News, Trends and Comments

News

Library automation/bibliographic utility to be acquired by major commercial firm

The University of Toronto, UTLAS inc., and International Thomson Organisation (ITO) have signed a letter of intent under which International Thomson limited will acquire UTLAS from the University of Toronto, and will make a significant capital contribution to UTLAS. The arrangement, it is claimed, will enable UTLAS' management to pursue its business plans and to provide expanded services and systems to its customers. UTLAS will be able to utilize the worldwide operations of International Thomson's business to fulfill its goal of providing data bases, services, and systems to libraries and others on an international basis. A long-term association between the university and UTLAS is contemplated, under which the university will continue to be served by UTLAS, and the parties will explore ways of cooperating in other areas.

ITO is a large Canadian-based multinational company with significant interest in the publishing of a wide variety of professional, educational, and library information services. Special emphasis has been placed, in the last few years, on the electronic distribution of information and the building of data bases. ITO is owner of Derwent Publications ltd., the European Law Centre ltd., Research Publications inc., Carrollton Press inc., Thomson & Thomson, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. inc., International Thomson Business Press inc., and other operations.

The parties to the agreement state that significant compatibility has been identified between UTLAS' long-term plans and those of ITO. UTLAS inc. is a bibliographic and information utility which has been supplying online data-base services and related products in English and French to Canadian libraries since 1973. In recent years, it has also added a number of US and Japanese libraries to its user network. Over 300 institutions, members of consortia, and government agencies maintain individual data bases through the utility's facilities, and more than 2,000 individual libraries of all types and sizes receive products and services from this system.

No announcement was made as to just what will be the financial value of the transaction, or what effect it may have on UTLAS' current activities or management structure. It has for some time been known that ITO was seriously on the look-out for likely acquisition targets within the North American information sector, though this particular one may come as a surprise to some. Earlier this year, ITO was unsuccessful in a bid to take over the Bureau of National Affairs, a legal/regulatory

and business information company based in Washington, DC. (Meanwhile, BNA was doing its own shopping around - see following item.)

For further information, contact Robert F. Asleson, International Thomson Organisation, 1611 North Kent Street, Suite 910, Arlington, VA 22209, USA, tel. (703) 525-5940, telex 704 305; or, Arthur D. Parker, UTLAS, 80 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2V1, tel. (416) 923-0890, telex 065 24479.

BNA to acquire ICI?

It looks as though Information Consultants inc. ("ICI") will soon become a subsidiary of the Bureau of National Affairs inc. ICI is developer and proprietor of a data management and communication system which it now promotes under the somewhat ingenuous name "Host" (it was formerly called "Probe", then "Catalyst"). The company has - in addition to its software product offerings and general time-sharing services - for some time now been in the business of designing and/or mounting data bases, on behalf of their producers, for online access from its own computers via public telecommunications services - leaving to the producers the matter of promotion and (if so desired) customer support. One of its major commercial clients was the Institute for Scientific Information ("ISI Search Network"), until this arrangement was terminated by ISI earlier in 1984. It has also worked extensively with the US government - for example the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency (as online host for the NIH/EPA Chemical Information System - see also item below) - and was co-designer and implementer, as well as host, for GTE's AMA/Net. It is possible that ICI may somehow be integrated into BNA's "New Ventures Group", which already includes the Electronic Media Division, the Software Division, and Executive Telecom Systems inc.

In any event, the acquisition makes BNA a potentially significant player in the vertical integration game. Its online files are currently running on DIALOG, Pergamon-InfoLine, ITT Dialcom, and the Human Resources Information Network. Earlier this year, a major deal was also made with Mead Data Central for availability of certain full-text BNA services via Lexis/Nexis (see ISU vol. 4 no. 4, p. 266). For information contact: William A. Beltz, President, BNA, 1231 25th Street NW, Washington, DC 20037, USA, tel. (202) 452-4200, telex 89-2692 bnai wsh; or, Martin M. Beer, President, ICI, 1133 15th Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005, USA, tel. (202) 822-5200.

Electronic access to European documents

"EuroDocDel" is the code name being used to designate an ambitious project for acquiring, analysing, indexing and (selectively) abstracting printed documents; for digitalizing and storing these secondary records to be retrievable online; and for filing (on digital optical disks) and on-demand distribution (as printouts either via post or via group-III telefacsimile transmission) of the full texts of the documents themselves. Actual implementation of the system will begin - if at all - only after completion of an experimental phase slated to last from 1 February to 1 October 1985, and after a formal evaluation (as part of the "DOCEVA-2" procedure). This is a European project being

managed, under financial support from the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), by an organization called Europe Data, located in Maastricht, The Netherlands - in cooperation with Honeywell Bull (including its EURIS information retrieval service in Brussels) and the French organization Télésystèmes. Europe Data is a joint venture established in 1982 by the Dutch government (through the provincial Industrial Development Fund of Limburg) and Elsevier-NDU NV, a private-sector publishing conglomerate headquartered in Amsterdam. Involved in the experiment will be users located in all ten member states of the European Economic Community (Belgium, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, The United Kingdom, Greece); the system has now been demonstrated at special sessions in all member states, and is conceived as multilingual, beginning with English and French. Under consideration is the possibility of co-ordination with the CEC-European Space Agency APOLLO project for satellite transmission of full-text documents (trials to begin in 1986), and with the Eurokom computer conferencing system.

The information retrieval interface designed for use by non-information-specialists is a menu-driven videotex system meant to run on a small and inexpensive (French Minitel) terminal. Alternatively, a trained user (or intermediary) can choose to use a command-language interface based on the Mistral software. Full texts (including graphics) of documents may be ordered online by the searcher. If he has a facsimile printer, these will reach him in fairly short order. Users who do not already have videotex terminals and facsimile receiver/printers available to them are eligible for generous CEC grants toward the acquisition of this equipment.

Aside from the acquisitional and editorial functions (including automatic translation), Europe Data will have the task of putting the bibliographic data base into machine-readable form, of supplying a tape to EURIS, and of providing the documents themselves to Télésystèmes - as well as of overall project management. EURIS (a DIANE host) will mount the file, make it accessible online, and receive document orders by means of a videotex mailbox facility. Télésystèmes, in connection with its own Transdoc experiment (also partially funded by the CEC), will receive the documents in hard copy, digitalize them after high-speed scanning, and transfer them, initially via magnetic disk, to laser-written optical disk (Thomson-CSF) storage using a 'jukebox' device for retrieval, and maintain this archive in order to supply individual documents to users, upon request (via EURIS).

Apparently Europe Data has also undertaken responsibility for promotion, training and user support. Already, user groups have been formed in all ten countries. Their suggestions have already to some extent been taken into account in designing the system, and feedback from them will play an important role during the experiment (and presumably in the eventual evaluation). There is an overall project steering committee, chaired by Dr. W. Dietz, librarian at the Bundestag in the FRG. Organizations not yet participating in the experiment as users are currently still being invited to do so.

The basic online secondary (bibliographic) file will largely correspond to the printed EC Index (see following article) - what Europe Data calls a "master guide to Community documentation". This includes European Commission final documents, European Parliament working documents, European Court of Justice judgements and advocates general opinions, and the European Community Official Journal series C and L. Other kinds

of documents will be additionally considered for coverage.

What will develop after completion of the EuroDocDel experimental phase and its evaluation, in terms of online availability of this material, is not now clear. (Another question is whether a non-subsidized operation growing out of, or comparable to, EuroDocDel would in fact be feasible - especially in terms of users' willingness or ability to pay a realistic price for the service - since in this experimental phase the assessed user fees do not come anywhere near meeting the costs of providing the service.) The whole project, however, represents a significant attempt at international cooperation in the effective application of new information technology, based on a critical mass of internationally pertinent documents and a user community distributed over much of western Europe. It is also the intention that EuroDocDel will serve as a "platform" where legal, political, administrative and ethical issues of electronic document transfer "will be explored, solutions proposed, and eventually adapted according to feedback from participants in the experiment".

Further information is available from Europe Data, Bredestraat 24, 6211 HC Maastricht, The Netherlands; tel. (043) 54751; telex 56562.

Indexing service for Community information

It is estimated that the European Community will in 1984 have produced, via its various official bodies, over ten thousand documents (more than 300,000 pages of information) available for consultation by its own staff and other interested parties. One persistent major problem for these actual or potential users has been: how can one easily locate and extract from this mass of material the specific information which one needs or would like to have. The new EC Index, whose pilot issue is dated October 1984, represents a significant attempt to solve that problem. The producer and publisher is Europe Data of Maastricht, The Netherlands. Early in 1985, a volume covering all of 1984 is due to be published. Regular monthly publication (with issues of 120-150 pages each) is scheduled to begin in March of 1985. (The March issue, vol.1 no. 1, will cover items issued during January.) The May issue, and every third issue thereafter, will be a quarterly cumulation (140-180 pages). An annual cumulation (1,500-1,700 pages) will appear approximately three months after the close of the year covered. The Index is to appear initially in two editions: English-language and French-language. The main portion of the Index is the "Bibliographic/Abstracts Section". (Abstracts will be published only for certain classes of documents.) There are seven actual indexes: "Subjects and Names in Official Journals and Selected Document Series"; "Title Keywords in Monographs, Periodicals, Annuals, and other Series"; "Titles" (all documents); "Issuing Sources"; "Publication Numbers in Selected Document Series"; "Court of Justice Case Numbers"; and "Decision, Directive, and Regulation Numbers". The principles underlying the arrangement used in the Index may be somewhat difficult to grasp for anyone not familiar with the workings of the EC institutions, but in general it is rather easy to use. The thesaurus, which presumably will soon be published, is described as "a 'middle level' hierarchical vocabulary" and claimed to be user-friendly.

Subscription price for 1985 has been set at Dfl.3,200 / approx. US$ 1,175 + Dfl.300 (Dfl. 250 within the EC) / approx. US$110 postage and

handling. The 1984 annual is separately priced (Dfl.1,200 / approx. US$445 including postage and handling), but available at a discount if purchased in combination with a 1985 subscription. A complimentary copy of the pilot issue, as well as further information concerning the publication, may be requested from Marketing Department, Europe Data, Bredestraat 24, 6211 HC Maastricht, The Netherlands; tel. (043) 54751; telex 56562.

The EC Index is being prepared and produced (using, for example, Bull's "Symphonie" software, and IPS' Samantha system) in such a way that online access would be, technically speaking, fairly easy ‚to arrange. That such access will eventually be offered is hardly subject to doubt. How this will be done above and beyond the soon-to-begin Euro-DocDel experiment (see preceding item), is not yet clear. Europe Data describes the EC Index as "the new information system to access and analyse the flows of information and legislation from the growing European Communities", and claims that it will be a "comprehensive guide to publications of the principal EC institutions and other bodies, whether published by the Office for Official Publications or directly by the institutions themselves". The EC Index results from an extensive and intensive period of preparation based in part upon the expertise accumulated by the Congressional Information Service inc. in the USA (which Elsevier-NDU NV - a half-share venture partner in Europe Data - purchased in 1979, and for which Europe Data is the European distributor).

Proper behavior for online information distributors

After consultation with its own membership (which includes online distributors, users, data-base producers and other organizations), as well as with "other representative bodies in the information industry worldwide", EUSIDIC (the European Association of Information Services) has recently issued another in its series of codes of practice and guidelines intended to help people who come up against problems in the information industry. The code covers "host" (online information) services - vendors who sell public access to a range of files - and suggests the terms and conditions, including details of discounts or commitments, under which a host should provide access for users. The types of data that should be collected by the host internally and on behalf of data-base producers, what should be retained by the host and for how long, are laid out in the code, together with the actual information that should be collected about individual users. Adequate documentation provision is suggested, and also the clarification of services - especially what is available in the way of documentation, support and training in different geographical locations. The text of the EUSIDIC "host services code of practice" reads as follows:

1. The terms and conditions under which a host system may be used should be freely available to all potential users. This information should include details of any discounts which may be available, e.g., for volume use, use commitments, advanced payment.

2. No user should be denied access to any given host or the services offered by that host providing the user comply with contractual arrangements freely entered into and meet the necessary technical requirements in terms of terminals and communication facilities.

3. Data may need to be collected by hosts for use internally and on behalf of a data-base producer. These data may be statistical in nature and acquired for legal and/or accounting purposes, or search-oriented information needed for system back-up. The type and volume of data may vary from country to country for legal reasons and from host to host because of different system requirements. Whilst allowing for these acceptable variations, the principles outlined below in articles 4, 5 and 6 should apply in all cases.

4. The end-user search strategy is confidential to each user and, whilst the host may need for one or more of the above reasons to retain that information, the information should be properly secured and should be accessible to individuals only on a 'need to know' basis. The data should be retained only for as long as is necessary and that period and the reason for the retention should be known to the user.

5. All parties concerned should have full details of: a) what information is being collected; b) the purpose for which it is being collected; c) who has access to it and why; d) for how long it is retained.

6. The user's permission should be obtained before any information concerning his or her identity, interests or location be released to third parties. This should include details of addresses etc., as well as data on such matters as levels of usage, even if those data were provided on an anonymous basis. This permission is, of course, implicit if it forms part of a contractual agreement.

7. The host should ensure that the documentation necessary to use the system effectively is made available to all users. Proper and timely procedures for dissemination of information concerning changes should also be established.

8. Where a system is advertised as being internationally available, the host should state clearly the services that will be offered in different geographical locations, e.g., with respect to documentation, support, training.

Any enquiries and requests for further information should be directed to the EUSIDIC administrative secretariat, P.O. Box 429, London W4 1UJ, UK; tel. (01) 546-7968; telex 825 962.

The baron reorganizes

Thyssen Bornemisza's US-based Information Technology Group (ITG inc.) is soon to be dissolved as a corporate entity. John D. Rome, ITG's president, will be leaving on 31 December. The group includes Predicasts, BRS, Information Handling Services, and other companies in the USA, the UK, and the Federal Republic of Germany. These will continue their operations as before, and with their current respective managements – reporting to the parent holding company in Monaco.

Selling off

One of the world's largest diversified telecommunications systems, previously government-owned and enjoying a virtual monopoly on services in its country, has just been privatized – that is, fifty-one percent (3.012 billion) of its shares have been sold on the London (44%), New

York, Toronto, and Tokyo exchanges (with the exception of those which were given to its more than 240,000 employees - fifty-four free shares apiece); forty-nine percent remain in the hands of the UK government. This flotation of British Telecom, worth almost £4 billion, is the largest ever in the nation's or the world's history. The shares offering (at £1.30 per share) took place on 28 November, and was reported to have been more than ten times oversubscribed - such was the success of the government's large-scale publicity campaign (including television advertisements), mounted in hopes of attracting a great number of small investors, many of whom had never owned any stocks before. Almost half of the shares offered went initially to institutional investors, but the institutional portion will have increased since trading began (on 3 December). Now that BT is a "public limited company", it will still operate without significant competition in the near future, though under the regulatory authority of the newly-created Office of Telecommunications ("Oftel"). Still, the quality of its service is likely to improve. The sale would never have taken place had the Tories not been in power; it is the largest of a series of privatizations - recently it was Jaguar, and British Airways has its turn in February. The Labour party has stated that, if re-elected, it will re-nationalize British Telecom.

Chemical Information System rescued?

Throughout most of 1984, the survival of the US Environmental Protection Agency's Chemical Information System (NIH/EPA-CIS) was in serious doubt. In June, a "blue ribbon" panel of experts met for two days at a motel near Washington, DC, in order to deliberate just what should be done. The EPA and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) set up CIS in the early 1970s, in order to produce and make available a set of chemical information data bases. These were mounted for online access by Information Consultants inc. (see also item above), and built up a small corps of regular users. In market terms the system (which involves both scientific and regulatory information, as well as data analysis software) was never as successful as it might have been, given a reasonably coordinated and aggressive promotional backing. Last year a promotional campaign was in fact launched but came to little, and updating to the files ceased about a year ago. Now Information Consultants inc. ("ICI") has decided to become more involved with the project, to the extent of taking over the updating - whereas Questel inc. (the US subsidiary of the French government - owned Télésystèmes-Questel online service) will assume (partial) responsibility for marketing, training and customer support. (Worth noting here is that Télésystèmes-Questel already distributes Chemical Abstracts as well as - exclusively - ISI's Index Chemicus (see ISU vol. 3 no. 5., p. 279), and has just mounted Derwent's World Patents Index (see ISU vol. 4 no. 1/2, p. 78-79). Also interesting is that BNA, through acquisition of ICI, will now considerably increase its investment in the provision of Chemical information.)

Another company which will license the NIH/EPA-CIS tapes for online distribution and updating is the Fein-Marquart Associates subsidiary called "CIS inc.". On both services, the files will be accessible 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Licenses for exploitation of the Chemical Information System data and software are being granted by the National Technical Information Service, to which the EPA has transferred them.

Revisions

What do type A personality, equipment contamination, viral hepatitis
vaccines, and anterior eye segment have in common? Answer: all of them
are new terms which have just been added, along with 115 others, to the
Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) list for 1985. In the meantime, some-
what more than fifty headings were removed. The changes have already
shown up in the indexing for the MEDLARS file.

Working together

Reference Technology inc. (the Boulder, Colorado, firm specializing
in laser disk systems) and the online information vendor BRS have
reached an agreement whereby they will market each other's products and
services.

What's up?

The future of videotex, after all this time, still seems uncertain;
the picture doesn't look very rosy at least for the short term. The
West German syste... - called Bildschirmtext, or "Btx" for short - went
into operation nation-wide on 1 October after a long run-up and a mas-
sive centralized development and promotion campaign - with far fewer
subscribers than had been anticipated, only around 20,000. In the USA
this autumn, Knight-Ridder decided to reduce both spending and staff
for the Viewtron service in Florida: too few customers (not much more
than half of what had been projected). Nonetheless, CBS has decided to
join up with Sears Roebuck & Co., and IBM, in order to launch a new vi-
deotex service ("Trintex"). This represents a long-term plan implicit
in which is an optimistic assessment of the potential market by these
three large corporations. Now it seems that three further companies -
Citicorp, J.C. Penney, and RCA - may form their own joint venture for
offering videotex services. Some sanguinity is also apparent on the
part of Times Mirror, which has gone ahead with its "Gateway" videotex
service in Orange County, California; and, across the Pacific, Mitsui
is getting into the act in Japan (on a franchise-granting basis).

The conventional wisdom for the past couple of years or so has been,
however, that videotex product and service suppliers would do well to
emphasize applications for the business, rather than the domestic sec-
tor. In fact, the business market looks like developing strongly over
the near and middle term. One approach which could rescue the home mar-
ket is the trend toward adapting the technology in such a way that a u-
ser may access a videotex service via his microcomputer - rather than
exclusively via a dedicated videotex terminal or specially equipped te-
levision receiver. Both Viewtron and Gateway are moving in this direc-
tion, as are some of the other ventures. So are IBM, AT&T, and other
hardware/software suppliers.

Meanwhile we note that the Information Industry Association (IIA) in
the USA has recently formed a Videotex Division. This division incorpo-
rates committees on: marketing, standards and technology, content, ad-
vertising/services, and government/regulatory affairs, as well as an
"international committee" (chaired by Charles Doolittle of IBM).

All of this activity suggests that private sector confidence in the

long-term viability of videotex services may well be stronger now than ever. It may nevertheless be some time before we shall be able to judge whether that confidence has been vindicated.

Measuring S&T information transfer

An analysis of scientific/technical publishing, libraries, and secondary services - as well as an economic analysis measuring the value of scientific and technical information - will be carried out by King Research (its president, Donald King, being the principal investigator), now that this US firm has received "a second year grant to complete the five-year update of Statistical Indicators of Scientific & Technical Communication". This according to an announcement from the firm of consultants, which specializes in contract work for the library services and information sector, and for government agencies. The project is a follow up to a previous one involving a survey of scientists and engineers "to establish information about authorship..., readership of journal articles and technical reports..., journal subscriptions, use of bibliographic databases, use of numeric databases, and use of libraries". If you would like to know more about this whole study, please note that the results "are anticipated to be published in a one or two volume book authored by Donald King". In the meantime, you can contact King Research at 6000 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852, USA; tel. (301) 881-6766.

Promoting scholarly information transfer

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) has recently set up an Office of Scholarly Communication and Technology. Its mission is to monitor, to study, and to disseminate (both through publication and on an on-demand basis) information about the actual functioning and development of the communication process, but also to "create closer relationships between major actors in the system (such as research libraries, learned journals, publishers, academic administrators, and corporate firms in the computer industry)" - presumably on a national, rather than international, scale. An interesting, though not of course novel, idea. It should be amusing to watch what becomes of this initiative.

The new office will be located at 1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20036; tel. (202) 328-2431. It will be under the direction of Herbert C. Morton.

What's in a name?

Well, certainly not a lot in this case. For many years, even since before the term became popular, the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) has been offering a 'document delivery' service. Readers of Current Contents and other ISI secondary publications could order, from ISI itself, the full texts of referenced journal articles. Originally dubbed the "original article tear sheet" (OATS) service, and then renamed the "original article text service" (still OATS), it has just become "the genuine article" service. One new wrinkle, however, is that

orders may now be placed online with three of the hosts who spin one or more of the ISI files (i.e. DIALOG, BRS, and Télésystèmes-Questel - DIMDI apparently does not yet offer this facility). Even so, what you will receive is still a tear sheet - that is, unless the item you want is so popular that ISI's stock of originals is depleted - in which case it will be a "high-quality" photocopy. Delivery is by post, and only items from post-1979 publications are now available.

Consolidation

After selling off, in two separate deals totaling more than US$700 million, its business and general-interest magazines, Ziff-Davis has decided to increase the level of coordination between two of its secondary-publication / data-base subsidiaries. Management Contents inc., previously located in Northbrook, Illinois, is to move, in part, to Belmont, California - where Information Access Company is situated.

Revision

The German online information host FIZ Technik has announced a new version of the information retrieval language GRIPS - to be implemented on its system at the beginning of 1985. This is called "version 3.08", and - in addition to some other new functions - it incorporates a revised command for the online ordering of documents cited in its various data bases.

Data bases

SDC has now mounted the Microsearch data base on its ORBIT Search Service. It covers microcomputer software and hardware (including peripherals and accessories) information issued from 1982 to the present - both product literature (representing 60% of the records) and journal articles (representing 40% of the records). The file is produced by Information inc. of Washington, DC, initially contains more than 16,000 records, and is to be updated every month. This vendor has also announced the reloading of PsycInfo and of Chemical Industry Notes, with proximity searching capability; and the addition of author and corporate affiliation fields to Derwent's Chemical Reactions Documentation Service file. LC/Line has been split into a current file and a (pre-1984) backfile, and the connect-hour charge lowered by 22%. Most other prices have remained at the 1984 levels.

Two new data bases have recently become available on **BLAISE-Line.** One is ISTC (the Incunable Short-Title Catalogue), covering publications in all subject fields (including fiction) issued from approximately 1455 through 1500. Currently at around 18,000 records, the file is expected to increase to more than 30,000 records. Updating is monthly. The other data base is Whitaker, providing bibliographic information on some 800,000 - primarily British - books of all types, including in-print, recently out-of-print, and (from cataloguing-in-publication data) forthcoming titles. BLAISE-Line now has seventeen files online.

Another UK information retrieval service has loaded a data base which provides import/export statistics for various European nations in addition to Canada, Japan and the USA. Tradstat is available through **UCSL** (Unilever Computer Services ltd.), upon payment of an annual subscription fee (ranging from £750 to £10,000 depending on the extent and nature of a customer's access). The information in the file comes from the various national customs authorities. Updating is continuous, upon receipt of new data.

Hazardline (file label: HZDB, from Occupational Health Services inc., monthly updates), Abstracts of Working Papers in Economics (file label: AWPE, from Cambridge University Press, monthly updates) and Drug Information Fulltext (file label: DIFT, from the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists, to be updated three times per year and reloaded annually) are now accessible on **BRS** , which has also loaded a test file of ISI's Arts & Humanities Citation Index (not yet publicly accessible).

The Royal Society of Chemistry's file Chemical Hazards in Industry has been added to **Pergamon-InfoLine's** collection for online access; updating will be monthly. Also new on this service are Current Awareness in Biological Sciences (produced by Pergamon Press and Pergamon-Info-Line, coverage from January 1983 onwards, monthly updates), and RAPRA (Rubber and Plastics Research Association) Trade Names (fortnightly updates).

DIALOG has recently added the following files: Academic American Encyclopedia (file 180, produced by Grolier, to be updated twice yearly), the Business Software Database (File 256, produced by Data Courier, quarterly updates), AP News (file 258, daily updates with two-day lag), AP News backfile (file 259, coverage from September 1983 onwards), World Patents Index (file 350, produced by Derwent, coverage from 1963 through 1980), World Patents Index Latest (file 351, produced by Derwent, coverage from 1981 onwards) (see ISU vol. 4 no. 1/2, p. 78-79), Moody's Corporate News - US (file 556, weekly updates), Moody's Corporate News - International (file 557, weekly updates), and Official Airline Guides (transit, or "gateway" access to the OAG (Dun & Bradstreet) computer). Files soon to be mounted are: P/E News (file 257, petroleum- and other energy-related information, produced by the American Petroleum Institute, coverage from 1975 onwards, weekly updates), Everyman's Encyclopaedia, 6th edition (file 182, produced by J.M. Dent & Sons), and the Aerospace Database (consolidating NASA's Scientific and Technical Aerospace Reports and the AIAA's International Aerospace Abstracts). DIALOG has also begun updating Data Courier's ABI/Inform on a weekly basis.

Like DIALOG, **Télésystèmes-Questel** has now mounted Derwent's World Patents Index and World Patents Index Latest (see ISU vol. 4 no. 1/2, p. 78-79). This information retrieval service has also just brought online the reference data base Iconos (information on photography collections in France, coverage from 1839 onwards, updated weekly), and will also be providing public access to Medline (using the ELHILL software).

Keesing's Contemporary Archives is now available on **Datasolve's** World Reporter service. Coverage is from 1983 onwards, and updating monthly. The print equivalent is published by Longman Group ltd. World Reporter is now also offering the Asahi News Service from Japan.

Data-Star has mounted the full-text IRCS Medical Science data base /
electronic journal from Elsevier (see ISU vol. 3 no. 6, p. 361-363).

Vu/Text has recently added The Boston Globe in full text (coverage
from 1977 onwards), and the AP news service.

ABI/Inform has just become available (through ITT Dialcom) to **ALANET**
users. ALANET is a service of the American Library Association (see ISU
vol. 3 no. 5, p. 278-279).

Now accessible via the UK electronic message service **Telecom Gold** is
a file called IDB, which purports to supply daily news information on
the computer industry.

New to **DRI** is the Toronto Stock Exchange file, giving information on
prices and dividends.

The European Commission host service **ECHO** is now offering a file un-
der the name CCL Training. CCL stands for Common Command Language, and
the file can be consulted free of charge (exclusive of any telecommuni-
cation charges).

The McFadden American Bank Directory has been put up on **InnerLine** .

Finsbury Data Services has added Dataline (accounts information in
tabular form on British and some non-British companies).

ICC Information Group (81, City Road, London EC1Y 1BD, UK; tel. (01)
250-3922) has announced its intention to offer a series of interrelated
data bases in 1985. They are: ICC British Company Directory (already on
DIALOG as file 561 - see ISU vol. 4 no. 1/2, p. 82 - and on Data-Star),
ICC British Company Financial Datasheets (on DIALOG as file 562 - see
ibid. - and on Data-Star), ICC Industry Averages (business ratios for
specific sectors), ICC Key Notes (full-text industry overviews), and
ICC Share Analysis (London Stock Exchange shareholder information).
These last three files are also scheduled to be made available on
DIALOG.

NRAC has loaded Predicasts' Defense Markets & Technology for offline
searching on its system.

Post-1981 IEE standards are now available in the **INSPEC** file.

Indexing of the biological/biomedical literature at **BIOSIS** is sche-
duled to increase in 1985 by 22% - amounting to around 440,000 referen-
ces altogether to be added to its data base during the coming year.

PIRA has announced that it will be as of 1985 incorporating business
(in addition to technical) information abstracts into its data base,
which is accessible under an exclusive arrangement on Pergamon-Info-
Line.

Data bases withdrawn

IRIS (file 53)   DIALOG
CA Search   Pergamon-InfoLine

Superzoom

This is the name not only of a new photocopying machine (models BD-7815 and BD-8812) from Toshiba, but also of the souped-up version of the "zoom" command introduced about two years ago (see ISU vol. 2 no. 6, p. 337) by the Information Retrieval Service of the European Space Agency (ESA-IRS). This latest version allows processing of up to 20,000 items, instead of the previous 200, and the user now is charged according to number of items processed - within a three-stage scheme (201-3,000, 3,001-6,000 and 6,001-20,000 items).

Eighty-three years of information

Want to have twenty-five million bibliographic entries at your fingertips on handy microfiche? Got $15,900 lying around, or left in your budget? Then here's something just for you: the contents of the Main Catalog of the Library of Congress, published in eighteen instalments during 1984-1987 by K.G. Saur Verlag KG (Postfach 711009, 8000 München 71, FRG; tel. (089) 798901 / 6, rue de la Sorbonne, 75005 Paris, France; tel. (1) 354-4757 / Shropshire House, 2-20 Capper Street, London WC1E 6JA, UK; tel. (01) 637-1571 / 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA; tel. (212) 982-1302). The catalogue records cover around 7.5 million titles catalogued approximately over the period 1898-1980: books, serials and pamphlets. These are from virtually all parts of the world, and in 400 different languages. The twenty-five million entries include subject entries and references. One anomaly is that filming is taking place (and instalments are delivered) backwards, beginning with the letter Z. Reduction ratio is 48:1 - each separate fiche containing approximately 2,500 images. The price quoted is the full amount for standard-format silver halide stock; diazo comes in at about $1,900 cheaper (but for that small difference, why take a chance?). 105mm roll fiche costs less (by about $1,000) in both categories. Instalment payments are possible, but at a premium of between 13.8% and 17.5% . The contract between Saur and the Library of Congress was signed earlier this year, and filming began at the LC toward the end of March. The Saur edition incorporates recent corrections of filing errors and other "anomalies". The total number of fiche should be around 10,000, and a special German camera is being used for the project. There is apparently no intention to issue the catalogue in print-on-paper form (the National Union Catalog contains most of the same information - plus much more - but offers no systematic subject access), as Saur did with the British Library General Catalogue of Printed Books. We might note that the LC information is to a large extent already available online - via DIALOG - in the form of the LC MARC and REMARC data bases, the latter produced by Carrollton Press (a subsidiary of the International Thomson Organisation). It is also due to be put on optical disk for public use in the near future. The LC closed the hard-copy, card version of its Main Catalog in 1981 (and recently discontinued production of the paper edition of the National Union Catalog).

European blues

As the title of this journal suggests, it is not within our purview to provide extensive news about hardware products and their manufactu-

rers; there are plenty of trade magazines which do that. Our mission is
rather in part to offer evaluated information, and informed opinion, on
the appropriate applications of such machinery to the provision and use
of information services. We do however sometimes include items on
hardware suppliers, within this context. Anyway, who can ignore the
world's largest computer manufacturer.

In spite of everything, IBM is doing quite well thank you - now as
before. With that nasty US anti-trust action out of the way, the elimi-
nation of virtually all domestic competition in the market for main-
frames, the appearance of the much-acclaimed PC/AT and so on, it looks
like pretty smooth sailing on the home waters. To the annoyance of the
blue behemoth, however, there are some minor ripples elsewhere in the
world. Let us leave Japan (where IBM continues to have a hard time, but
also is still trying very hard, and has developed a rather clever ap-
proach) out of consideration for the moment, and look at the old world.

Over there, the firm was also fighting an anti-trust (actually, 'an-
ti-anticompetitiveness') battle - this one launched more than ten years
ago by the Commission of the European Communities. The difference is
that IBM lost this one. Well, not exactly lost - but the provisional
settlement which has recently been reached will make it quite a bit ea-
sier for small companies in the EC to compete with the giant in the in-
terfacing products (including plug-compatible) market (IBM will have to
release more quickly the technical specifications on its new products).
Shortly after this development, at the end of October, another balloon
was burst. IBM had been arranging with the soon-to-be-privatized (see
above) British Telecom to set up a joint-venture value-added network
(VAN) service in the United Kingdom. It was the British government
Department of Trade and Industry that put the nix (by way of license
denial) on this project, which had been code-named "Jove". This deve-
lopment, aside from the more obvious ramifications, means at least a
temporary and limited setback to any hopes of IBM that its proprietary
"systems network architecture" will become a de facto standard. IBM is
still free to set up separately its own VAN, but it would be doing so
in a clearly competitive environment (this being the idea behind the
DTI's refusal of a license to the BT/IBM joint venture), and it may
well yet decide to do so in the context of its worldwide policy for
establishing a strong presence in 'compunications'. In the meantime, a
minor irritation has resulted from the current very strong position of
the US dollar. Revenues from Europe, and elsewhere outside the USA,
have not been increasing at the rate which would otherwise have been
the case.

All of this should not cause IBM executives to lose much sleep. De-
mand for its products remains strong, and is growing internationally.
So far as western Europe is concerned, a very recent study by IDC
Benelux found that in 1983, IBM's turnover was more than that of the
next ten data processing equipment and services suppliers combined: it
had approximately 30% of the market. Its investment in (the firm would
say "commitment to") European operations is considerable. In the UK
alone, it claims to have over 17,000 employees, and recently to have
created 1,300 new jobs. This sort of situation does not go unnoticed by
policy makers. IBM has been explicitly allowed to participate in the
European Community's ESPRIT project - whose purpose is to enhance the
competitiveness, vis-à-vis Japan and the USA, of European (-based)
companies in the area of information technology. Also not trivial is

IBM's financing of the new "European academic research network" - an investment whose short-term (and long-term?) payoff may be mostly in terms of PR.

Meanwhile on the other side of the globe, the computer giant has surprised industry observers by establishing a subsidiary in China, where it will apparently be assembling personal computers beginning in 1985, and where it is donating to the government a large number of machines.

Tools of the trade

The new, 1984, edition of the **EUDISED** (European Documentation and Information System for Education) Multilingual Thesaurus is now available for DM98 / approx. US$36.50 from Mouton Publishers (Genthinerstrasse 13, 1000 Berlin 30, FRG; 200 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY 10532, USA). Please specify whether you want the Danish, German, English, Spanish, French, Greek, Italian, Dutch or Portuguese edition.

US$120 is the price of the new version of the **Management Contents** Database Thesaurus & Dictionary. Orders to: Management Contents/Information Access Company, 11 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002, USA; tel. (415) 591-2333, or toll-free (800) 227-8431.

The **Physics Briefs** User Manual is available free of charge from Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH, 7514 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen 2, FRG, tel. (7247) 824566; or, STN-Columbus, CAS, P.O.Box 2228, Columbus, OH 43202, USA, tel. (614) 421-3600.

The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) is making available a **Can/OLE** Database Manual for C$75, and the 4th edition (English and French versions) of the Can/OLE User's Manual for C$20. Orders to: CISTI, Montréal Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S2, Canada; tel. (613) 993-1210.

From **Excerpta Medica** (P.O.Box 1527, 1000 BM Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel. (020) 5803 662; 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA, tel. (212) 370-5520) you may order the 280-page 2nd edition of the Guide to the Excerpta Medica Classification and Indexing System (Dfl. 70/US$26 prepaid), and the 90-page 1984 List of Journals Abstracted (Dfl.47.50/US$18 prepaid, available in paper or in microfiche form).

Magdalena Krommer-Benz is the compiler of the Infoterm International Bibliography of Computer-assisted Terminology (PGI-84/WS/12; iv+36 p.) published by UNESCO; order from the national distributor in your country, or from UNESCO publications, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France, tel. (1) 568-1000.

R.R. Bowker has just published its 809-page Business Mini/Micro Software Directory (ISBN 0-8352-1970-4, ISSN 0000-0809) at US$75 (softcover, plus shipping and handling). A (ca. 200-page) supplement (ISBN 0-8352-1976-3) is to be issued at the end of April 1985; this costs $40, but may be ordered in combination (ISBN 0-8352-2098-2) with the Directory for $95 - from Customer Service, R.R. Bowker Co., P.O.Box 1807, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA.

The same publisher has also just brought out its 1985 Complete Sourcebook of Personal Computing (1,050 p.; ISBN 0-8352-1931-3; US$

19.95 in paperback, plus shipping and handling), which it states to be reformatted, updated, and some 160% expanded".

"Le Monde se lance dans la télématique"

The French daily Le Monde has long prided itself on being a newspaper of record (particularly in matters of French politics), and has a reputation for slightly leftist intellectualism as well as a certain stodginess (until recently, it refused to print photographs). Now, just after a painful phase of financial and managerial difficulties - which in fact have not yet been resolved - Le Monde announces, in an article of 7 November, that it is entering into the electronic age. By the end of 1985, the full text of the newspaper will be publicly available for searching online; as will a special "fichier signalétique et analytique des mêmes articles", which has been in use by newspaper staff already for more than a year, and an up-to-date current awareness service briefly reporting on significant events. Le Monde has signed an agreement with the online service G.CAM, which presumably will be hosting these files - in addition perhaps to others which the newspaper plans to develop.

IAIMS

Not bad grammar, but an acronym for "integrated academic information management systems". What are these? Ask the National Library of Medicine (Extramural Programs, Medical Library Resource Project), which has already dished out more than $300,000 in grants to two US medical schools for investigating the construction of IAIMS, and has more available in the kitty. The government giveth but the government sometimes prefereth to take away. On 30 October, President Reagan vetoed the continuation of the Medical Library Assistance Act - though considerable funds remain available for support of its programs.

Putting the public online

In The Netherlands, a project began earlier this year to test public library promotion of access to domestic and foreign data bases. This experimental project will last four years, under financial support from the ministry of welfare, public health and culture.

Getting it together

Not without a lengthy period of not-so-subtle prodding from the library community, the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) has now announced that it is indeed doing something about the quality control of bibliographic records lurking in its gigantic data base - and would like to do even more (although "systems performance", according to the utility's president, remains the "top priority"). In fiscal year 1983/84, OCLC's Online Data Quality Control Section changed 136,891 records, and now the burden has been partially shifted to selected member

libraries. This effort is code-named - what else? - "Enhance". One may
also note that various aspects of quality control account for the
greater part of the eight principles contained in the recently
promulgated "Code of Responsible Use for the OCLC Online Union
Catalog".

In another gesture toward taking user opinions into account, this
time in the area of automated local library activities, OCLC has
established an LS/2000 Users Group.

Moving with the times?

There used to be something in the UK called the National Reprographic
Centre for Documentation (NRCd); founded in 1967, it was one of those
hotbeds of information-related research (like, for example, the Centre
for Research on User Studies, the Primary Communications Research Cen-
tre and so on) funded in the national interest by the British Library
Research & Development Department. It's still there - at the Hatfield
Polytechnic in Hertfordshire - but now it has a brand new name: the Na-
tional Centre for Information Media and Technology (CIMTech). It is
difficult to decide whether this is an improvement. Whereas the old
name appeared to mean something more or less specific - albeit abstruse
- the new one is so sweeping and self-assuming as to be meaningless.
The center's mission seemingly has broadened somewhat over the years,
and is now stated as "to provide impartial information about newer me-
dia and methods for originating, distributing, storing and retrieving
information". NRCd had a sort of newsletter called Reprographics Quar-
terly. This is now entitled Information Media & Technology. The issue
which we recently examined (for Autumn 1984) contained brief items on
video- and optical disks, optical scanning and digitizing, author-con-
trolled typesetting, videotex, image transmission and a few other to-
pics, as well as a lengthy review of "word and information processing",
but also still a significant number of pieces on micrographics. There
is also a section of selected abstracts. CIMTech furthermore issues
special reports, operates an advisory service, undertakes consultancy
work, and organizes short courses (e.g., "Office and library copiers"
in November, "All you need to know about microfilm" coming up on 13-14
March, and "Computer-assisted retrieval systems" coming up on 5 June).
The Centre's services are also available to overseas subscribers. For
additional information, contact CIMTech, the Hatfield Polytechnic,
P.O.Box 109, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts. AL10 9AB, UK; tel. (07072)
68100; telex 262 413.

Intellectual property

September 1985 is the planned completion date for a study on intel-
lectual property rights in the context of the information revolution,
undertaken by the Office of Technology Assessment of the US Congress.
This should be worth waiting for.

Domesday scenario

A sort of picture-book of Great Britain, on videodisk, is the objec-

tive of a BBC/Philips/DTI undertaking code-named the Domesday Project.
In addition to photographs, the two disks will contain maps, statisti-
cal information, and descriptive articles written by school children.
Development costs will amount to £2.5 million - which the BBC hopes to
recover through commercial exploitation. The "book", due to appear in
September 1986, is meant to be reminiscent of the Domesday Book, which
was completed in the year 1086 under orders from William the Conqueror.
The disk player will be a Philips design, but marketed - like a certain
well known microcomputer - under the BBC name.

Archival independence

The National Archives and Records Service (NARS) in the USA will
change its status, effective 1 April 1985, to that of an independent
executive agency - in accordance with an act (S.905) signed into law by
the President in the latter half of October. Since 1950, it has been a
unit of the General Services Administration. The legislative history
behind this development goes back to 1982, the year in which NARS suf-
fered considerable staff cutbacks at the hands of the Reagan admini-
stration.

Major library celebrates half a millennium of existence

It was in 1484 that the original book stock was acquired for what e-
ventually was to develop into the Municipal and University Library
(Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek - "Stub") of Frankfurt a.M. It now
holds around 3.5 million titles.

People

Out: as president of **Business International** - Norman Wellen, resign-
ing as of January 1985. Wellen was this year also chairman of the board
of the Information Industry Association.

In: Jacques Michel as director of **Télésystèmes-Questel** , replacing
Michel Dancoisne. Michel is also presently the president of the Inter-
national Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI - for-
merly ICSU/AB), and was most recently with France Câble et Radio after
stepping down as director of the Centre de documentation scientifique
et technique at the CNRS in Paris.

In: Nick Farmer as director R&D, **Chemical Abstracts Service** , succee-
ding Ronald L. Wigington.

Out: Samuel B. Beatty as executive director of the **American Society
for Information Science** - resigning effective 30 January 1985, after
ten years of service, to become president of the Ziff-Davis company Pu-
blishers' Archive Text Handling (PATH) Services in Washington, DC. ASIS
is presently seeking a successor to Beatty.

In: as **minister for information technology** in the United Kingdom -
Geoffrey Pattie, formerly minister of state for defence procurement.

In: at **Dun & Bradstreet** - Charles W. Moritz as chairman and CEO as of

1 January 1985, Robert E. Weissman as president and chief operating officer (succeeding Moritz), Richard S. Clark as director for online services in the Marketing Services Group, Richard A. Itz as product manager for online services, and Donald C. Wood as president of Donnelley Marketing Information Services.

Out: John D. Rome, as president of ITG , which is being dissolved (see item above).

In: Yves Le Coadic as director of studies at the **European Institute for Information Management** in Luxemburg, replacing Alice Stern.

In: Susan Severtson as vice president for marketing and sales, **Carrollton Press** .

Out: Charles T. Meadow as development manager for technology applications (and previously manager of customer services) at **DIALOG** Information Services. Meadow has returned to academic life, this time at the Uiversity of Toronto.

In: as executive director of the **Bibliographical Center for Research** - David H. Brunell, replacing JoAn Segal.

In: James P. Murray as president of **Datapro** Research division (McGraw-Hill Information Systems Co.).

Out: Robert Middleton as chairman of the **European Information Providers' Association** , and as head of ITG Europe (Thyssen Bornemisza).

In: Jane Kelly as director of customer relations, **BRS** .

In: as manager for chemical systems development at **Derwent** in London - Kathie Shenton, formerly with SDC Information Services in Santa Monica, California.

Out: Debra Dawson as marketing manager at the **Menlo** Corporation.

In: Bruce M. Manzer as head of the Science and Technology Research Center at the **New York Public Library** Research Libraries.

In: Ralph E. Kennickell, Jr., appointed by President Reagan as "Public Printer" (director of the US **Government Printing Office**).

In: as vice president and general manager of the new online division of **Information Access Company** - Blodwen Tarter, who was previously vice president for marketing at the same firm.

Honored: Martha E. Williams and Joseph Becker with the twentieth annual **American Society for Information Science** award of merit.

Deceased: at age 51, Gordon A. Somerfield, of Elsevier Science Publishers and formerly with the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux and the Office for Scientific and Technical Information (precursor of the British Library R&D Dept.).

Trends

Data communications services

It seems that this particular area of activity remains attractive to new entrants, as well as for those already providing such services. Some are trying to gain or to increase market share in an environment of strong competition, some to put excess capacity to some profitable use, and others (allegedly) to improve service to their client base. Perhaps the most surprising recent development is the decision on the part of Eastman Kodak, the world's largest photographic concern, to offer data (as well as voice) communications services via its previously internal network - a venture going under the name of Eastman Communications. This was announced on 10 November, and the service is intended to operate eventually on an international scale. More or less at the same time as this announcement, MCI Communications (already a sort of young Turk in the long-distance voice market) opened up its own packet-switched network, Datanet. When is the almost inevitable shakeout going to occur? Meanwhile, in the library utility arena, OCLC has made it known that it plans a major upgrade to its network - at a cost of US$2.6 million. This will be an OCLC-controlled packet-switched network compatible with ISO/OSI standards.

"The culture of the book" in the USA

"To try to extract the traditional book from our lives 'would be fatal, but luckily this is impossible'. A commonsense reason for this is the enormous investment that all libraries, institutions, and individuals have in books. The basic characteristics of books offer even more compelling reasons to expect the book to remain a 'fertile resource' in the decades ahead. The convenience of the book, its independence of outside power sources, its unique individualism, its mobility, and exportability are not likely to be replaced.... Looking ahead, 'we must use all our technologies to make the most of our inheritance, to move toward an American Renaissance of the Culture of the Book'."

This from a news release issued by the Library of Congress, quoting the text of a new report entitled "Books in our future". The report results from a study coordinated by the LC at the request of the US Senate.

Access to information online

The number of online data bases available to the public has grown more than 500 percent in the past five years, according to Cuadra Associates, publisher of the Directory of Online Databases, and nearly three new data bases are being added every business day. These figures were recently cited by Carlos Cuadra, president of Cuadra Associates. "Our first issue identified 400 online data bases of all kinds, offered on fifty-nine online services. Today, a total of 2,453 online data bases developed by 1,189 data-base producers are being offered on 362 online services", he said. According to Dr. Cuadra, the dramatic growth

in online data bases and in vendors of online services has multiplied the choices available to users, and has intensified the need for tools to help users to identify the most appropriate data bases for a given information research situation. Cuadra Associates regularly compiles and releases statistics on the growth of the online data-base industry."The Directory is very accurate, very comprehensive, and very timely", Cuadra said. In August 1984 Cuadra Associates identified what it took to be a significant shakeup in the industry when it announced that seventy-two data bases, a record, had been dropped by online service suppliers during the previous three months. At the same time, over 180 new data bases went online, indicating that, in spite of the signs of 'housekeeping' and of increasing volatility in the industry, the overall upward movement continued to be strong.

Another industry trend pointed out by the firm is the increasing number of data bases containing ready-to-run software. According to Cuadra, this is going to be a rapidly growing area and one in which downloading - copying data from other, usually larger computers - will be viewed not as an act of piracy but as an essential part of the transaction. His company has studied the downloading phenomenon through surveys of users, data-base producers, and publishers, and has published the findings in a report entitled "Downloading online databases: policy and pricing strategies".

FLICC

The Federal Library Committee in the USA - a broadly representative coordinating and policy-recommending body established in 1965 and serving at the behest of Congress for purposes of maintaining and improving the effectiveness of information services within the national government - has been re-named the Federal Library and Information Center Committee.

What's in it for me?

"The first-ever industrywide compensation survey" - these are the words used by the Information Industry Association (IIA) to describe a report recently prepared for it by Business International Corporation. It is available to members of IIA for US$160. The full title is "Compensation practices in the information industry: a survey of benefits and of salaries of selected key positions".

Comments

ECLR

In our previous issue (p. 352), we mentioned provisional plans for establishing a European Council on Library Resources, and expressed our doubts whether such an initiative could ever attain success in realizing its purpose - to function for western Europe in the way that the

CLR does in North America. As we indicated, a workshop was scheduled to take place on 19-23 November in Luxemburg, at which the setting up of an ECLR was to form a major topic of deliberation.

This event has now taken place, and the organizers have issued a press release. The objective now appears to be the realization of an ECRL - a European Council of Research Libraries - but the idea remains more or less the same. A "detailed plan of operation for the Council" is now due by 31 May 1985, but the whole scheme does not look any less hopeless than it did two months ago. Still, we would like to be proven wrong. The conditions as set for the putative Council look well nigh impossible: it "should avoid overlapping with existing initiatives, interfering with any area of national interest or activity, and diverting established sources of funding from research libraries and library associations". Another 'pie in the sky' notion (coming out of the European Parliament) also received some endorsement: the establishment of a European Library. Some reasonable proposals did surface - such as introduction of public access to online catalogues, and interconnecting online bibliographic data bases. Movements in these directions have however already begun, through other mechanisms which are more prag-matically oriented, more in accord with national as well as informa-tion-industry-oriented prerogatives, and in general more likely to yield tangible results.

It is difficult to avoid the uneasy impression that this whole under-taking is in the hands of (well-intentioned) persons who remain out of touch with the realities and present tendencies of the information pro-vision scene in Europe and who are, furthermore, oddly insensitive to cultural, political and economic factors of which at least some of them have every reason to be accutely aware. There are also some among them, apparently, who believe that a characteristically American approach (such as embodied in Warren Haas' Council on Library Resources and the programs which it supports) can be successfully adopted for Europe. This is - for better or worse - clearly impossible.

Words

The third issue of the 1984 volume of UNESCO's Copyright Bulletin contains an article by V.A. Dozortsev, a professor at the All Union Re-search Institute of Soviet Legislation. The title is: "Copyright and freedom of self-expression of the individual".

And finally

For your amusement, we quote here from a recently released official response by the Library Association to a paper on "Library and informa-tion work in a changing environment" issued by the Library and Informa-tion Services Council in the United Kingdom: "The greatest change in recent years is not the format of information, but the way in which the more sophisticated customers have come to expect and demand information tailor-made to their requirements.... These [i.e., scientific and tech-nical information] users are, generally, highly trained and sophisti-cated users of information, which lends itself to structured analysis. This is not necessarily the case with other areas of knowledge, nor are

many users capable of adapting to the discipline that computer search-ing requires.... We feel that the new skills and knowledge are only matters of terminology - as has happened so often in the past, libra-rians' failure to make an impact has led others to believe that they have discovered a new world of information and then invent a whole new terminology to describe it.... The real need is to question closely the whole effectiveness of library education over the past twenty years.... We would ... welcome the idea of flexibility of approach. Without it, there is the danger of the whole library education structure becoming increasingly irrelevant.... As a final comment, we should welcome the concept of equal opportunity for computer specialists and librarians - most librarians that we know would be only too happy to have that sort of earning capacity."