# News

Items for publication in the News are welcomed and should be sent to:
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## 1. General

### 1.0. Provision upgrade in Aberdeen

The School of Librarianship and Information Studies at the Robert Gordon Institute of Technology, Aberdeen is pleased to report the continued support of McDonnell Douglas for the programme of development of its Information Technology laboratories. The company have provided an upgrade to the School's URICA system to Release 7.0.

Using the enhanced system, the School is hoping to develop techniques, using Real-link 3.0, that exploit an Ethernet currently being installed to link all the PC's in the School's laboratories and offices to the Institute mainframe and external networks through a 600 mb file server. This is also a major upgrading of present network facilities which depend on a limited number of lines on the Institute's Gandalf network. The Ethernet will also permit the installation of Optinet to provide multi-user access to the School's 7 CD-ROM drives. Improved budget allocations have made possible expenditure of some £60,000 on IT in the last twelve months.

During the summer, the School has hosted two successful seminars on Document Image Processing, arranged in conjunction with Penta Software, and Inform Systems, with demonstrations by 8 systems vendors. These attracted nearly 100 participants from local industry. A pointer to things to come at the School?

For further information from:
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### 1.1. Concept keyboards are state of the art

The Art Machine opened at Glasgow's McLellan Galleries at the beginning of June 1990. Until June 1991, the exhibition venue was the Barbican Centre in London. In April 1992, the exhibition will be at Blackpool's Winter Gardens, and in June 1992 the Art Machine moves to Amsterdam. Other 1992 venues include Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Germany and Spain.

Nine A3-sized Concept Keyboards are among the exhibits to be freely explored at the Art Machine, a revolutionary art exhibition for children which actively encourages participation. In direct contrast to the conventional 'hands-off the exhibits' philosophy, the Art Machine allows children to push knobs, clamber through sculptures, and create their own art by pressing attractive, easy to understand keyboards.

Attached to A3000 computers, Concept Keyboards are the interface between enthusiastic and sometimes heavy-handed children, and a range of software commissioned by Topologika which is specifically designed to link maths with art.

Concept Keyboard overlays for the Topologika range of software are designed to give children options such as moving around the screen using arrow symbols, and accepting or rejecting entries by selecting thumbs up and thumbs down symbols. With suitable overlay design software, Concept Keyboards will support almost all current software packages. Concept Designer from Longman Logotron, for example, operates with any of the currently available Concept Keyboards, and will work with most RISC-OS programs on the Acorn Archimedes.

For further information contact Paul Goddard, The Concept Keyboard Company, Moorside Road, Winnall Industrial Estate, Winchester SO22 7RX, UK. Tel.: +44 962 843322. Fax: + 44 962 841657.

## 2. Permanent courses

### 2.0. Postgraduate diploma in Paris

A new postgraduate diploma (Le DEA IST (Information Scientifique et Technique)) is being offered by the association of 5 institutions. They are: Université Paris 7, Université de Marne La Vallée, CNAM (Le Conservatoire National des Arts

et Métiers), INSTN (L'Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires) ESIEF (Etablissement de la Chambre de Commerce d'Industrie de Paris).

For further, information contact:

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### 2.1. School of information sciences: Eastern Africa

A Master of Science degree in Information Science may be earned at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. The programme will consist of four semesters (two years), and will draw students from member countries of the Association of Eastern and Southern African Universities (AESA). The programme is designed to educate future professional information resource planners and managers of information systems, as well as researchers and educators in the field. The project also provides for the staff development needed to establish a quality postgraduate programme in information science in the region. Contact: Addis Ababa University, School of Information Studies, P.O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## 3. Proposed course

### 3.0. Glasgow Polytechnic proposed MBA in library and information management

The course will be made available over 2 years over a part-time basis, probably one afternoon and evening per week.

*Compulsory courses*

*Policy, strategies and tactics*
This is the core MBA course which ranges over all areas of management, decision making, etc ....

*Applied research methods*

*Research dissertation.* A dissertation topic will be selected by each student with the help of the staff and will be on a library or information science related topic.

*The library and information management path*

Students following the LIM path will then select 4 additional courses from a list of options. In 1992/93 it is probable that only 4 will be offered and they will, therefore, be compulsory, but in later years it is hoped to provide a greater choice.

*Probable options are as follows*

(1) *Information management.* This course addresses the major information systems issues likely to require senior management attention in the next 10 years. This course will:
   - be complementary to core studies in Policy, Strategy and Tactics.
   - provide a comprehensive, modern basis for further progress in information systems for management.

(2) *The electronic library.* The course will first examine those areas of information activity which are commonly automated and will discuss some of the systems available. It will also examine, in a management context, the human aspects of automation and its impact on organisations. Secondly, this option will provide participants with a technology up-date including an overview of new developments in expert systems, artificial intelligence, networking and desk top publishing, and will explore the potential of the electronic library concept.

(3) *Financial management in the public sector.* This option examines the structure of the public sector in the UK with particular emphasis on central and local government; planning and monitoring of public expenditure both capital and revenue; taxation policies; charging policies; funding of capital projects; sources of income; alternative concepts of accountability; and the form and substance of the account.

(4) *The management of libraries and information centres.* This option will look at the practicalities of management in industrial information centres, public libraries, school libraries and academic libraries, with particular emphasis on the management of people: manpower planning; recruitment; staff development and appraisal will be included. Case studies will be used to translate the core of the compulsory MBA course into library situations, and guest speakers from the world of library and information will enhance the essentially practical nature of this option.

(5) *Top management strategies and skills.* This option will examine the strategies and skills which are of value in managing a library or information centre today. It will focus on managing for change, total quality management, customer care and performance measurement. It will also seek to enhance the participants' existing skills in the areas of presentation, public relations, and marketing, and will include workshops on both spoken and written presentational methods.

If you would like to be kept informed of future developments, please contact:

Jo Haythornthwaite
Glasgow Polytechnic Library
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Glasgow G4 0BA, UK
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## 4. Research grants

### 4.0. *McGill University, Montreal*

Andy Large and Jamshid Beheshti, together with Alain Breuleux in the Department of Educational Psychology, were awarded $89,000 over 30 months to investigate retrieval and retention of information from print and multimedia sources.

Lorna Rees-Potter received $47,648 for a 36 month project to design a Canadian patent law thesaurus.

Further details from:

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### 4.1. *Internet research*

The US Department of Education has awarded a USD 46,675 Library Research and Demonstration Programme grant to support an investigation and analysis of Internet resources to be conducted by the OCLC Office of Research. The grant funds 76% of the project; OCLC is contributing the balance of the project costs. The one-year project is funded from October 1, 1991 through September 30, 1992.

The project, *Assessing Information on the Internet: Toward Providing Library Services for Computer-Mediated Communication*, will investigate the nature of electronic information available on the Internet – a high speed, global network of networks – and the problems associated with providing systematic access and traditional library services. The study, managed by Martin Dillon, Director, OCLC Office of Research, is expected to provide a detailed analysis of textual information on the Internet.

Using published printed resources, known electronic resources, and online investi-

gation, project staff will conduct an extensive search on the Internet to locate and sample electronic information resources. Based on data collected, project staff will develop and test a descriptive taxonomy of Internet resources and compile a list of data types or fields present in electronic information.

The findings of this study are expected to help libraries, information providers, and standards organizations move closer to the goal of providing library services for computer-mediated communication on the Internet.

## 5. Software

### 5.0. Online systems

ESA-IRS is introducing an annual subscription to search-support software as part of its continuous effort to provide a comprehensive service to its customers. These software packages help searchers to satisfy their information needs further by:

- providing new search tools
- improving search techniques
- familiarising users with the ESA-Quest command language
- allowing faster searches on its databases
- saving considerable time and effort in processing and retrieving information
- retrieving only relevant information.

ESA-IRS will deliver to all subscribers all new PC based software packages and updates produced by ESA-IRS complete with instruction booklets, as soon as they are released. Subscribers do not need to order them. Examples include the new ESA-IRS self-training program for online retrieval, and the updated version of ESA-IRS's telecommunications package.

The software packages run on IBM compatible PC's, are provided in different size diskettes and, when available, in different languages.

The low subscription charge (stated in our price list) is invoiced and payable once a year, in the user's national currency.

Since this subscription covers the entire range of software and developments — from self-training to telecommunications packages — it is recommended for all users, regardless of experience.

More information is available upon request.

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## 5.1. Training software

### 5.1.1. CDS/ISIS tutorial

Stanley Aung of the Asian Institute of Technology, is developing a CDS/ISIS tutorial for micro-computers. Prototypes of Aung's training aid have been meet with great enthusiasm in Malaysia, the UK and Zimbabwe. Aung is also working on an aid for trouble-free installation of CDS/ISIS. More information can be obtained from Stanley Aung, Asian Institute of Technology, Library and Documentation Regional Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.

### 5.1.2. Computer-based training for library staff

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Libraries has available a HyperCard-based program of interactive computer-based training. The program consists of seven units, which include Library of Congress Classification, Computers in Libraries, and Resource Sharing. The training materials enhance learning through the graphic, sound, and animation features of HyperCard. The program is available to those who wish to use it as is, or after modification by downloading (FTP) through the Internet (address: UTKLIB.UTK.LIB.EDU) or in the form of 14 diskettes (estimated $20 duplication and handling charge) from the Apple Library Template Exchange, Apple Library Users Goup, 10381 Bandley Drive, MS.8-C, Cupertino, CA 95014, USA.

### 5.1.3. ESA-IRS

A self-training course is now available from ESA-IRS on the use of online information retrieval services. The course is designed to prepare any novice user, or user experienced in other online systems, to perform efficient online searches on the files loaded on the ESA-IRS computer. This package gives all the necessary instruction for interrogating ANY OF THE ONLINE FILES searchable with the ESA-Quest language.

TKIT 1 is titled 'The On-line World' and contains an introduction to management of the information you can access on-line and in real time. Anyone who wants to use the resources offered by a data collection service such as ESA-IRS should work through this basic module.

TKIT 2, 'Use of the On-line Information Retrieval System' is a course for self-training in the use of the text data banks that can be accessed in real time through ESA-IRS.

The modules use high graphics resolution, colours, images, movement, sound and highly flexible navigation aids and user response interpreters. The training is extremely lively and can be performed at the user's own speed. A new user can begin real searches within a few hours.

TKIT 1 and 2 run on IBM compatible PCs with a mouse or keyboard input. They are available in different diskette sizes in four languages: English, French, German and Italian; with relevant documentation.

This useful and practical self-training package can be acquired through ESA-IRS's SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION.

For further information contact:

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## 6.  Publication

Clare Nankiwell, *The Class of '88 – the National Cohort Study of Newly Qualified Librarians and Information Workers*. Interim Report May 1991. Centre for Information Research, School of Information Studies, Birmingham Polytechnic. 25 pp.

This report summarises the progress of a study of all newly qualified graduates from the 16 library schools in the British Isles.

Further information from:

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