

## News, Trends and Comments

### INTUG

We would like to draw the attention of our readers to the existence and recent activities of INTUG, the International Telecommunications Users Group. Founded in 1974, it was originally an international meeting forum for groups of telecommunications managers in various European countries (e.g. Belgium, France, U.K., W. Germany, Switzerland). A remarkable achievement in 1978 was their recognition by CCITT as a formal body for representation of users which, at that time, was an almost revolutionary change in PTT-policies. Meanwhile, they have appointed a professional Secretary, opened up membership to individual organizations and might obtain substantial financial support.

Telecommunications will be a major problem area for our profession in the coming year (think of transborder data-flow regulations, PTT-monopolies etc.). INTUG could become a highly effective instrument to guard the interests of users of telecommunications. For further details write to

Mr. C.L. Metcalfe, INTUG Secretary  
Beechy Lees Lodge  
Pilgrims' Way  
Oxford  
Kent TN14 5SA  
U.K.

### Dutch study on micro-electronics

In many European countries studies are underway to predict the influence of developments in micro-electronics on society at large. One example of these is The Netherlands: the "Stichting Toekomstbeeld der Techniek" (something like: Foundation for the Future Image of Technology) is now carrying out a massive one. Under the auspices of a steering group some 20 working groups are writing their reports on the impact of microelectronics in various areas, such as banking, insurance, agriculture, process industry etc. One of these is a group on *Office Automation* which will conduct a seminar in the middle of 1981. It is expected that the results of both the umbrella-study and the specific ones will become available also in English. *Information Services and Use* will keep you informed anyway.

## Conferences

We have noted two interesting conferences in March:

- the major ONLINE-Conference in New-York;
- a Dutch TNO-Symposium on the *Information Society*.

If anyone feels inclined to report, we are interested!

From the mass of announcements we have picked:

- a word-processing workshop in the U.K. (see next item) in May;
- 8th Granfield Conference on *Mechanized Information Transfer*, July 21–24, 1981, U.K.;
- SICOB: Convention Informatique, 12th International Software Congress, September 21–October 2, 1981, Paris, France.

*Information Services and Use* is eager to announce major conferences. However, we reserve the right to make our own choice: with the present flood we could easily fill whole issues.

## Word processing workshop

The ASLIB and Institute of Information Scientists' Northern Branches are jointly organizing a *Word Processing Workshop* to be held in Manchester in May 1981. The workshop will last for 1½ days starting at 2.00 p.m. Wednesday, 13th May 1981 and continuing during the whole of Thursday, 14th May. The venue will be the offices of AES Data Limited at 1, Portland Street, Manchester (opposite Piccadilly Gardens).

Although aimed mainly at library and information personnel, the format of the workshop will be largely based on similar Workshops successfully run by the National Reprographic Centre for documentation (NRCd) at Bayfordbury in Hertfordshire since 1979. The NRCd has kindly offered to put at the disposal of the organizing committee the experience and know-how gained over that period.

Experienced speakers, with a wide knowledge and operating experience of word processors and word processing systems, will discuss the systems and facilities available and demonstrations of stand-alone and shared logic systems will be given along with practical demonstrations of communications and Electronic Mail. 'Hands-on' facilities will be available for all participants.

To ensure that all participants are able to gain full benefit from the Workshop it has been decided to restrict numbers to a maximum of 25 people. It is recommended, therefore, that anyone interested should apply as soon as possible. The cost of the Workshop will be £ 45.00 per person, which will include refreshments and lunch on the second day.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from

Mr. J. Whitehead  
Durleigh House  
Cobs Brow  
Newburgh  
Lancs. WN8 7ND, U.K.

or from Mrs. A. Morgan  
10 Robert Moffat  
High Legh  
Knutsford  
Cheshire WA16 6PS, U.K.

**Document delivery**

ARTEMIS is the proposed name for a rather ambitious document delivery system which might be part of EURONET/DIANE. The name has been invented by A.D. Little who did a feasibility study for the Commission of the European Communities. The resulting report is, we think, available from the CEC. It was subject of a workshop in Luxemburg on December 18–19, in which proposals from various manufacturers for such a system were discussed. These ranged from simple elements, like a communicating word processor (in PTT-jargon now called Teletex), a piece of Facsimile equipment via a small total pilot-system by Pergamon to a sophisticated full-blown proposal from CSI/CIGL based on a virtual-image processing system. The workshop was interesting: a long array of presentations and discussion papers with frequent pleas for co-operation between governments, manufacturers and information industry. Some potential users offered some critical noises in advance.

The exhibition which accompanied the workshop had been intended to be a review of the state-of-the-art. However, it was disappointing: apart from CSI and Pergamon-demos there was hardly anything really interesting. Nevertheless, the Commission's DG XIII should be applauded for tackling a subject which will be a major element of the future office and which, in traditional libraries, appears to be highly controversial.

**Forecasts on the office of the future**

In the past year, your editors have been swamped with announcements of very exquisite reports on the office of the future costing correspondingly exquisite amounts of money. We have received such announcements from at least: A.D. Little, Butler Cox, C/IS, F&S and SRI. We are slightly irritated by this. Our 'embarras du choix' between expensive systems should not be aggravated by a similar embarrassment for expensive reports, describing in detail that, in view of last half year's developments, we have opted for the wrong one.

What about some manager's guidance? Have you bought any of these? If so, could you send us a review?

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**News**

Two new actions at the Congressional level in the United States have interesting portents for the future. An 8 million (US) dollar budget has been established for a new Office of Federal Information Policy. The new office is directed to establish auditing procedures for Federal information systems, a Federal Information Locator System, identify areas of duplication etc. within its' first year of

operation. In the second year, the Office is to establish schedules and management control systems for the integration of Federal systems, develop a program for enforcement of Federal information processing standards, develop a five year plan for meeting data processing and telecommunications needs of the Federal Government and submit to the President, proposals for legislation involving privacy, confidentiality, and disclosure of information.

The other action involves legislation to create an Institute for Information Policy and Research. An appropriation of 20 million is requested for the Institute in 1982, with provisions for 25 and 30 millions in 1983 and 1984. Since Congress has not acted on this item, we will hold details for a future issue. One wonders what the effect of this legislation would be on the National Commission and its newly named director!

## Research

Batelle-Columbus Laboratories has issued a report which may have implications for eventual cross database searching. While the report discusses three modes of information linkage, it is the 'translation' mode which holds most interest for ISU readers. In this mode a computer system translates one system language into another. Called, BIBLINK, the computer model is described in a report entitled *Linking the Bibliographic Utilities: Benefits and Costs*. It is available (US \$ 9.00) from the Council on Library Resources, 1 Dupont Circle, Suite 620, Washington, DC 20036. A self-addressed mailing label should be enclosed. Prepayment is required.

A collaborative program involving the US national Bureau of Standards, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and the Office of Naval Research concerning standard reference data in physics and chemistry has been announced. No information is presently available concerning the availability of machine readable forms for the compilations; an objective of the project calls for a publishable compilation or critical review involving evaluated data. Further information can be obtained from the Office of Standard Reference Data, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, DC 20234.

## News from Canada

The special relationship of the Canadian province of Quebec to the French language is indicated by the establishment of a new organization for the dissemination of scientific and technical literature in French. INFORMATECH-France-Quebec features an online search service, SABINE, which provides data bases from French and Quebec sources including PASCAL. SDI type services in the fields of energy, management, informatics, automation and urban and local

planning are also provided. Inquiries can be directed to

INFORMATECH–France/Quebec  
Place Bonaventure 20  
Edison étage E, BP 160  
Montreal  
Quebec  
Canada

### Databases

The POPLINE database of the National Library of Medicine is now available from the NLM (Bethesda based) computer. It will serve MEDLINE centers in the United States. The POPLINE file currently contains over 70000 records dating from 1970. Selected reports date back to 1886. The majority of the items are in English. ALL POPLINE keywords with the exception of some chemical names have been mapped to MeSH headings. Inquire of the

Medlars Management Section  
Bibliographic Services Division  
National Library of Medicine  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20209

Bibliographic Retrieval Services (BRS) have announced four new databases now available to subscribers. They include the ENERGY file produced by the U.S. Department of Energy, PROMT, a Predicasts file, the Science Citation Index (SCI) and the *NLM Health planning and administration* database. Information should be requested by mail from BRS, Scotia, NT, USA.

### Tools of the trade

A directory of selected data bases containing Canadian information has been compiled. Based on the presence of Canadian information, it is available as ISBN 0-919027-01-6 (\$ 12.50).

H.C. Campbell  
ESPIAL Database Directory Productions Ltd.  
P.O. Box C24 Station K  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M4P 2H1

*How to Find Chemical Information: A Guide for Practicing Chemists, Teachers and Students* by Robert E. Maizell offers guidelines on effective use of printed and computerized services. Wiley, New York.

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### Databases

InfoBank II, a free text oriented product from the New York Times Information Bank is being temporarily installed at Bibliographic Retrieval Services computer in Scotia, NY. Eventually, it will join other NYT files at the Parsippany, NJ computer center. The new system features an online thesaurus and a controlled vocabulary.

### Necrology

Fred A. Tate, Deputy Director of Chemical Abstracts Service, Columbus, Ohio passed away unexpectedly on November 19, 1980. Tate was the moving spirit behind many of CAS' technical advances for more than 20 years. Memorials in his name may be addressed to the Chemistry Department Library, Ohio University, Athens, OH, USA.

### Databases

Add Commerce Clearing House (CCH) and the Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) to the growing array of business oriented databases available online. Both will be coming up in 1981 with CCH being distributed through the General Electric Co. network. No word as yet on BNA.

### People

Samuel A. Wolpert and Carlos Cuadra shared the Information Industry Association Hall of Fame award given at IIA's recent San Francisco meeting. The Hall of Fame award is made to products which have had a special impact on the information industry.

Claire Schultz, former president of the American Society for Information Science has received the ASIS Award of Merit at the annual meeting held in Anaheim, California.

### Tools of the trade

The new (1980) edition of the Thesaurus of ERIC descriptors is now available from Oryx Press, 2214 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004. Prices reported at US

\$ 13.20 for US subscribers, US \$ 14.40 for all others.

EMMS is a new newsletter devoted to electronic mail and message systems. It is published by International Resource Development Inc., as a bimonthly. US price is \$ 125 annually, all others \$ 135. Write to EMMS, 30 High St. Norwalk, CT 06851, USA.

American Society for Information Science has a variety of titles in their Key Papers series available. Priced in the \$ 20–95 range, details may be gotten from Knowledge Industry Publications, 2 Corporate Park Dr., White Plains, NY 10604, USA.

### **Databases**

Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) provides a provocative speculation subject for users and systems vendors alike in announcing its CAS ONLINE service for substructure searching. This represents the first time a major database service is offering both file and access system! The service began on November 1, 1980 and is priced at \$ 25 per connect hour plus communication charges. Workshops on the system are being offered in the US at \$ 250.

### **PEOPLE**

OCLC has named Rowland C.W. Brown to succeed Fred Kilgour as President. Brown has come from a business background and has had no prior experience in the network/database/library service area.

### **Trends**

The latest wrinkle in the Predicasts, Data Star, BRS complex has been disclosed with the announcement that Thyssen Bornemisza N.V. is involved as the holding company of Indian Head. Now both Predicasts and BRS are Thyssen's.

Ziff-Davis, a major US book publisher has capped earlier acquisitions of the Wharton econometric database and Information Access Co (Magazine Index etc.) with Management Contents.

Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) has recommended the French ANTIOPE teletext system as a national standard. ANTIOPE (which is asynchronous) was compared with British Ceefax/Oracle, a synchronous system and recommended to the US Federal Communications Commission. CBS plans field tests in the Los Angeles and Boston market areas using ANTIOPE.