

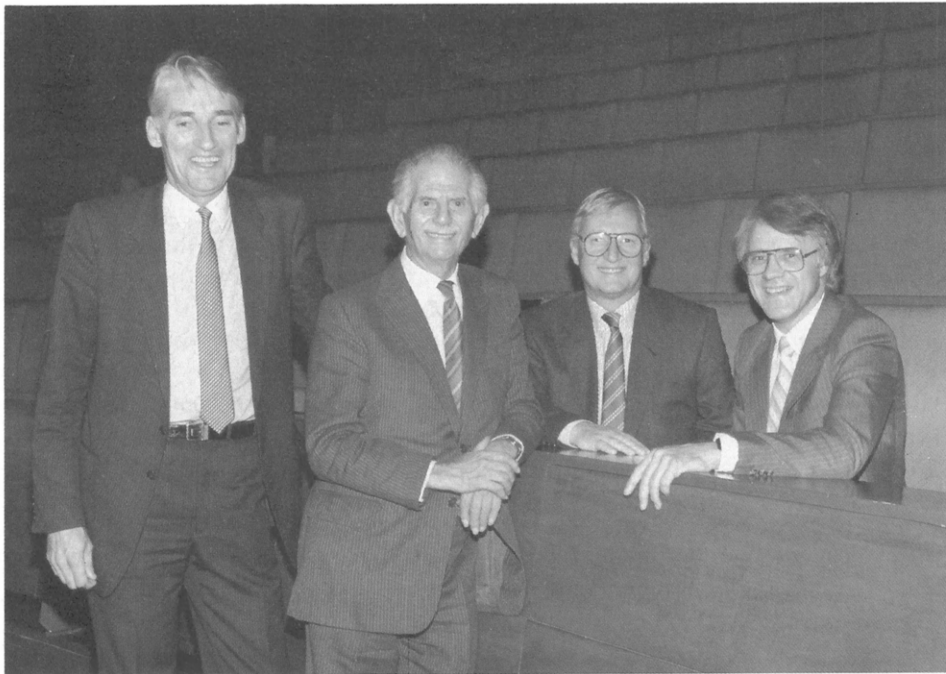
NEWS

Items for publication in the *News* are welcomed and should be sent to R.F. Guy, SCOLCAP, National Library of Scotland, 312-320 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2PJ Scotland, United Kingdom.

General

Sir Monty Finniston, former Chairman of the British Steel Corporation (1973–76), former President of ASLIB, honorary graduate of the University of Sheffield (DMet 1979) and now an industrial consultant, gave the first Dawson Lecture on 6th November 1986, on the need for enterprise and risk-taking to foster a resurgence of British industry, at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom.

Entitled “Enterprise learning from Dawson”, the lecture was the first of three established on an annual basis by the periodicals supply agency Wm. Dawson & Sons Ltd. through a grant to the University’s Department of Information Studies.



Pictured on the photo are, from left to right, Mr. Denis Baker, Chairman of Wm. Dawson, Sir Monty Finniston, Mr. John Cowley, Dawson's Library Adviser, and Professor Tom Wilson, Head of the Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield.

Research

The United Kingdom Economic and Social Research Council has established a series of Regional Research Laboratories to promote the wider use of data collected by academic researchers, commercial organizations and government departments. This new research initiative *indicates* the Council's commitment to funding projects that will help information users of all kinds to take advantage of recent developments in information technology.

The Regional Research Laboratories will act as local data libraries housing the most widely used national datasets. An important part of the effort at each centre will be devoted to technical issues relating to the development of the software that is needed to make the information more accessible to potential users. Full advantage will be taken of recent developments in networking and computer technology. The Regional Research laboratories will also take on a training function as they develop and organize courses and workshops at the regional level to promote their facilities.

The ESRC's Research Resources and Methods Committee earmarked an initial budget of £375,000 in summer 1986 for this project and invited interested parties to submit outline proposals for the trial centres. More than 40 proposals were received: eight groups were invited to prepare detailed submissions. Contracts have been awarded to four centres who will form the first wave of activities. These centres will be based in Cardiff, Edinburgh, London and Newcastle.

The work that will be carried out by these centres during the trial period builds upon their previous experience in this field:

(1) In *Edinburgh* a team of investigators from the Centre for Applications Software and Technology at the *University of Edinburgh* headed by Peter Burnhill will be using the University's data library facilities as a test bed for the development of software to improve the links between user and software and software and data.

(2) In *Cardiff* a team from the Department of Town Planning at the *University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology* under the direction of Professors Michael Batty and Neil Wrigley will work together with colleagues from the statistics group at the *University of Bath* and the *South West Universities Computer Centre* to develop demonstration projects for Wales and South West England.

(3) The *London* part of the project involves a consortium of researchers from the Geography Department at the *London School of Economics* headed by Professor Derek Diamond and his colleagues at *Birkbeck College* headed by Professor David Rhind. This consortium will concentrate on establishing an integrated urban and regional infrastructure database for London and the South East.

(4) The *Newcastle* trial centre involves collaboration between teams based at the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies of the *University of Newcastle*

and the Geography Department of the *University of Lancaster* under the overall direction of Professor John Goddard. These groups will be particularly concerned with the technical issues that arise in the integration and analysis of spatial data in the environmental as well as the socio-economic field.

The findings of these studies will provide a firm base for planning the second phase of the project which will begin in mid-1988. To monitor progress, the committee has appointed Professor Ian Masser from the Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Sheffield as its Research Coordinator. Michael Blakemore of the Department of Geography at the University of Durham will be Technical Adviser. They will work under the direction of a Steering Group from the Research Resources and Methods Committee chaired by Professor Howard Newby, the Director of the ESRC-funded Data Archive at the University of Essex.

Further details about the project can be obtained from:

Professor Ian Masser,
Department of Town and Regional Planning,
University of Sheffield,
6 Claremont Place,
Sheffield S10 2TB, United Kingdom,
Tel.: 0742 768555, ext. 6179

Student awards

Advanced-course studentships

The College of Librarianship Wales (CLW) is the first school of librarianship and information studies in Britain to be allocated a quota of Advanced Course Studentships for higher degree work. This decision by the Department of Education and Science follows a recommendation in the UGC/NAB Transbinary Report supporting the development of taught advanced masters degrees at post-qualification level and a review by the Office of Arts and Libraries' Committee for Postgraduate Awards in Librarianship and Information Work.

The Studentships are open to applicants from any library, information centre or library school wishing to enrol for CLW's specialized programmes in "*The use of computers in libraries and information units*" or "*Design and evaluation of information systems*" leading to the University of Wales degree of Master of Librarianship (M. Lib). The programmes have been taught for a number of years, but these Studentships offer the first official financial support for British students to take them. CLW is already established as the largest centre for higher degree study in librarianship in Britain, with over 100 full-time and part-time students currently enrolled on its advanced programmes.

Applicants must have, or expect to be awarded, a good honours degree in librarianship and information studies, *or* a good honours degree in another subject

plus a postgraduate qualification in librarianship. Details are available from:

The Registrar,
College of Librarianship Wales,
Llanbadarn Fawr,
Aberystwyth SY23 3AS, United Kingdom.

Information-management award

The Information Force has presented Strathclyde Business School's Department of Information Science with a £100 student prize. The award will be used to subsidize conference attendance by students on the M. Sc. Information Management course.

The Information Force, in association with ASLIB, is to launch The International Conference on Information Management (INCONIM) in June 1988. The title of the conference will be "*Managing Information for Competitive Success*".

Further details are available from:

Professor Blaise Cronin,
Department of Information Science,
Strathclyde Business School,
Livingstone Tower,
26 Richmond Street,
Glasgow G1 1XH, United Kingdom,
Tel.: 041-552 4400, ext. 3700.

Research awards

Directory grant-in-aid

The British Library Research and Development Department has awarded the Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield, a grant of £3,750 for the preparation of a directory of teaching resources.

Further details:

Mr. B. Loughridge,
Department of Information Studies,
University of Sheffield,
Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN, United Kingdom,
Tel.: 0742 768555.

Great Britain-Sasakawa Foundation project at Strathclyde

Strathclyde Business School's Department of Information Science has been awarded a further £6,000 by the Great Britain-Sasakawa Foundation to enhance its computerized bibliography of contemporary Japanese studies.

The database contains details of selected monographs and journal articles of relevance to British businessmen, scholars and others interested in contemporary Japan.

Phase two of this project will extend the coverage of the database and include the creation of a thesaurus.

The Foundation's grant-in-aid will be supplemented by funds from the University's R&D Office.

Further details are available from:

Professor Blaise Cronin or Patricia Baird,
Strathclyde Business School,
Department of Information Science,
Livingstone Tower,
26 Richmond Street,
Glasgow G1 1XH, United Kingdom.

Ealing College of Higher education

The British Library Research and Development Department has awarded Ian Malley (Ealing College of Higher Education) a grant to survey the current teaching of information handling skills in further and higher education colleges in the United Kingdom. The study will also include a comprehensive review of past work in the colleges in this field.

For more details contact:

Ian Malley,
School of Library and Information Information Studies,
Ealing College of Higher Education,
St. Mary's Road,
Ealing, London W5 5RF,
United Kingdom.

Short courses

As part of its Short Course and Continuing Education Programme, the School of Library and Information Studies at Ealing College of Higher Education is contributing to the in-service training of teachers in the London Borough of Ealing, by providing a five-days course entitled "*Developing the school library resource centre — an in-service training programme for teachers*". The first course was held in November 1986, and over the coming year it is intended to make the course available to the majority of teachers in the Borough. For further details contact:

Dr. Stephen A. Roberts,
Short Course and Continuing Education,
School of Library and Information Studies,
Ealing College of Higher Education,
St. Mary's Road,
Ealing, London W5 5RF,
United Kingdom

Teaching aids

Online Consultants of Indiana is pleased to announce the release of a new software product; ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST (Version 1.0).

ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST is an advising and teaching program designed for library school students, practising librarians, information specialists, and others who would like expert advice on aspects of conducting an online search. It is intended to serve both as a diagnostic aid and as a tutorial. It should be useful as an initial learning tool, as a refresher, and as a source of assistance for an online search in progress.

ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST can also be used by end-users who are attempting to conduct their own searches on systems like BRS COLLEAGUE or Knowledge Index, or on CD-ROM systems located within a library or information centre. However, the program assumes a degree of basic knowledge (and terminology) regarding online searching, and thus may not be suitable for some end-users.

The philosophy underlying the development of this program is that online information retrieval is a problem-solving task of a high order. Many conceptual problems can arise during the conduct of an online search as the searcher attempts to satisfy overall retrieval goals.

ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST is designed to offer suggestions regarding alternative courses of action — sometimes called tactics, or *heuristics* — that a searcher might take to solve such problems. ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST treats five major problem categories. For each of these categories, several heuristics are identified, explained and clarifying examples are provided. ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST is completely menu-driven.

ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST was written in TURBO Pascal for IBM PC microcomputers or IBM-compatibles. It requires MS-DOS or PC-DOS 2.0 or greater and at least 64K internal memory.

The author of ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST is Stephen P. Harter, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University. Dr. Harter has written widely in information storage and retrieval and online searching. His recent book, *Online information retrieval: concepts, principles, and techniques*, was published by Academic Press in 1986.

ONLINE SEARCH ANALYST is available for \$40 from:

Online Consultants of Indiana,
4300 Cambridge Drive,
Bloomington, IN 47401,
U.S.A.

The price includes postage and handling.

Publications

Reference reviews is a quarterly journal, published by Parker Moore Ltd., Bath, England, which aims to provide unbiased, comparative and evaluative reviews of

current reference materials as a selection aid for librarians. It concentrates mainly on British publications. The first issue of *Reference reviews* was published in March.

Each issue will contain about 70 reviews of around 500 words each written by practising reference librarians and subject specialists and arranged under broad subject headings with cumulative indexes. A special effort will be made to ensure up-to-date coverage of recent publications.

Reference reviews is edited by Nick Moore and published by Parker Moore Ltd.

Subscription information: frequency: quarterly. Volume 1, Number 1: March 1987. Format: 30 × 21 cm. Abt. 36 pages per issue. ISSN 0950-4125. Annual subscription to Volume 1: £45.00. Single issues: £12.00. Special rates for multiple subscriptions.

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Taunton TA4 2RU,
United Kingdom,
Telephone: (0984) 2366.

Software

An innovative use of the 5¼-inch disk as an information medium has been developed by SoftHelp Associates of Sarasota, FL, and enhanced by Paradigm Press to expand the audience for its international newsletter *SCOPE: Humanities Computing Update*. This MSDOS disk contains hundreds of items relating to instructional and research software, plus word processing in the scholarly environment. A particularly useful section lists software reviews published in the academic and commercial press.

All the information on the disk is readily accessible through a series of detailed menus. Full user instructions and help screens are provided, and no special skills are required to access the numerous items contained on discSCOPE.

The disk may be freely copied. In fact, a program for doing so is included for ease of reproduction. Users of the disk are encouraged to disseminate its contents without restriction to any interested party. It may also be uploaded to bulletin boards.

Master copies of the disk are available for \$5 from:

Paradigm Press,
P.O. Box 1057,
Osprey, FL 33559, U.S.A.

Free masters will be provided to computer centre user services, conference organizers, and other qualified distributors.