The Central Ohio ASIST (CO-ASIST) chapter offered a look at the renovated State Library of Ohio at its mid-May luncheon meeting. The meeting began with Pete Bates, head of information systems and technology, and Clara Ireland, research services consultant, detailing the treasures in the historic building and plans for the future. Following lunch, participants took a tour of the impressive facility.

For its July meeting, CO-ASIST invited Don Barlow, director of the Westerville Public Library, to discuss radio frequency identification (RFID) and what this emerging technology might offer libraries.

The August meeting of the Southern Ohio ASIST (SOASIST) chapter will feature Thomas S. Blanton, director of the National Security Archive, discussing the USA Patriot Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Blanton, a keynote speaker at the 2002 ASIST Annual Meeting, will discuss privacy, government surveillance and transparency in government.

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (LACASIS) focused on blogs, aka weblogs, chronological publications of personal thoughts and Web links, for its June meeting. Christina Salazar, California Lutheran University, and Donna Feddern, Escondido Public Library, showed examples of weblogs designed for libraries and explained how weblogs are used in different library settings.

LACASIS followed up in July with an opportunity to discover California’s Culinary History, featuring Dan Strehl, founder, Culinary Historians of Southern California, and librarian with Los Angeles Public Library.


The 2003 ASIST Annual Meeting is October 19–22 in Long Beach, California. Check your mailbox for the preliminary program or visit the ASIST website – www.asis.org – for up-to-date information on schedules, presenters, pre-conferences and social events.
ASIST European Chapter Meets with Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA)

News About ASIST Members

Suzie Allard, who recently completed her Ph.D. at the College of Communication and Information Studies at the University of Kentucky, has joined the faculty of the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee as assistant professor. Previously, she was a presidential fellow at Kentucky, where her research focused on digital libraries, knowledge management and health communication. A founding member and past-chair of ASIST SIG/DL, she was the 2002 recipient of the James M. Cretsos Leadership Award.

Lois F. Lunin, editor of JASIST Perspectives for 20 years and 1976 recipient of the Watson Davis Award, received the 2003 Drexel University Alumni Board of Governor’s Service to Profession Award. This honor is conferred upon a graduate who has earned recognition for her professional achievement or whose work has contributed to advancements in her field. Lunin was honored for her decades of commitment to advancing information science through research, publications and volunteerism.

Deanna Marcum, most recently president of the Council on Library and Information Resources, has been appointed associate librarian of Congress and national librarian, effective mid-August.

José-Marie Griffiths, University of Pittsburgh and former ASIST president, will be appointed by President Bush to a two-year term on the President’s Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC). PITAC advises the president on maintaining America’s preeminence in advanced information technologies.

News from an ASIST Institutional Member

University of Tennessee Honors 3 ASIST Members

Three professors in the School of Information Sciences (SIS) at the University of Tennessee – all ASIST members – were recently honored for their exemplary research and technological innovation. Awards to Dania Bilal, Carol Tenopir and Gretchen Whitney are particularly noteworthy because SIS professors garnered these awards the first year the new College of Communication and Information was formed.

Dania Bilal, associate professor, was awarded the College’s Research Award. She was recognized for her recent publications in leading journals, including the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, Online Information Review and Information Processing and Management. She has also published popular articles in the local press.

Bilal’s major research area concerns user information-seeking behavior in using the Web. She has been awarded a research grant by Eugene Garfield to investigate designing Web search engines that meet children’s information-seeking behavior and needs. The preliminary results of this funded project were published in the proceedings of the Canadian Association for Information Science (CAIS/ACSI). She has also authored Automating Media Centers and Small Libraries: A Microcomputer-Based Approach, which is used in classrooms worldwide.

Carol Tenopir, professor, was awarded a University 2003 Research and Creative Achievement Award at the 2003 Provost’s Banquet. Designed to honor accomplished researchers known internationally in their fields, this award recognizes Tenopir for her advances in teaching, research and service at the University.
OBITUARIES

Rob Kling

Professor of information systems and information science in Indiana University’s School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) and adjunct professor of computer science, passed away unexpectedly in mid-May. He was 58 years old.

Blaise Cronin, Kling’s colleague and dean at Indiana University, says, “Rob Kling’s accomplishments are legion, and well documented. He was quite simply the brightest bloke with whom I have had the pleasure of working. Infectiously curious, playfully serious, razor sharp, generous of spirit, and wonderfully open-minded.”

A brilliant scholar and prolific writer, Kling is described by colleague Alan Dennis as “an icon in our field.”

At IU, Kling directed an interdisciplinary research center – the Center for Social Informatics – and directed the SLIS Master of Science degree program. In addition, he served as the editor-in-chief of The Information Society, a publication for the information technology profession, and on numerous editorial and advisory boards.

Kling’s research interests were wide ranging. Since the early 1970s, he had been a leading expert on the study of social informatics – the roles of information technology (IT) in social and organizational change and the ways that the social organization of IT is influenced by social forces and social practices.

Kling grew up in northern New Jersey. He completed his undergraduate studies at Columbia University and his graduate studies, specializing in artificial intelligence, at Stanford University. Among his early professional assignments were a research appointment in the Artificial Intelligence Center at the Stanford Research Institute; professorship in computer science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and faculty appointments at UC-Irvine. He moved to Indiana University-Bloomington in 1996.

Kling is survived by his wife, Mitzi Lewison of Bloomington, Indiana, and his sister, Ellasara Kling, of New York City.

The family has established the Rob Kling Social Informatics Scholarship Fund at the IU Foundation. Contributions may be made payable to the IU Foundation with the name of the scholarship fund on the memo line. Mail to: Indiana University Foundation, P.O. Box 500, Bloomington, IN 47402.

Bryce Allen

Bryce Allen, recently retired from the University of Missouri, passed away unexpectedly in late April. Allen joined the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies (SISLT) faculty in January 1996. He and his wife, Gill Allen, retired after the winter 2001 semester and moved to Nova Scotia. Before his retirement, Allen had been an active teacher and researcher in the area of cognitive aspects of information searching, and more recently Web-searching behavior. Earlier this year, he won the ALISE award for Teaching Excellence in the field of Library and Information Science, praised as “a gifted instructor who excels in his ability to connect with his students.”

Condolences may be sent to his wife Gillian Allen at 408 Seaman St., RR#1 Margaretsville, NS, CANADA B0S 1N0.

Gretchen Whitney

Gretchen Whitney, associate professor, has been awarded the College Faculty Innovative Technology Teaching Award. A 1999 recipient of the ALISE Pratt-Severn Award for Faculty Innovation, she has continued to explore new technologies, such as PDA access to Blackboard and HTML-based lessons; instant messaging; weblogs, and the Wiki Web. She has also taken an historical approach to help new users understand the history of the Internet and has introduced lessons on ASCII art to help students understand such basic issues as case sensitivity.

In 1995, Whitney mounted the first Web page for the School of Information Sciences, alongside sites for two courses that she was teaching. In 1998, she presented perhaps the first research article in the Journal of Education for Library and Information Science that was supported by continual updates on a website. In 1999, she mounted the first Web-based distance education course for the school, which included innovative audio-plus-HTML explanations of lessons.

News from the Field

Responding to a call from the Library of Congress, a task force of ALA’s Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) and the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) has recommended appropriate training and education for bibliographic control of Web resources (www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/CatalogingandMetadataEducation.pdf).

To address the challenge of cataloging 21st century library materials, the Library of Congress hosted a bicentennial conference on “Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium” (www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/). John Byrum, chief of the Library of Congress Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division, marking the genesis of the conference, said “Libraries have witnessed an explosion in Web resources and they recognize the need to integrate them into their collections. The conference sought to enable an open discussion and the development of an action plan to pursue.”

Among more than two dozen action items from the LC conference, two of them relate to education and training. The Library of Congress asked that ALCTS take a lead role to accomplish these two action items. As a first step, ALCTS created its joint task force with ALISE. The task force, chaired by Beth Picknally Camden of the University of Virginia, engaged principal investigator Ingrid Hsieh-Yee, associate professor of the School of Library and Information Science of the Catholic University of America, to survey ALA-accredited programs and to recommend fresh approaches.

The group responded with a five-part plan to help metadata and cataloging educators and trainers.