, or Internet: janet@ericir.syr.edu.

An Educator's Guide to Electronic Networking: Creating Virtual Communities, (IR-96), 118 pp., 8.5'' × 11'', tables, glossary, \$10. plus \$2 shipping (ISBN: 0-937597-37-6).

Information Literacy in an Information Society: A Concept for the Information Age, (IR-97), 84 pp., 5.5'' x 8'', \$8 plus \$2 shipping (ISBN: 0-937597-38-4).

6. Software

6.1. ESA-IRS

BRAQUE

BRAQUE (BRowse And QUERy) is a new powerful MS-Windows based interface to ESA-IRS. In addition to providing the user with the enhanced display that a windows interface provides, BRAQUE comes with functionality not available in any other such interface on the market today.

BRAQUE allows the user to search and display information from ESA-IRS databases without having any prior knowledge of the ESA-QUEST search language. Performing a proper search and managing the results becomes a matter of clicking on icons with the mouse, all in an easy, fast, efficient and enjoyable way as never before.

Unique and especially powerful are the ASSOCIATE and PROPOSE functions which allow the user, with great ease, to ask the system for proposals of alternative search terms, synonyms and related keywords and concepts. With BRAQUE the user can store retrieved bibliographic references or full text articles in an easy to manage local DOCUMENTS POOL. This option facilitates further processing in Word Processors and production of high-quality reports.

BRAQUE comes with a context-sensitive help system which includes the complete ESA-IRS documentation, which also can be printed locally. Quick navigation through the help information is possible via hypertext links. The software can be customized by the individual searcher to a great extent. Valuable hints to sharpen the searchers skills in general are also incorporated in the system.

As the ESA-IRS pricing policy is to charge for information retrieved, not connect-time, this new and powerful search tool allows searchers to interact online without any time pressure and to make the best use of the new functionality that BRAQUE provides.

For further press information, please contact: G. Mühlhauser, Head of ESA-IRS, ESA-IRS, Esrin, Via Galileo Galilei, 00044 Frascati, Italy. Tel: +39 6 941 80276.