



oasis

Observations of the American Society for Information Science Los Angeles Chapter

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Winter 1998

Impressions from the Annual Meeting *by Marianne Afifi*

The 1997 ASIS Annual Meeting took place from November 1-6 in the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington D.C., just a few steps from the White House. This year's title "Digital Collections: Implications for Users, Funders, Developers and Maintainers" attracted a sizeable and interesting crowd of participants. The ASIS 97 Technical Program Committee—which did a fantastic job in selecting the program sessions—included three LACASIS members, Joseph Busch (the chair), Karen Howell and Steven Toney. This year the committee made a change in the timing of the sessions, allowing for a longer lunch hour to accommodate both lunches and committee meetings which usually take place at that time.

Factors Affecting Networked Information Today

The keynote speaker on Monday morning was Tom Kalil, who is a senior director responsible for Science and Technology issues to the National Economic Council, the White House, and U.S. National Coordinator for the G-7 Global Information Society Pilot Projects. In his talk entitled "Clinton-Gore Policies and Networked Information" Mr. Kalil began by setting the environment for some of the initiatives that are currently being pursued by the administration. He listed six major factors that are affecting networked information today. These are:

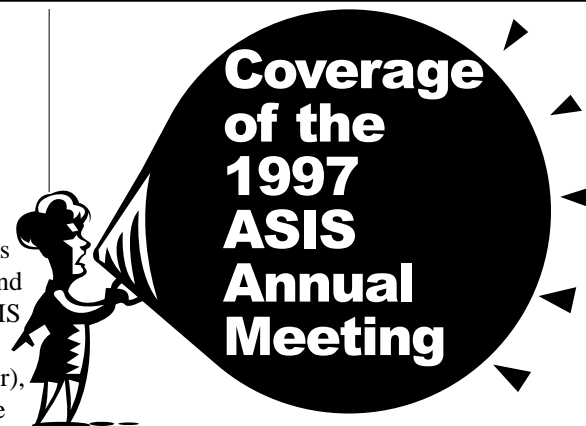
- The costs of storing, transmitting, and processing information are declining at a fast rate.
- Technology is getting more sophisticated. Examples include new authentication methods such as digital signatures, information visualization and image databases.
- Technology is more ubiquitous than ever before.
- Everyone can publish.
- Networked information is playing an increasing role in the economy and our daily life. Everything is linked, so that bad policy decisions have an immediate economic impact.
- The economy is becoming more knowledge-intensive.

Major Initiatives

Within the framework of these developments, Mr. Kalil talked about four major initiatives:

- Every student should have access to technology. This effort involves increasing the number of multimedia computers, connecting every classroom, providing teacher training and professional development, and supporting educational software development.

Continued on page 11



This issue of OASIS, p. 8-9, includes several articles on the Society's big event of the year, the Annual Meeting. Four LACASIS members who attended the national meeting report on highlights. And for those of us unable to attend in 1997, another report explains that it's not too late to hear what was said there, by purchasing audio tapes from the meeting.

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<http://www.usc.edu/Library/LACASIS/>

What do You Recommend?

Electronic Resources from SLA/LACASIS Colleagues.

OASIS interrupted the festivities of several attendees at the recent SLA/LACASIS holiday dinner to inquire: What digital resource do you recommend to colleagues? Here are the answers.

Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE **<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/>**

The library of the University of California at Berkeley, a participant in the federally funded digital library initiative, maintains this site to give access to some of their digital collections and to provide information to others building digital libraries. Chris says she especially appreciates the clear classification schemes of the information available on the site.

CHRIS EMBREE RICE
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Healthfinder **<http://www.healthfinder.gov/>**

This site from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services describes itself this way: "Healthfinder can lead you to selected online publications, clearinghouses, databases, web sites, and support and self-help groups, as well as the government agencies and not-for-profit organizations that produce reliable information for the public. The information you find can help you make better choices for yourself and your family about your health and human services needs."

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Bureau of Labor Statistics **<http://stats.bls.gov/>**

As the statistical agency within the U.S. Department of Labor, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been gathering statistical data for decades, and seems to have made much of it available through this web site. Greg reports that he's used this resource to find compensation rates from the 1930's in response to information requests in his special library.

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The Internet Public Library **<http://www.ipl.org/>**

This site began as a course project at the School of Information and Library Studies at the University of Michigan in 1995, using time-honored principles of librarianship to organize material on the Internet. As the site's mission statement explains, "over the last few hundred years, librarians have become skilled at finding the good stuff, organizing it, and making it easier for people to find and use."

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The Times and The Sunday Times **<http://www.the-times.co.uk/> and <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk/>**

The Internet versions of these centuries-old newspapers are available for free at these two sites (registration is required). Perusing these news pages is an easy way to get an international perspective on the news, and a reminder of why this medium is known as the World Wide Web.

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Hoover's Online **<http://www.hoovers.com/>**

From the publisher of Hoover's Handbook and other business reference books, this site focuses on company information. Detailed company profiles are available for paid subscribers, and a searchable directory of companies is available for free to all users. (Sandra reports that for regular excitement she is also fond of the Yahoo LA earthquake page <http://www.la.yahoo.com/external/usgs>)

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Members in the News

Mairead Browne's papers "The Field of Information Policy: 1. Fundamental Concepts," and "The Field of Information Policy: 2. Redefining the Boundaries and Methodologies," have appeared in The Journal of Information Science. **Harry Bruce**, Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology in Sydney is the 1997 winner of the UMI Doctoral Dissertation Award for his dissertation entitled "A User Oriented View of Internet as Information Infrastructure." **Joseph Busch** is on the program committee for the Digital Libraries '98 conference sponsored by ACM. (See the calendar in this issue for details.) **T. R. Girill**, current editor of the Journal of Computer Documentation, joined with a panel of other journal editors at the latest International Professional Communication Conference (IEEE, Snowbird, Utah, October 23, 1997) to discuss "The contribution of the commentary journal to the documentation profession." The Engineering Information Foundation has recognized **Zorana Ercegovac** with an award funding a research and development project titled "Learning Portfolio for Accessing Engineering Information in User-Centered Environments." (Co-investigator is Prof. Ann R. Karagozian of UCLA's School of Engineering.) **Roberta Horowitz** received the LACASIS Outstanding Member Award at the November 11th Awards Dinner, and **Jason Binford** received the Outstanding Service Award. **Ray Larson** is on the program committee for the ACM SIGIR '98 conference. (See the calendar in this issue.)

Z. Liu has published "Changing Behavior in the Trans Border Information Flow Under Different Political Circumstances," in The Journal of Documentation. **Irene McDermott** is the new writer of the Internet Express Column in Searcher Magazine. **Michael Middleton's** presentation, "Indexing for all?" at the Australian Society of Indexers Conference is available as a PowerPoint file at <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/MiddletonM.html>



Have you been in the news yourself? Or spotted a LACASIS colleague's name in print? Please submit information for this section of OASIS by sending it to Jason Binford. Contact information appears on p.2 of this issue.



How do you get reliable software at reasonable cost? The answer is to reuse software that works. We have pre-written components to create, clean, de-duplicate and convert MARC and non-MARC records. These are reliable and time-tested routines that can be incorporated into custom software to meet your needs. That way you get what you need without the bugs and high cost!

Examples of programs made from these components.

- BDES (Bibliographic Data Entry System) creates MARC or text records on PCs, including validation, spell-checking and vocabulary control.
- MTT (MARC-To-Text) converts MARC records to other formats.

Take advantage of our 20 years experience planning, designing and implementing systems in museums and libraries. If the acronyms AAT, AATA, ULAN, TGN, a.k.a., or CIN are familiar, you've heard of some of the projects we've worked on. Representative clients include:

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- Luna Imaging, Inc.
- The Historic New Orleans Collection
- The Research Libraries Group

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<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/systems/homepage.htm>

Stephen Toney, President
(702) 795-3831

Request your free, no-obligation copy of the record viewer MARCView for DOS (Windows version also available).

From the Chair's Desktop

Dudee Chiang

By now, many of you know that we won ASIS's Chapter-of-the-Year Award again for 1996-97. This is the fifth time in eight years since 1990; we should all be proud of ourselves. When I attended the Chapter Assembly meeting during the Annual Conference, I learned about special activities other chapters are doing. I would like share my notes and get more people to think about ways to be involved with the chapter or the society.

The Potomac Chapter sponsored a "Seniors on the Net" program, where they put the chapter's effort into getting computers for senior centers and have members as volunteers in helping seniors to navigate the Net.

Representatives from the European chapter pleaded for support from others; there is a big gap in terms of resources among members of the European chapter. Most members from Western and Northern European countries have similar access to technologies and resources as those of us in the United States, but this is not the case with our colleagues in Eastern and Central European countries.

The International Information Issues Special Interest Group (SIG III) has a program called INFOSHARE [<http://www.lib.umd.edu/UMCP/UES/ASIS/iii.html>], which pools funds to provide one year of ASIS and SIG

III membership for an information professional residing in a country without an ASIS chapter and who is not an ASIS member yet. The INFOSHARE program fits nicely with some of the concerns of the European chapter.

Finally, in the April 1997 issue of the Southern Ohio chapter (SOASIS) newsletter, there is a preliminary findings of a survey on why people attend professional meetings and programs. The official title of the research is "Attitudinal and Normative Predictors of Continuing Library Education: an Application of the Theory of Reasoned Action." According to the survey, the most important factor is participants' "perceived value in the outcome of participating [in programs]."

LACASIS has been a success because we have continuously put out programs that are attractive to our members. We have been focused on workshops and dinner meetings in the last few years, but that does not mean we can only do these kinds of programs. The chapter has also been recognized for getting many members to become active, and we are continuously looking for "new blood" with fresh ideas and energy. If any one has ideas for programs or activities for the chapter, please contact myself or any member of the Advisory Board; our names and contact information are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Another way to become involved is to come to the Advisory Board meeting: our meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 am. The location varies,

Continued on page 11

Come Visit Our Home Page!

We are located at:

<http://www.aimusa.com>

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Calendar

Okay, so maybe your budget won't allow both the Melbourne (SIGIR'98) and Pittsburgh (ASIS Annual) meetings this year. At least you can visit their web pages.

February 12-14 Joint Meeting of MLGSCA and NCNMLG (Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona and the Northern California and Nevada Medical Library Group). Tucson, AZ. "Infinite Vistas: Creating the Future, Celebrating the Past." Contact: Irene Lovas, (562) 498-0507, jointmtg@ahsl.arizona.edu
<http://ahsl.arizona.edu/infinitevistas>

February 22-25 NFAIS (National Federation of Abstracting & Information Services) 40th Anniversary Conference. Philadelphia, PA. "Welcome to the New Paradigm". Contact: NFAIS, (215) 893-1561. <http://www.pa.utulsa.edu/nfais.html>

March 2-4 Computers in Libraries '98. Arlington, VA. Contact: Information Today, Inc., (800) 300-9868.
<http://www.infotoday.com/>

March 9-13 Spring Internet World. Los Angeles Convention Center. Contact: Mecklermedia, (800) 632-5537.
<http://events.internet.com/spring98/index.html>

March 13 Friday the 13th Fundraiser. Southern California Chapter, Special Libraries Association. Los Angeles. "A Taste of Mystery III". Contact: Dick Lohnes, (310) 322-5000.
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/rayhewitt/comingev.htm>

March 20-21 Western States Graduate Student Communication Conference. Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. (Co-hosted by UCLA's Department of Library and Information Science.) "Communication as Exchange".
<http://www-scf.usc.edu/~acgsa/miniconf.html>

March 30 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. LACASIS Dinner Program. Getty Center Restaurant, Los Angeles. "Janus: Making Complex Art-Historical Data and Images Available over the Web". Contact: Delia Blanquart, (626) 683-9674.
<http://www.usc.edu/Library/LACASIS>

April 1-2 Search Engines Meeting. Boston, MA. "Search Engines and Beyond: A Landmark Conference".
<http://www.infonortics.com/>

April 19-25 National Library Week <http://www.ala.org>

May 12-14 19th National Online Meeting & IOLS (Integrated Online Library Systems) '98. New York, NY.
<http://infotoday.com/>

May 13-16 ASI (American Society of Indexers) 30th Annual Conference. Seattle, WA. "New Frontiers in Indexing"
<http://www.well.com/user/asi/>

May 17-20 ASIS 1998 Mid-Year Meeting. Orlando, FL. "Collaboration across Boundaries: Theories, Strategies and Technology". <http://www.asis.org/>

May 17-20 Information Resources Management Association International Conference. Boston, MA. "Effective Utilization and Management of Emerging Information Technologies."
<http://www.hbg.psu.edu/Faculty/m1k/IRMA.html>

May 22-27 Medical Library Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. "Visions of the Future Reflections on the Past".
<http://www.mlanet.org/>

June 6-11 Special Libraries Association Annual Conference. Indianapolis, IN. <http://www.sla.org/>

June 23-26 Digital Libraries '98 - The Third ACM (Association of Computing Machinery) Conference on Digital Libraries. Pittsburgh, PA. <http://www.ks.com/DL98/>

June 25 - July 2 American Library Association Annual Conference. Washington, D.C. <http://www.ala.org/>

July 11-16 American Association of Law Libraries 91st Annual Meeting. Anaheim, CA. "New Horizons".
<http://www.aallnet.org/>

August 24-28 SIGIR'98 - 21st International ACM SIGIR (Association of Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval) Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval. Melbourne, Australia.
<http://www.cs.mu.oz.au/sigir98/>

September 18 LACASIS Fall Workshop. Industry Hills Sheraton, City of Industry, CA. (More news in coming months.)

October 12-14 Online World Conference & Expo. Washington, D.C. <http://www.onlineinc.com/>

October 25-29 ASIS 1998 Annual Meeting. Pittsburgh, PA. Information Access in the Global Information Economy".
<http://www.asis.org/>

January 19-21, 1999 Information Online & On Disc 99. Sydney, Australia. Contact: ACMS, Telephone +61 2 9332 4622, Fax: +61 2 9332 4066, E-mail: online99@acms.com.au

LACASIS Program News

by Jason Binford

Awards Dinner

Dr. Chris Borgman was the featured speaker on November 11th, at the Olympic Collection in West L.A. As the recipient of the 1997 Contributions to Information Science Award from LACASIS, Dr. Borgman spoke of research trends in the field as a whole and in her own work.

After describing various directions her research has moved over the years, she noted four trends of movement in the information field in general:

1. From metadata to data. For example, from bibliographic data to full text in databases.
2. From individual systems to linked systems. "A document is not a static object anymore."
3. From searching to navigation. That is, moving from building the perfect query to navigating an information space.
4. From individual to group environments. New ways of sharing are developing, in all phases of information development and use.

Although she admitted that "the access problem is a whole lot harder than I thought it was 20 years ago," Dr. Borgman's enthusiasm for addressing the problem was obvious.

Holiday Program with SLA

As in recent years past, the Athenaeum at Caltech was again the location for the annual holiday dinner jointly sponsored by LACASIS and the Southern California Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. The after-dinner speaker at this year's December 16th meeting was Adrianna Ocampo, a geologist with the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena. Ms. Ocampo's fascinating topic was the leading current theory of how the dinosaurs died — as a result of drastic climactic change caused by a catastrophic impact of a huge asteroid or comet with the earth 65 million years ago. She explained that the site of the impact is believed to be the Yucatan Peninsula where a crater over 200 kilometers in diameter resulted. Immediately after the impact, believe Ms. Ocampo and her colleagues, huge amounts of soot were thrown in the air, 100 meter high tsunamis went around the world ("Surf's up!" said one wag at my table.), and global fires were ignited by heated rock.



Meet the Board

LACASIS Board meetings are open to any member who wishes to attend. We usually meet on the first Saturday morning of each month. The location varies, so contact Duede Chiang, the current chair, for details and directions if you would like to join us. Contact information is on page 2.

Programs to Come

Among several programs being planned for the rest of 1998 are a dinner meeting at the new Getty Center in the spring and the annual workshop in the fall:

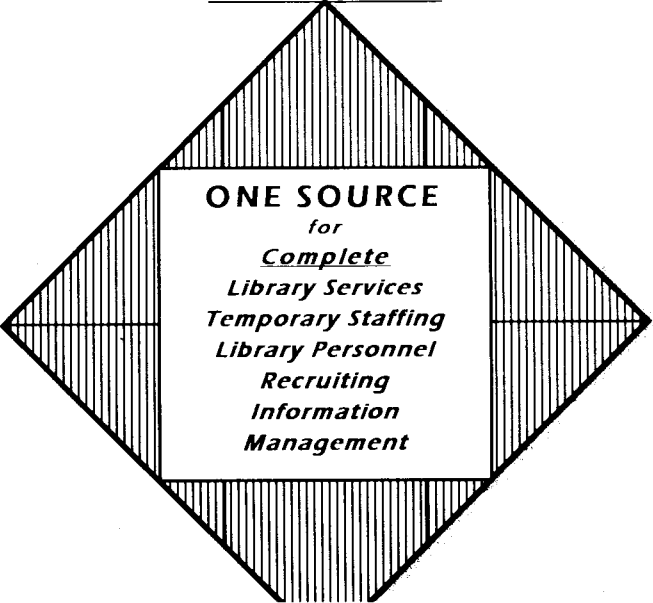
Monday, March 30, 1998 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Getty Center. Stephen Toney of Systems Planning will speak on "Janus: Making Complex Art-Historical Data and Images Available over the Web". (The Getty museum collection will not be open this day, but the event will be held in the new facilities on the west side of Los Angeles.)

Friday, September 18, 1998 Annual Fall Workshop.
Industry Sheraton, City of Industry, CA.

For details on these and other upcoming LACASIS programs, keep an eye on your mailbox for flyers or check the LACASIS website at <http://www.usc.edu/Library/LACASIS>

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Three Sessions on Digital Collections

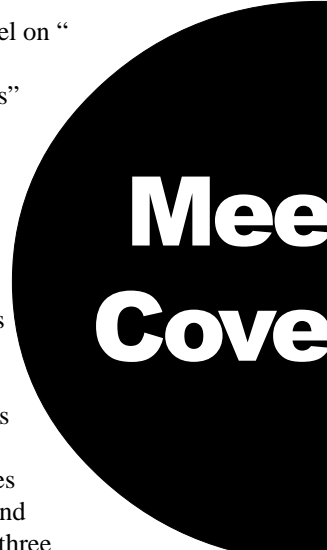
Reported by Vivian Hay

1 Bette Brunelle from Ovid Technologies, Mike Schultz from Infonautics and Tim Finin from the University of Maryland comprised a panel on “Search Engines as Intelligent Agents.” Brunelle’s company has developed a natural language search mode for their traditional product that is still based on controlled terminology; it uses proprietary statistical techniques to apply relevance ranking to search results. Schultz’ company produces the “Electric Library”, an amalgam of thousands of full-text resources that uses no controlled vocabulary at all. They use Excalibur’s search engine to support a query process in which the user first gets into an information space, and then can apply tools such as morphological expansion, semantic expansion, idiom processing, and proximity scoring to a ranked results list. Noting that the term “ambiguous query” may be a tautology, Schultz said that grouping search results by recurring themes and domains of interest is a promising method of delivering relevant outputs. Finin observed that the “agent” is a very powerful and ubiquitous concept in computer science, and discussed why he believes “agents technology” will be an important enhancement to information retrieval systems. Finin thinks that adding semantic information will be an important step in the evolution of these systems, and that semantic markup tools as well as some consensus on terminology for people, places and things are urgently needed.

2 Noriko Kando, of Japan’s National Center for Science Information Systems, the University of Pittsburgh’s Jianqun Wang and Kok Fung Lai, from the Information Technology Institute, and Xuemao Wang, from Queens Public Library and Foster Zhang from Knight-Ridder comprised a panel on Multilingual Databases in the Networking Age: Strategies for Connecting Producers and Users”. Kando observed

that cross-language information retrieval could be practical in the Internet environment in that it is less expensive to translate queries than documents, and that systems will likely increasingly allow users to retrieve useful non-textual objects even when they can’t use some of the text documents due to language barriers.

3 I gave a presentation as part of a panel on “Approaching Information: Retrieval Designs Affecting Digital Collections” with Jian Qin and M. J. Norton, both from the University of Southern Mississippi. At the beginning of our session Dr. Qin received a competitive Research Award, sponsored by the Institute for Scientific Information, to further her work, which focuses on combining the clusters of keywords that occur in citations with semantic indexing to measure term discrepancies in an interdisciplinary area. This technique combines the searcher’s cognitive relevance with the indexer’s analytical relevance to refine searches and rank retrieval. I spoke on the differences and similarities of structure, content, and scope of three vocabularies (AAT, ULAN, and TGN), and the Getty Information Institute experiments in making them available as search-enhancement tools in the a.k.a. project. Norton noted that new retrieval techniques are needed more than ever, especially given the combination of increased interdisciplinary searching and burgeoning numbers of novice users; combining these concepts, she made the interesting observation that even information professionals can hardly describe themselves as anything else than “novice users”.



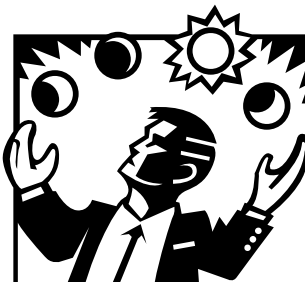
Career Development Workshop

“New Roles and Responsibilities of Information Professionals” reported by Dudee Chiang

Dr. Jose-Marie Griffiths is the Executive Director of the Information Technology Division and Chief Information Officer at the University of Michigan. She presented a “Career Development” program at the annual meeting. Of particular interests were the common characteristics of new information professionals that she had identified:

Never be Certain of the Future

In order to be pioneers, information professionals need to think the way pioneers thought, which is “build the bridge as we walk on it”, be flexible and ready to adjust directions. Rather than long-term planning, she now has



“Three-Year Agenda of Actions” for her organization. This Agenda of Actions also makes her organization fiscally accountable to the parent institution.

No Man is an Island

Collaborate with people who are both familiar and unfamiliar, and understand the needs and capabilities of both our users and ourselves. On the other hand, do not let “teamwork” and “collaboration” become excuses for indecision or lowered productivity. The other important aspect

Continued on page 15

Funder's Forum

Private Public Support for Digitization Projects: Reported by Linda McCann

The Funding Forum presented a variety of program representatives who described currently funded initiatives and potential areas of research that might receive funding in the next cycle.

Clifford Lynch, Coalition for Networked Information, moderated the forum, with representatives from the National Science Foundation, Department of Commerce and National Endowment for the Humanities. Les Gasser, Program Director for the Information Technology and Organizations (ITO) Program, provided information on current and past grants and some possible areas of research for the next cycle. These included processes and dynamics of distributed intelligence, knowledge dissemination and sustainable use, social integration and impact of knowledge networks, and prototypes of knowledge networks. More information is available on the ITO homepage. <http://www.cise.nsf.gov/iris/ITOhome.html>

Stephen Griffin, Program Director for the Digital Libraries Initiative, provided an overview of six multidisciplinary projects funded through a joint initiative of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) and NASA. These are described on the National Synchronization Home Page: <http://dli.grainger.uiuc.edu/national.htm> Potential research areas for the second Digital Libraries Initiative include gathering benchmark or baseline data for longitudinal studies, and developing methodologies for evaluating technologies.

Jeffrey Field provided an overview of current NEH digital collections initiatives and implications for digital collections in the era of the Web. NEH will partner with NSF on the second Digital Libraries Initiative; possible areas for research are creation of digital resource tools and standards, interoperability, and interface design. Application Guidelines for Collaborative Research are available on the NEH Web page: <http://www.neh.fed.us/html/guidelin/collab.html>

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rage

Records of the Meetings

Audio & Print: by Dorothy Fue Wong

Unable to be in Washington D.C. last November to hear the leading-edge issues on digital collections discussed at the ASIS annual meeting? You still have the opportunity to hear the top speakers because of audiocassette tapes produced by InfoMedia.

Phone (800) 367-9286 to obtain a list of taped seminars or to place an order. The price of most tapes for each session is approximately \$20.00 (excluding tax and shipping).

'97 Best Sellers

These tapes were the best sellers at the conference:

1. Strategic Transformation of Information Services, Part I and II—Experiences of successful information managers in building and expanding corporate information systems and services.
2. The State-of-the-Art of Search Engines as Intelligent Agents (Knowbots)—Some recent software developments in the retrieval of electronic information with comments on the value of brain power to aid this process.
3. Theories in Information Science—Continuing examination of classical problems in information science.
4. Providing Library Resources via the World Web: Implications of User Studies—Academic and public librarians' experiences in the advantages and limitations in using the Web from the user's perspective.



5. Uniform Resource Identifiers, Metadata, and What They Mean for Access to Networked Resources—The use of URI (Uniform Resource Identifier in contrast to URL) as a bibliographic descriptor in organizing internet resources.

'96 Best Sellers

The top sellers for the 1996 Annual Meeting in Baltimore:

1. Copyright: Chaos or Control?
2. Changing Owners in the Information Industry
3. The Dim Future of the Electronic University
4. The Net Within: Intranets and Organizational Communications
5. Information Warfare—Hot Topic

The top sellers for the 1996 mid-year meeting in San Diego:

1. Business I: Changes in Direction
2. Educational Impact II: Challenges to Traditional Libraries
3. National Information Policy Caught in the Digital Revolution
4. Finding Information on the Net
5. Internal Web Pages: How Corporate and Academic Research Environments are Managing Information Access and Flow Internally Using World Wide Web Technology

Continued on page 10

New LACASIS Members

September - December

Keith Dawson

Librarian
Life Bible College
1100 W Covina Blvd
San Dimas CA 91773-3298

Judith S. Graham

17424 Burbank Blvd Apt 208
Encino CA 91316-1716

Andree Valdry

533 S Lucerne Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90020-4750

Transferred Members

Jason Britton

1730 Via Entrada
Fallbrook CA 92028-2553

Greg Lukens

Director
Knowledge Stream
Interactive Product
Development
606 Hauser Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90036-3707

Kenneth Madden

University of North Texas
PO Box 305924
Denton TX 76203-5924

Carla Wykoff

17696 Corazon Pl
San Diego CA 92127-1007

Research Funds Available

from Special Libraries Association

Application materials for the 1998 Steven I. Goldspiel Memorial Research Grant are now available. The amount of the 1998 award will be approximately \$20,000. Applications are evaluated based on the purpose and objectives of the proposed project, the significance of the topic to the profession, the project's methodology, qualifications of staff, and the appropriateness of the project's budget and timetable. According to SLA's Research Agenda, the following topics are of particular interest:



- Futures
- Client/User Issues
- Measures of Productivity and Value
- Client/User Satisfaction Measures
- Staffing

The deadline for submission of proposals is February 27, 1998.

For further information, visit the SLA web site at:
<http://www.sla.org/> or contact
Director, Research
Ruth M. Arnold, Ph.D.
(202) 234-4700, Ext. 615
(202) 265-9317 (fax)
ruth@sla.org

OCLC

Guide on Internet Cataloging

"Cataloging Internet Resources: A Manual and Practical Guide," 2d ed., edited by Nancy B. Olson, is now available electronically at <http://www.purl.org/oclc/cataloging-internet>

Print copies remain available, too. To obtain your copy, send a request to orders@oclc.org. Be sure to include your complete postal mailing address.

Erik Jul, Associate Director, OCLC Institute, jul@oclc.org

RECORDS *from page 9*

The 1996 tapes cost \$10.00 each (excluding tax and shipping)

Short abstracts of the tapes are found in the Proceedings published for each meeting. The Proceedings consist largely of major papers published a few months before the conferences. Hard-bound copies can be ordered via the Web: <http://www.asis.org/> or by phone: (301) 495-0900. Online versions of the full-text of some major papers are also available on the ASIS website; these papers can be found under the headings: continuing education / conferences.

IMPRESSIONS *from page 1*

- The second round of the Digital Libraries Initiative. The emphasis here is on expanding the cycle and number of participants.
- The next generation Internet. Mr. Kalil emphasized that long-term research into networking is essential. Right now, packet delivery is our best effort at delivery of networked information, but he stressed that this method will not be enough when we need to manage networks that connect billions of computers. He also mentioned that the Internet 2 consortium will provide testbeds that test high speed technologies that are 100 to 1000 times faster than currently available ones. Mr. Kalil addressed the question of new applications that will emerge as we get more bandwidth. An example of this are so called "collaboratories", software applications that allow collaboration of scientists in many different locations around the globe.
- Web accessibility initiative. Here, Mr. Kalil placed an emphasis on international accessibility, access for the disabled and improved applications for educational technology. Ideally there could be guidelines for content and universal design to improve overall functionality and enable life-long learning.

Mr. Kalil expanded on these four areas of initiatives by pointing out pilot projects that are currently under way but also possible obstacles, such as the protection of intellectual property rights and the influence of overseas government monopolies. A lively question and answer session ensued. Many of the questions addressed K-12 and other educational initiatives such as distance learning.

Other Sessions and Awards Banquet

If I had to pick one session that I found personally very valuable I would select the one entitled "Interface Design for a High-Speed World: An On-Site Demonstration of Iterative Prototyping". For three days, conference attendees were asked to be participants in a usability study of an interface. Each day the interface was modified to reflect the tester's comments and new testers were asked to fill out questionnaires. On the fourth day, the results of the test were presented. I was intrigued by the many things that we can learn about applying usability testing to interface design.

Without going into detail on the many other sessions I attended, I was impressed by their quality and content, as for example the program that included information technology developments at the National Library of Medicine.

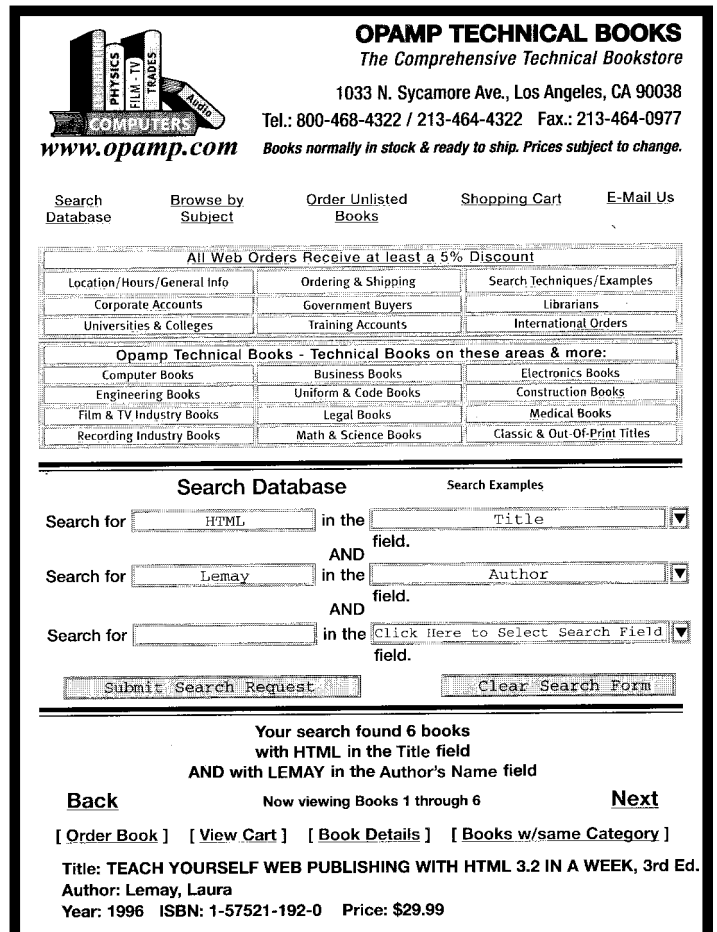
The penultimate day of the conference concluded with the Annual Awards Banquet which is always a great occasion to mingle with old and new friends and to follow up with some of the presenters. In addition, the LACASIS chapter members were eagerly awaiting the outcome of the Chapter of the Year Awards which, as we all know now, the Los Angeles Chapter won.

We were also fortunate this year to welcome both the 1996 and the 1997 LACASIS McKinley Scholarship winners, Karen Hilzinger from University of Technology in Sydney, Australia and Lisa Keller from the University of Hawaii, soon to become a student at the University of Washington.

Last but not least, the location of the hotel was ideal to sneak away during the long lunch hour and visit one of D.C.'s fabulous museums and galleries.

FROM THE CHAIR *from page 5*

so the best way is send me an email at: dchiang@amgen.com and I will let you know the location of our next Board Meeting. Scheduled Board meeting for 1998 are: January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, and September 12. I look forward to hearing from our members!



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Title: TEACH YOURSELF WEB PUBLISHING WITH HTML 3.2 IN A WEEK, 3rd Ed.
Author: Lemay, Laura
Year: 1996 ISBN: 1-57521-192-0 Price: \$29.99

Call for Papers on Metadata Standards

LACASIS member Zorana Ercegovac to Edit Special Topic Issue of JASIS

(excerpted from the JASIS November 1997 issue, pp. 1082-1083)

The next Special Topic Issue of the Journal of the American Society for Information Science (JASIS) is scheduled to come out in 2000 on the topic of Integrating Multiple Overlapping Metadata Standards. The guest editor for this special issue will be Zorana Ercegovac, who is with the Department of Library and Information Science, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and the InfoEN Associates.

As more heterogeneous objects, including text, become available electronically, people have just started to look at different metadata standards that had independently evolved to identify and describe these objects (e.g., geospatial data such as imagery archives and remotely-sensed datasets; museum and cultural information repositories). These metadata standards (e.g., TEI, FGDC, AACR2) come from different disciplines and reflect different perspectives and traditional disciplinary cultures. Only recently have we started to "mesh" these different content metadata standards and converge them into super-standard schemes.

An example is the collaboration between the Federal Geographic Data Committee FGDC Metadata and the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR, 2nd ed.) standards. Both standards have a capability to describe cartographic materials but from different perspectives. While, for example, FGDC focuses on coordinate access points, projections, and other spatial, temporal, security and data quality attributes, AACR2 is entering maps under the author main heading. Similar differences exist in the areas of visual and archival representation.

Specific topics of interest include, but are not limited to the following:

- Metadata elements for the representation of digital repositories including networked resources. For example, which elements should be included in a metadata record for images and spatial datasets in general? Which data elements should be included at different levels of detail?
- Federal metadata standards for data-intensive application areas.
- Integrating multiple overlapping metadata standards (e.g., AACR2 and FGDC).
- Designing a superstandard scheme, or a catalog, or metadata entries.
- Multiple levels of metadata for multiple user needs.

- Integration of data and its metadata.
- Economic implications for the integration of metadata standards for multimedia and heterogeneous digital datasets.
- Application-specific metadata projects from academia, research laboratories, governmental organizations, and industry.

Inquiries may be made to the guest editor at zercegov@ucla.edu. Manuscript submissions (four copies of full articles) should be addressed to :

Dr. Zorana Ercegovac
Department of Library and Information Science Graduate School of Education & Information Studies 222 GSLIS Building
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1521

The deadline for submitting manuscripts for consideration for publication in this special issue is April 30, 1998.

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Information Online & On Disc 99

Australian LACASIS Members Helping Plan Conference in Sydney

At the Annual Meeting in Washington, an Australian member of LACASIS passed along information for this conference planned for January 19 - 21, 1999 in Sydney. From the brochure:

Information Online & On Disc 99 is sponsored by the Information Science Section of the Australian Library and Information Association of Australia. It has been held eight times since 1986, attracting over 1000 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the Pacific, the United Kingdom and the United States to the Conference and some 2000 visitors to the Exhibition.

The Exhibition will display a wide range of international online and optical disc databases and services.

The Conference and Exhibition provide a forum for information professionals from the legal, scientific, medical, financial, business and library communities to explore new trends and technologies in the information industry.

For more information, contact
Information Online & On Disk 99 Secretariat Telephone: +61 2 9332 4622

Fax: +61 2 9332 4066

Email: online99@acms.com.au

Berkeley Vocabulary Project

Aid for Effective Searching

(The following is excerpted from an October 1997 press release)

The University of California, Berkeley, School of Information Management & Systems has been awarded a \$954,180 research contract to make searching for documents and for data easier and more cost-effective. The project is called "Search Support for Unfamiliar Metadata Vocabularies".

Searching is likely to be effective and efficient only when the searcher is familiar with the classification, categorizing and indexing schemes ("metadata vocabularies") being searched. The rapid increase in the number of databases that can be accessed over the Internet means that searches will increasingly require use of indexes and classification schemes that are unfamiliar to the person searching. To provide a cost-effective remedy, the researchers will develop Entry Vocabulary Modules that accept topical statements in the searcher's terms and respond with a ranked list of terms in the system's vocabulary.

The Principal Investigator for the three year project is Professor Michael Buckland, with Professor Ray Larson, Associate Professor in the School and Dr. Fred Gey, Assistant Director of campus UC Data Archive & Technical Assistance and a recent Ph.D. graduate of the School.

This project builds directly on several years' research in the School on improved searching techniques. The Classification Clustering technique developed by Professor Ray Larson for the CHESHIRE I system will be used with probabilistic document retrieval algorithms developed by Dr. Gey with support from the National Science Foundation.

The contract was awarded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and will run from July 1997 through June 2000.

For more information, visit the project website at <http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/research/metadata/index.html>

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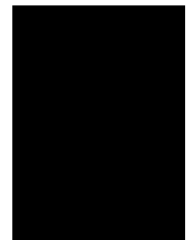
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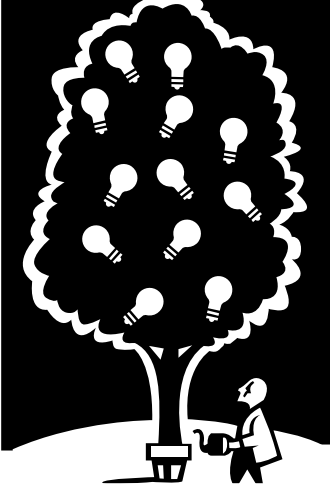


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McKinley Scholarship News



Each year since 1992, LACASIS has provided funding for a student to attend the ASIS Annual Meeting. Each student has been the winner of an essay competition named in memory of the late Margaret McKinley.

Note: look for news in the near future on the 1998 scholarship opportunities.

The 1997 winner, Lisa Keller, was chosen for her winning essay (reprinted in the Summer 1997 issue of OASIS) on the assigned theme: "What specific benefits do I expect to derive from attending the ASIS Annual Meeting? How will I integrate these benefits into the start of my new career?" Lisa attended the 1997 meeting, and afterwards sent this note to LACASIS:

22 November 1997

Dear Members of LACASIS,

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to attend the ASIS meeting in Washington, D.C., earlier this month. I found it to be an interesting experience in many ways.

I have submitted my application to University of Washington GSLIS and with luck will be able to resume my studies next fall.

In the meantime I have landed a job in the library of the Bush School, a private K-12 school in Seattle. I'm very happy to be back at work in a library.

And so I continue down my winding road.

*Sincerely,
Lisa Keller*

Meanwhile, one of the two runners-up in the competition, Bryan Riley at the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, has given OASIS permission to reprint his essay.

1997 Essay by Bryan Riley

I am currently enrolled in the final stages of a degree course with major study in Information Science. As part of my studies, I have explored the concept of information from various perspectives. I have learned about building and testing information systems and using, designing and marketing information products and services. Still there is much I need to learn. The more I study and meditate upon the nature of information, the more I realize there is to know.

There are many and varied benefits that I see myself reaping should I be granted the opportunity to attend the ASIS Annual Meeting. In my view, one of the greatest benefits would be having the opportunity to see how ASIS operates first hand. During the course of my studies, many of the papers and other material I have read, and gleaned new perspectives from have been published by ASIS. By attending the ASIS Annual Meeting, I feel that I would be able to get closer to the source of so many of the profession's great ideas, enabling me to explore opportunities for doing original research and writing within the discipline of information science.

It is my belief that a global perspective is important, in terms of both research and practice. My attendance at the ASIS Annual Meeting would enable me to be involved in the global exchange of ideas. It would enable me to better understand emerging technologies and their possible impacts, and to gain greater insight into the ever-changing information world.

Continued on page 15

ESSAY from page 14

Another benefit I would expect to obtain would be through making world-wide contacts through networking. As an attendee at the Annual Meeting, I see myself as being part of the synergy of ideas which have been contributed by different groups of information professionals and which help to move the field of information science forward.

I believe that it is important to adopt an international perspective, especially with the rise of Internet technologies and the concept of the global village. The field of information science should aim to integrate ideas from around the whole world. ASIS, I believe actively promotes this, and is justifiably regarded as the premier professional body for the world's information professionals. For these reasons I feel I would benefit greatly by attending the ASIS Annual Meeting.

There are many ways in which I would integrate the above mentioned benefits into my career as an information professional. I see attendance at events such as the ASIS Annual Meeting as a step along the road of lifelong learning. I am confident that I can take ideas away from the Annual Meeting and apply them to my career. I feel that my understanding of issues in information science and issues affecting the information industry will be enhanced in such a way that I can act as a better informed information practitioner. Most importantly, I feel that taking part in the ASIS Annual Meeting will help me keep abreast of the developments in the information sciences, thus enabling me to be more proactive as an information professional.

I see this as an excellent opportunity for career development, enabling me to learn more about myself, as well as the information field. As a result of attending the Annual Meeting, I expect to be able to begin to fully participate in the information profession. It is my intention to contribute to the information science body of knowledge. Attendance at the annual meeting would enable me to meet those who are already active contributors to the field. I believe that there are many valuable lessons for me to learn from those individuals who are already well established voices in the profession.

I understand that the ASIS Annual Meeting attracts interest from both within the information science profession and from outside it. I would value the opportunity to network with professionals from outside the profession, therefore broadening my professional horizon. This would assist me in solving problems that I encounter as an information professional, by looking beyond the accepted paradigm to new and novel ways to solve these problems.

In conclusion, I would like to add that I see new roles emerging for a new breed of information professionals. I go to university with some of the most dynamic people you could ever hope to meet. Ideas are flourishing, and these people (myself included)

are excited about careers in information work. I expect that my attendance at the ASIS Annual Meeting will enable me to keep that spirit and excitement alive in myself, and enable me to learn how to better inspire my colleagues so as we can continue to be part of a healthy, dynamic and exciting profession as we move into the next century.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT from page 8

related to teamwork is "let others lead sometimes;" good leaders are also good followers.

Juggle Priorities

Both organizations and individuals need a core set of values, and this core set of values can help determine priorities in a changing environment. Libraries and information centers are not the

only information organization within our parent institutions, so what are the strengths and niches for us? What do we do well? What is important for us to do? How do we fit into the BIG PICTURE of the parent institution? While being flexible and agile is important for survival, having a set of core values is vital for our existence.

Keeping Up

Libraries and information centers are "learning organizations," and people who work in them are "learning professionals." Apply learning techniques and tools on ourselves as well as use them to provide services to our clients, empower ourselves and employees for continuous learning, and at the same time, understand the values of "old" skills.

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