

## NEWS

Items for publication in the News are welcomed and should be sent to:

R.F. Guy  
National Library of Scotland  
312-320 Lawnmarket  
Edinburgh EH1 2PJ  
Scotland  
UK

### General news

#### *ALISE Preservation SIG*

The Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) has announced the establishment of a special interest group (SIG) concerned with preservation education in schools of library and information science. The group will focus primarily on curriculum development, continuing education and research. It will serve as a forum for these activities, as well as acting as a liaison with other professional organizations with preservation and conservation activities. Also, the group will work on developing educational guidelines for preservation and conservation in concert with allied organizations.

The Preservation SIG sponsored a programme at the January 1990 ALISE Annual Conference in Chicago on various approaches to preservation education. The convenor for this program was Michèle Valerie Cloonan.

To be a member of the Preservation SIG, one must be a member of ALISE. For ALISE membership information, contact:

Ilse Moon, Executive Secretary  
ALISE  
5623 Palm Aire Drive  
Sarasota, FL34243-3702  
USA

For further information on the 1990 programme, contact:

Michèle Valerie Cloonan  
John Hay Library  
Box A  
Brown University  
Providence, RI 02912  
USA

Tel: +1 401 8631187

*Library automation system gift*

McDonnell Douglas Information Systems Ltd has presented a £30,000 computer system to the School of Librarianship and Information Studies at Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology (RGIT), Aberdeen. This comprises a 250 mb minicomputer, six terminals, a printer and the company's URICA library automation software package.

RGIT is the first institution in Britain to have equipment such as this solely for teaching. The equipment will facilitate major developments in the School's existing teaching in cataloguing, OPAC and management information systems for libraries.

McDonnell Douglas has a positive programme of community relations, where the company works within a number of organizations, including academic institutions. A spokesman for McDonnell Douglas said, 'In addition to helping train new librarians, we are sure that this collaboration will result in the input of many fresh ideas and new developments.'

For further details, contact:

Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology  
Schoolhill  
Aberdeen AB9 1FR  
Scotland  
UK

Tel: +44 224 633611

**Research***Salesforce automation*

Strathclyde Business School's Department of Information Science has been commissioned by Hewlett-Packard (UK) Ltd to undertake a study on behalf of its Sales & Marketing Division to assess the impact of laptop computers on salesforce productivity and motivation. The expected and realized benefits will be compared using indicators derived from a series of pre- and post-provision interviews and an analysis of relevant automation studies. The study will add to Hewlett-Packard's understanding of information flow in the sales process.

Further information:

Professor Blaise Cronin *or* Mrs Lizzie Davenport  
Department of Information Science  
Strathclyde Business School  
University of Strathclyde  
Livingstone Tower  
26 Richmond Street  
Glasgow G1 1XH  
Scotland  
UK

*Exploiting legal information using Hypertext*

Strathclyde Business School's Department of Information Science and Law School have been awarded a grant of £16,000 by the British Library Research & Development Department to develop a prototype hypertext system covering the legal issue of copyright, with special emphasis on its application to new information products and services. Development will include beta testing of the system with law students, legal professionals and information specialists. The potential for extending the system into a hypermedia environment will also be assessed by the project team. The project will run for twelve months, with a start date of 1 September 1989.

For further information, contact Ms Noreen Mac Morrow, Project Head, at the Department of Information Science, University of Strathclyde (address above).

*Hypertext*

British Telecom has awarded Strathclyde University's Department of Information Science a further £13,254 to continue its evaluation of hypertext as a front-end to online information services. This stage of the work will examine the feasibility of using Hypercard as an interface to full-text business databases and seek to identify the major benefits and constraints of downloading information through the Telecom Gold gateway. The aim is to develop a prototype based upon an analysis of both user and vendor requirements, as well as technical criteria.

Further details can be obtained from Mark Percival, at the Department of Information Science, University of Strathclyde (address above).

**Courses***Information management course in Thailand*

A three-month course (May–July) is offered to librarians, subject specialists and computer staff who work in automated information centres. The course is at the Library and Regional Documentation Centre of the Asian Institute of Technology. The objectives are to teach computer literacy and to prepare participants to create and maintain a bibliographic database using the CDS/ISIS software package. Also, methods of selection, packaging and dissemination, marketing, production and publishing information will be taught. New technologies are introduced. Candidates from all countries are welcome.

For information on candidate requirements, etc., please write to:

Mr H.A. Vespry, Director  
Library and Regional Documentation Centre  
Asian Institute of Technology  
GPO Box 2754  
Bangkok 10501  
Thailand

Telex: 84276 TH  
Fax: +66 2 5290374

*Conservation and preservation of materials*

The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies will introduce a new course in Conservation and Preservation of Materials in Fall 1989. This course will provide an understanding of the deterioration of materials in library and archive collections, examine present approaches to conservation issues and apply some of these in a laboratory environment.

In addition to classroom time, three-hour laboratory sessions will be held weekly. Enrolment is limited. For further information contact:

Graduate School of Library and Information Studies  
McGill University  
3459 McTavish Street  
Montreal  
Quebec H3A 1Y1  
Canada

Tel: +1 514 398 4204

Fax: +1 514 398 7193

ENVOY: GSLIS.HOWARD

**Conference***Continuing Education—Perspectives for the 1990s*

'Continuing Education—Perspectives for the 1990s' is the title of a one-day workshop to be held during the IFLA Conference, due to take place in Stockholm on August 18–24, 1990. The workshop is being organized by the IFLA Section on Education and Training, in association with the IFLA Round Table on Continuing Professional Education.

*Aims*

The 1990 IFLA Conference in Stockholm takes place at the beginning of a new decade, with new opportunities and new prospects. In Europe, both Eastern and Western, fundamental and radical changes are in motion. The compulsions and contingencies of the Third World necessitate other and closer forms of cooperation between North and South. Communication worldwide is becoming more rapid and sophisticated... These phenomena and other factors have all manner of implications for our profession and for continuing education in particular.

More specifically, but within the above general framework, the aim of the workshop is to encourage the development of relevant continuing professional education (CPE) by examining the establishment of continuing education programmes for librarians and information specialists in both industrialized and developing countries, analyzing the problems encountered and sharing the experi-

ence gained. Papers will present the experience of both providers and recipients of CPE.

#### *Topics for papers*

Both the theme and the aims of the workshop are deliberately broad in scope. While it is hoped that this will encourage a greater number of papers, it is certainly not the intention to try to cover all and everything connected with continuing education. Incoming papers and their quantity, quality and contents together with the resulting selection will determine the final tone and character of the meeting. The organizers will give priority to papers which have a direct bearing on the theme 'New Challenges – New Initiatives – New Promises.'

The following are suggested topics for papers:

Needs and priorities – who decides them, and how?

Roles and responsibilities of providers and facilitators such as professional associations, educational institutions, commercial companies, consultants and international agencies—policies and resources, expectations and constraints.

Developing countries and international inputs—aid or handicap?

The relationship between initial professional education and continuing education—demands from professionals, dilemmas for educators.

Harmonizing CPE for librarians, information scientists and archivists—professional harmonization and international harmonization—one subject, many students.

New delivery modes—opportunities or obstacles?

Financing CPE—cost-benefits for consumers and providers.

Do-it-yourself—developing indigenous expertise.

#### *Call for papers*

Proposals for papers on the above topics should be sent to:

Mr Chagan Laloo, Director of Studies

Institutionen Bibliotekshögskolan

Högskolan i Borås

Box 874

50115 Borås

Sweden

Proposals for papers will be considered by a panel appointed by the Standing Committee of the Section of Education and Training.

The completed typescript of accepted papers must be sent to Mr Laloo by not later than 31 May 1990. The papers will be required to be typed in the format indicated in the 'Brief guidelines for IFLA papers,' which will be supplied to the selected speakers. Papers will be distributed in full to all participants, and at the meeting speakers will be expected to present only a brief summary of their paper (not more than 20 minutes) to allow adequate time for discussion.

An invitation to speak does not imply any offer to waive the conference fee or to provide any other financial support.

## CD-ROM

### *OCLC*

OCLC Online Computer Library Centre, of Dublin, Ohio, now provides its computer systems to more than 9,400 libraries in the US and 26 other countries. The OCLC service is centred on the OCLC Union Catalogue, which now holds more than 18 million bibliographic records, and records the holding of each title in OCLC member libraries.

ALA-accredited library schools have the chance to receive a free subscription to OCLC's compact disc cataloguing system, CAT CD450. The free subscription includes four CDs with 2.4 million OCLC-MARC bibliographic records, and the complete file of Library of Congress Names and Subject Authority Records. The CAT CD450 system software is also included.

To take advantage of this offer, library schools must request a subscription, complete an order form and return it to their network or OCLC, and obtain a cataloguing profile and authorization number. The minimum system requirements are 640Kb RAM, a 20Mb hard disk, at least one CD-ROM drive and controller, an EGA board or a Tseng UltraPAK board, a dial access modem or OCLC Communications Controller, and DOS 3.1 or higher.

According to OCLC, the CAT CD450 system, which became available in December, combines the advantages of offline and online cataloguing, with the result that libraries can realize a 95% hit rate in finding bibliographic records while reducing telecommunications costs.

Further details from:

OCLC  
6565 Frantz Road  
Dublin, OH 43017-0702  
USA

Tel: +1 614 764 6000

## Software

### *BiB/SEARCH*

A new deal between Information Automation Ltd (IAL)—an information research and consultancy company based in mid-Wales—and Electronic Publishing Management & Services (EPMS) of The Netherlands has resulted in the ready availability of BiB/SEARCH to users in the United Kingdom; while continental users now have 'local' access to and support for IAL's FILTER package.

BiB/SEARCH is a powerful full-text database manager intended particularly for use by users of CD-ROM and online databases. It combines sophisticated search software with a translator for data downloaded from online hosts and an output report generator which produces bibliographic listings in a variety of standard formats such as ANSI or Chicago. Supplied with the package are predefined translation files for some of the more popular online hosts and databases.

BiB/SEARCH functions as a structured database, which means it can have defined fields as well as free text. Database searching is very fast and the software is both powerful and easy to use—one reviewer said that BiB/SEARCH looked and felt like a baby Dialog or Lexis with more easily usable information-handling power. Searching is implicit and search statements can combine earlier sets, nested parentheses, operator and field specifications. Searches can be saved for re-use. It is possible to search on single or multiple fields; use Boolean and relational operators; use proximity operators and phrase searching in free text; and use right- and left-hand truncation as well as within-term masking. Within-phrase truncation allows input such as 'j = 1 a r' which will produce a list of journals with titles like the *Library Association record* from which one or more may be selected—a very useful feature.

BiB/SEARCH allows batch mode input from an external file. First, a title list is checked against the database to ensure that no duplicates are present and then the downloaded file is converted into BiB format and appended. Once an input format specification is created—and a number are supplied—the downloaded records are converted easily; the sophisticated pattern-matching capability enables relevant data to be extracted from each record even if the database has non-tagged fields. Input can be by hand, in which case data input into indexed fields is automatically validated.

Output functions are equally sophisticated with some eighteen standard citation formats predefined and the possibility of adding as many others as are required. Printer drivers are included for a variety of printers. It is also possible to generate citations automatically: following the completion of a paper, BiB/SEARCH will scan it for references, and create a search set of those citations found on the database which can then be viewed, edited or printed in the chosen style to append to the paper. Output can also be sorted.

BiB/SEARCH enables users to obtain instant access to vast amounts of information according to user-specific search criteria—it is a useful tool for exploring new domains of interest or consolidating existing ones and provides a mechanism for efficiently filing and retrieving articles from either a personal collection or that of a library or information unit. Although BiB/SEARCH was designed as a bibliographic database system, its flexibility means that it can easily be customized for other uses such as a personnel database or even cataloguing a collection of stamps.

BiB/SEARCH costs £550 for the full package, which includes the database manager, the input data transformation module and the output report generator. The manual, available both on-disk during use and printed, as well as full online help are also included in the price.

Information Automation Ltd specializes in in-house databases and online train-

ing; for further information on this software or their training activities, please contact:

Information Automation Ltd  
'Penbryn'  
Bronant  
Abersystwyth SY23 8TJ  
Wales  
UK

Tel: +44 97 421 302

### *Training system*

The Training Agency has awarded Logica a contract to build the HyperCard Intelligent Training System (HITS). According to Logica, the new system (due to be completed in June) promises to be one of the most significant developments in computer-based training (CBT) for more than twenty years. It will enable authors to generate courseware in a fraction of the time required for conventional CBT systems, Logica claims.

Logica's approach to HITS involves the use of a hypertext system to construct tools for preparing course material and presenting it to students on an intelligent training system. Hypertext enables rapid and extensive cross referencing between text and graphics on the computer screen. The system chosen by Logica is Apple Computer's HyperCard, which displays text and graphics on stacks of cards, similar to file cards, because of its easy-to-use graphics, animation, text and screen layout facilities.

The HITS system will consist of two major parts, a course authoring system and a delivery system, according to Logica. The authoring system will give teachers a simple and intuitive way to create lesson topics using groups of cards. Once the teacher outlines the syllabus, the system automatically links topics to form lessons. Sets of topic cards containing teaching material written by the teachers or their colleagues can easily be incorporated into the course material, Logica says.

The delivery system manages the way in which pupils see the lessons. By monitoring a student's progress, the intelligent system will be able to determine the level of teaching most appropriate to each student's needs. Like a human tutor, the system will raise or lower the complexity of lessons and tests according to the student's level of understanding. Students will be able to browse through the syllabus material, and select tests or exams.

The project is being developed as part of the Training Agency's AI Applications to Learning Initiative. The initial development will be in the area of United Kingdom employment law. Target end users are managers of small and medium-sized businesses. HITS is the second contract to be awarded to Logica under this three-year initiative.



## Publications

### *Outstanding Hungarian Libraries*

*Outstanding Hungarian Libraries*, a series of 120 slides, with running commentary in English (printed and sound), taking approximately one hour. Written by Gyula Gerő; photographs by Tamás Borockzkó; edited by László Pásztor. English translation by Mary Kovács. Produced by the Hungarian Slide Manufacturers Co. for the Centre for Library Science and Methodology at the National Széchényi Library, and the TÉKA Booktraders, Library Suppliers and Book Publishers Co.

A series of slides which introduces the elite of Hungarian libraries has now been produced with an English running commentary (in both printed and sound form). This series gives first of all a picture of the stormy Hungarian history which destroyed or dispersed most of the treasures accumulated in famous ecclesiastical, royal and other early collections, and which destroyed most of their homes as well. Many renowned libraries were established during the last century, and only after the Second World War did the development of a planned library culture begin.

While relating the history of Hungarian libraries, on a deeper level, changes in official attitudes are also reflected. The importance of purpose and emphasis is seen to have been constantly and visibly shifting, e.g. from quantity to quality, from collection to service, from appearance to functional efficiency—and back again.

The slides show all the important libraries of the country, selected for many different reasons. They may be outstanding for their beauty and splendour, their furnishing or decoration, their functional efficiency or their type. They may be significant for their uniqueness: such as the single library of aristocratic origin that has been left intact, or the only, and most ancient, great monastic library working in its original setting (since 996 AD), or the only one with continuity of accession, which held its collection together through the centuries, from the 15th century to 1950. Or they may be significant as 'firsts,' such as the first public library in the country, the first purpose-built library, the first library with open-access shelving, the first building with provisions for the disabled, the first holiday-resort library, etc. Then there are those which lead the field in some aspect, e.g. they are the largest of their type, the most successful conversions (e.g. from a synagogue) or working units which blend well into their environment, be it a group of ancient monuments or a village green. All libraries are described both architecturally and functionally, a short history is given (with the date of their establishment and inauguration), their outstanding qualities are emphasized and their shortcomings mentioned. There is due admiration for beauty and efficiency, and there is honour as well as a cutting edge in criticism.

The series is divided into four clearly distinguishable parts. The first shows the libraries from a historical point of view, beginning with the most ancient library and ending with the move of the National Library into the splendid Buda Castle. The second introduces new county, municipal and trade union libraries built after 1960. The third part presents those housed in ancient monuments and historic

buildings—saving these from ruin or demolition, but leaving the libraries to shoulder the burden of restrictions and constraints that such an environment inevitably produces. The fourth part shows libraries in new cultural centres and schools, with entirely new, ‘multifunctional’ duties. And to end, in the fifth part, while showing the best small village libraries—a result of the library building boom initiated by a national campaign connected to various anniversaries—a question is posed: Is there a uniquely Hungarian library building style? Having seen the 120 slides, the viewer from abroad might be able to answer this question better than we are.

The series is being offered to any school or library in exchange for similar material, and will be reproduced in numbers based on enquiries received.

For further information please write to:

Mrs Emőke Kovács  
National Széchényi Library  
Centre for Library Science and Methodology  
Budapest H-1827  
Hungary

#### *Conference Proceedings*

*Proceedings of the 2nd Pacific Conference on New Information Technology*, 29–31 May 1989, Singapore, edited by Ching-chih Chen and David I. Raitt. West Newton, MA: MicroUse Information, 1989 (FID Publication No. 676). 480 pp. US \$57.50 + p.p. ISBN 0-93155-06-X.

The second Pacific Conference on New Information Technology for Library and Information Professionals and Educational Media Specialists and Technologists took place in Singapore from 29–31 May 1989. Organized by Dr Ching-chih Chen of Simmons College, Boston, USA, with the assistance of Dr David Raitt, Editor of the *Electronic library*, The Hague, The Netherlands, the conference was attended by over 260 delegates and exhibitors, the majority of whom came from countries within Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region, including Bangladesh, China, Brunei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and Thailand. The conference also included participants from outside the region.

The conference, which was highly successful, was co-sponsored by the US State Department, US National Commission of Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), Unesco/PGI/ASTINFO and the Library Association of Singapore. It was also endorsed by the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Simmons College and the Institution of Engineers of Singapore.

The 480-page Proceedings of the conference is a work of major importance in itself and contains 64 excellent original contributions to the literature—some of which are truly outstanding—covering such topics as library automation, online information retrieval, networks, database development, CD-ROMs and multimedia

systems, hypermedia and information technology. Taken together, the papers provide an extraordinary wealth of information and give a complete and valuable historical and current overview of activities and applications in information in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region. A subject and author index are included.

In the USA and Canada the book is obtainable from:

MicroUse Information  
1400 Commonwealth Avenue  
West Newton, MA 02165  
USA

Elsewhere:

FID  
Postbus 90402  
2509 LK Den Haag  
The Netherlands

#### *Doctoral programs and theses*

*Doctoral programs, theses, and graduates in library and information science in the United States: an analysis of published literature, 1960 to 1980*, by Josefa B. Abrera. Urbana-Champaign IL: University of Illinois, 1988 (Occasional Papers, Series No. 183). 49 pp. US \$5. ED 301 214.

This study is an analysis and synthesis of published information on doctoral programmes and dissertations of students from 1960 to 1980. The last year this type of study was done was 1959. Publications are analyzed by use of factors such as: admissions, courses, competencies, degrees, objectives, etc. Analyses of theses focus on statistical data, subject/topic and methodology. Data on graduates were in terms of socioeconomic factors, educational background, prior professional experience, etc. A list of bibliographies of library/information science dissertations is given. To order through ERIC, use ED number or write to:

Occasional Papers  
Graduate School of Library and Information Science  
Publications Office  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
249 Armory Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
USA

#### *New journals*

*Journal of interlibrary loan & information supply*. Editor: Leslie Morris. Volume 1 (1990): Quarterly. Subscription rates: £28.00 (Institution), £19.50 (Individual).

In addition to practice- and research-based articles on interlibrary loan, this new journal will focus on the broad spectrum of all library and information centre functions that rely heavily on interlibrary loan and information supply.

*Australian & New Zealand journal of serials librarianship*. Editor: Toby Burrows. Volume 1 (1990): Quarterly. Subscription rates: £38.00 (Institution), £22.50 (Individual).

With its unique focus, the journal aims to provide collection development tools for librarians around the world interested in new developments in Australasian libraries, where serials constitute a significant portion of the library collection.

*Journal of business & finance librarianship*. Editor: William Fisher. Volume 1 (1990): Quarterly. Subscription rates: £43.00 (Institution), £26.00 (Individual).

This new quarterly journal will be devoted entirely to providing useful articles to information professionals who are involved with, or have an interest in, the creation, organization, dissemination, retrieval and use of business information, and will cover the business information needs of special libraries, academic libraries and public libraries, as well as information services and centres outside of the traditional library setting.

All three journals, published by the Haworth Press, are distributed by:

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London WC2E 8LU  
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