

Editorial

MEETINGS & meetings . . .

The information science and library meetings (at least those that I attend) seem to display distinct personalities. Some are veritable three-ring circuses with a marked emphasis on the social processes. At these types of meetings there is a great deal of exhibit-going, hallway conversations, associated marketing events, and—oh yes—dozens of “papers” announced by bored chairmen for the benefit of sparse audiences.

The other meetings are *dominated* by the papers. They tend to be fewer, longer, and *everybody* attends.

There are, of course, reasons for having both types of meetings. In this issue of *ISU* we have published four from the second format. The National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services (NFAIS) has provided *ISU* readers with some notable papers over the years, and while this group is unfortunately only a fraction of the full meetings goodies, they maintain the standards of this organization very well. The European counterpart of NFAIS, EUSIDIC presents equally high standard materials. The next time you are deciding on which type of meeting to attend, you might skip “bread and circuses” and try one of the smaller ones. Sometimes substance is good for you.

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