



# EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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## **President's Review** By Sylvia James

My first task as the new President of the European Chapter is to thank all the members of the Board who worked so hard during 1996/7, especially the past President Janet Tomlinson. As President elect last year I saw how much effort Janet put into the position, most of which is not acknowledged, because it is a constant responsibility from day to day. I am already experiencing this, with letters almost daily from Headquarters, as well as numerous other communications on Chapter matters.

I hope 1997/8 will be a very successful year for the Chapter and I would like to welcome the new Board members and new Business Managers, which we will be appointing for the first time. We are hoping that the Business Managers will be able to spend more time planning events, especially some extra sessions outside London.

Our membership records to the end of May showed over 40 new members of the Chapter and I would also like to welcome them to the European Chapter. We are planning a full meetings programme for 1997/8. We are beginning with the Summer Social in late July, where Tuula Salo, the European Special Librarian of the Year will be talking about her visit to the 1997 Conference in Seattle.

The Board hopes to be able to invite Tuula for several other meetings during her award year and I hope as many of you as possible will get a chance to meet her. There are further developments on the planned SLA Conference 2000 in Brighton, which is now confirmed to take place by Headquarters. It is hoped that 33% of the delegates will be from Europe, so this is one definite future event to put into your forward planning for attendance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other Board members with your ideas and thoughts about the development of the Chapter, we would be only too pleased to hear from you.

## **News from Iceland** By Kristin Geirsdottir.

At the SLA conference in Seattle I promised your editor a description of the situation in the field of special libraries as well as the structure of the library societies in Iceland.

*The Icelandic Library Association (ILA) is an organisation of two independent sections: The Icelandic Association of Public and School Libraries and The Icelandic Association of Research Libraries (IARL). The latter has an Internet home page with a short English version at [www.itn.is/~kgeirs/fbr](http://www.itn.is/~kgeirs/fbr). Anyone interested in libraries and information science can join either section of the organisation.*

Those who hold a degree in librarianship and information science from *The Association of Professional Librarians (APL)*. It is actually quite common for a librarian with a university degree to belong to the APL as well as IAL. The two organisations publish a joint newsletter FREGNIR, and a yearly periodical on libraries and information science, BOKASAFNID. Both are published in our native language Icelandic but the latter has a short summary of each article in English. It is indexed in Library & Information Science Abstracts (LISA).

Most special librarians in Iceland and those who work at the University and National Library are members of IARL. Membership is about 140. Within the IARL there are different interest groups, some more formal than others. A somewhat informal group in natural sciences is planning a joint international conference on aquatic and marine sciences and arctic research, *Joint IAMSLIC/Polar Libraries Colloquia Conference*, which will take place in Reykjavik, September 20. -25. 1998. You can find out about the meeting at [www.hafro.is/~eirikur/Fundur/conf.html](http://www.hafro.is/~eirikur/Fundur/conf.html).

The medical librarians are a formal group and they are

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planning a Scandinavian conference to be held in Reykjavik from 1 to 5 June 1999. Information specialists in Iceland also form groups according to their interest or responsibilities, such as interlending, quality control and management in libraries.

The IARL is a member of the Nordic Federation of Research Libraries Association and has two representatives on its board. The association home page is at [www.dlh.dk/dpb/df/nvbf\\_dan.html](http://www.dlh.dk/dpb/df/nvbf_dan.html). Recently IARL joined HULTIS (Hull Libraries Technical Information Services).

IARL is currently planning a one day seminar on how we should gather our forces to access information for research and industry in electronic form. Leslie Rampey from the USA will tell us about the GABRIEL project, a co-operative effort for state-wide access to electronic information resources for research and public libraries in Georgia. (For more information see [www.galileo.gsu.edu/Homepage.cgi](http://www.galileo.gsu.edu/Homepage.cgi).) Icelandic specialists will speak about their needs and preferences, and librarians will discuss the possibilities and cost of access. The seminar will take place in Reykjavik in September this year.

Is anyone wondering about the Icelandic climate? The weather in Summer is nice and temperate, 10 to 15° Celsius. By late June we have daylight for 24 hours a day and we can read by the midnight sun. No reason to go to bed really, and it makes us a little bit crazy. This effect gradually wears off as nights become longer in late Summer.

Best wishes to my European colleagues, and keep an eye out for the upcoming international conferences to be held in Iceland. The natives are quite friendly!



## News Roundup

### Seattle International Visitors Reception

The presentation to Tuula Salo of European Special Librarian of the Year was a great success. The reception sponsored by SilverPlatter and held in the Seattle Space Needle was extremely well attended.

### Reuters guide to information strategy

Paul Pedley reports that Reuters have recently produced a guide to good information strategy. It is just under fifty pages long, and aims to be a 'reference volume to help managers plan and implement an effective information management policy within their organisations'. It includes case studies of Sequent Computer Systems, Amerada Hess Ltd, and Ogilvy & Mather.

The Reuters guide to good information strategy. ISBN 1901249050 £5.95

## IFLA in Copenhagen

At a meeting in Seattle for those attending the IFLA meeting in Copenhagen, we decided to hold an informal get-together. It will be on Wednesday evening 3 September meeting at 6pm (18:00) at the reception area of the Hotel d'Angleterre and going out to eat afterward.

Executive Director David Bender will be flying in from Washington to attend the meeting. Anyone who wants more information on this event should contact Bruce Hubbard at [bah@dti.dk](mailto:bah@dti.dk).

## UK LA Knowledge Management Day

The Library Association Industrial and Commercial Group (IGLG) is organising a day devoted to Knowledge Management as part of the UK LA's National Libraries Week on 7 November. The project is designed to capitalise on the current interest in Knowledge Management. The aim is to improve understanding of the role that information managers' skills and expertise can play in organisational success.

The plan is for information units to hold promotional activities to publicise their services to their existing and potential customers. ICLG is providing support for participants in the form of an advice guide. This is available on the group's web site [www.fdggroup.co.uk/iclg.htm](http://www.fdggroup.co.uk/iclg.htm), and in paper form, as well as a telephone advice line, and a sales brochure for the profession.

Please contact Graham Coult on 44 (0)171 625 9507, fax and e-mail care of Liz Dwiar on 44 (0)171 606 4390, [elizabethdwiar@theodregoddard.co.uk](mailto:elizabethdwiar@theodregoddard.co.uk)

## Activities outside London

As many of our members do not live in London, we feel that it is important to have more events in other locations. If you would like to organise an event for SLA members in your area, please send a 250-word proposal to me, for consideration by the Board. Funds will be made available for a number of events each year, both for social and professional meetings.

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## Natural History Museum joins LAMDA project

On 14th July the Natural History Museum joined the growing number of libraries participating in the LAMDA project. LAMDA (London and Manchester Document Access), a project set up under the eLib Programme of the UK Higher Educational Funding Council, provides fast and economical document delivery over the academic network, using Ariel software to send and receive documents. For now,

the Museum is participating only as a receiving library but, once the scheme is more firmly established, would be keen to become involved also as a supplier. Early impressions are that the service is very easy to use and offers good results.

Anne Freeman, Natural History Museum, London



## Report from New York State

From Barbara S. Beverley

### Workshop on Researching European Companies

by Dana Rogers, Graduate Assistant New York State Department of Economic Development Library

Saratoga Springs, New York was the April 18, 1997 venue for the Upstate New York Chapter's spring seminar 'Researching European Companies.' Over forty information professionals from all over New York State were in attendance despite the flurries Mother Nature sent as a final farewell to Old Man Winter.

Sylvia James, management consultant in business information (*and current President of the Chapter*), presented a very thorough and engaging seminar on current resources used for finding information on European businesses.

Beginning with an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of primary and secondary research, Sylvia then defined geographical boundaries affecting European businesses. European countries are grouped into the European Union, the European Free Trade Administration, Central and East Europe, and the 'peripheral countries', with much overlap. Along with these designations, companies are divided into types: private, public, state, and European Union-defined companies. Sylvia mentioned that information sources never cover all four types of companies and then went on to define and give examples of the various types of companies. She then discussed reasons for acquiring European company information such as mergers and acquisitions, competitive intelligence, purchase or sale of brand names, licences, etc., and downsizing. Sourcing issues such as quality, quantity, disclosure requirements, and regionalism were touched upon. Sylvia wound up the talk by identifying company source groups, covering listed company's services and online options.

After providing a nineteenth and twentieth century history on the structure of European business that took into account historical differences, company evolution, and family businesses in Continental Europe, Sylvia discussed legal, regulatory, and financial information as it pertains to companies and specific industries, from details on European Union databases to accounting conventions and differences. Sylvia acknowledged investment and funding resources provide viable sources of information and cited press information on merger and acquisition activity as useful, but she cautioned against the use of credit data as a reliable source.

Sylvia devoted the second part of the seminar to examining the 'Facts Table' section of the extensive seminar workbook. Each European country is included with a detailed set of facts on company structures, disclosure requirements, numbers of large companies, and addresses of important contacts, to name only a few categories. The workbook also

contains a 'Sources Table' section, listing detailed information on relevant resources.

Attendees declared the seminar to be excellent, the best they'd recently attended.

The Upstate New York Chapter received the Library Management Division/ Knight-Ridder Leadership Award to help sponsor the event. Kompass USA sponsored the lunch and gave a brief demonstration.



## Stacking Up Magazines on the Web

By Larry Krumenaker

Special librarians spend a great deal of time obtaining articles for patrons and employers. The Web offers more choices for finding full text journal articles than librarians ever had before.

In compiling Hermograph Press 'Net.Journal Directory, The Catalogue of Full Text Periodicals Archived on the World Wide Web,' we've noticed electronic article archives fall into three categories: publisher websites, new or re-tooled classic dialup services, and information gatherers-turned-archivers.

For a specific publication, you could use a Web search engine and look up the publisher's homepage. You aren't hip if you don't have one but probably less than 10% of them have a past issue archive. The fact is, most publisher sites are 'teasers', with a couple of selected feature articles from the current issue. If a backfile exists, it usually has just one to three years of depth; conversely, current issues often are online at or before print publication.

The best thing about most publisher archive sites? They are often free, if they are a trade publication or a mainstream magazine. (We maintain a list of free archives off our Hermograph homepage.) However, if the periodical is from an academic or scholarly publisher (Springer-Verlag or Academic Press, for example), you probably can't get an article online unless you are a subscriber.

Though publisher homepages are many, the majority of trade and mainstream periodical titles are archived on fee-based services. The classic services, like Dialog, NewsNet, and Dow Jones, finally offer Web access. In some cases, i.e. DialogWeb, there's no substantial difference between the Web and dialup services. There are also new services that had no previous online counterpart. Examples: BioMedNet

gathers over 100 biomedical journals, on a pay-as-you-go system. Electric Library has a library package that is only a few thousand US\$ a year, great if you run a terminal for the public.

The people who gather articles into databases for the dialups have gone into the archive business themselves. Sometimes, more than once. Information Access Company, EBSCO Publishing and UMI have services ranging from inexpensive home and student services (Cognito, Collectanea Personal) to high-annual fee but all-you-can-eat services such as InSite or InfoTrac from IAC, or UMI's ProQuest Direct. Library and corporate archive services start at US\$500 a year for a small subset and don't stop until you've passed US\$10,000 or more. You get a lot of titles, at a high annual price.

You have one more step, getting your copy. If just a hard copy is needed, display the article and click on your browser's Printer icon, or Select File, Print from the Menu bar. For an electronic copy of the text only, do a File, Save As... to a .TXT file. (Unfortunately, graphics must be saved individually, using your right mouse button.) This will remove all HTML coding and graphics; what's left can be cleanly imported into a word processor. If the article is available in Adobe's PDF format, you must obtain a copy (it's FREE!) of Adobe's Acrobat Reader program. With that you will be able to view and print text and graphics indistinguishable from the original publication's pages. Then it is on to the next project.

Larry Krumenaker is Publisher at Hermograph Press, which produces 'Net.Journal Directory.' The spring edition of the semi-annual book contains listings for 7000 periodical titles on 15 Web services and hundreds of free and fee-based Web sites.

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## **International Food Information Services and Abstracts**

By John Metcalf

### **Aims and objectives of IFIS**

IFIS (the International Food Information Services) has always had two distinct arms, (IFIS GmbH in Germany and IFIS Publishing in the UK) and with the passage of time, these have evolved in different directions. Now, each has a completely different function and accompanying mission statement, as follows:

*IFIS GmbH is a not-for-profit organisation commissioning basic and applied research and providing education and training programmes in information science for the international food science, food technology and human nutrition community.*

*IFIS Publishing is a not-for-profit organisation providing user-driven, financially sustainable, quality*

*information products and services to the international food science, food technology and human nutrition community.*

As a result, STAG (Food Science and Technology Abstracts) which in the past has been seen as a joint activity of both arms of IFIS, has become the responsibility solely of IFIS Publishing. The more altruistic activities such as education and research are the remit of IFIS GmbH. There is a further organisational difference in that IFIS GmbH has only one employee (the Managing Director, seconded from the Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft in Frankfurt). He or she will contract out most of the educational programmes and research projects to third parties. In contrast IFIS Publishing has a full complement of staff to carry out its functions (editorial, IT, marketing and product development). As will be seen below, IFIS Publishing and IFIS GmbH come together to work on certain development projects.

### **FSTA on the Web**

For IFIS Publishing the production of FSTA in various media will continue to be the main activity for the foreseeable future, the aim being to make the database available in whatever way the users demand. There has been a dramatic change in usage since 1969: print sales reached their peak in 1980, online in 1989-90, while the CD-ROM sales have increased year on year since the launch at the end of 1990. The next change will be the impact of the Web: with effect from 1 June this year, the last 12 months of input to FSTA has been accessible on the Internet at [www.fsa.ifis.org](http://www.fsa.ifis.org). The most exciting thing about this development is that it will be the most up-to-date version of the database. Also the low price of US\$500 per year for a single user password, or just US\$200 per year if searching is restricted to one of the groups of food commodities.

### **Internet Conference**

IFIS GmbH is looking even further ahead by organising a conference entitled 'Internet access to global food information for industry, academia, government and consumers - promises or solutions?'. This will take place in Frankfurt on 29-30 September 1997. The conference will be complemented by a small exhibition and a cybercafe where participants can surf the Net and discuss the pros and cons of different information sources.

IFIS will be making a special contribution to the conference in that it will be demonstrating a prototype indexed database of Internet resources on food science, technology and human nutrition. This will be a collaborative project in which the UK Institute of Food Research and the University of Giessen's Nutrition Information Centre will be joining the two arms of IFIS.

## **SLA Web site proclaimed 'World-Class' by ASAE**

The SLA web site *www.sla.org* has been selected as a 'World-Class Web Site' by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) in July. The site was selected for an ASAE Foundation study which will catalog and benchmark exceptional web sites that significantly add value to their organisation's missions.

'The SLA has put together an exceptional web site,' the ASAE Foundation wrote. 'Attractive graphics and extensive information resources combined with a well laid-out design and strong navigational support tools give the SLA user a productive resource.'

### **One million visit SLA web site**

In May the SLA announced that its web site had registered more than one million hits in just one year. The site which is sponsored by Disclosure Inc. has provided a new way for members and other information professionals to receive association information. 'This site has emerged as a vital means of communication between the Association and our membership,' says David Bender. 'We are representative of how associations are using technologies to improve member services.'

## **Library and Information Services in Astronomy III**

(LISA III), 'Managing Change Gracefully' in Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Spain from April 21-24, 1998 to be hosted by the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC)

This conference is the third in a series: Library and Information Services in Astronomy I (LISA I) was held at the U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, USA, in 1988. LISA II, an IAU Technical Workshop, was held at the European Southern Observatory, Garching, Germany, in 1995.

### **Aim of the conference**

Library and information services in astronomy have seen sweeping and monumental changes in the last decade, both in methods of information delivery and the kinds of information being delivered. At the same time, demands for traditional services and the importance of retrieval and archiving of older materials have not abated. Indeed, needs have become more acute as historic materials have become more fragile and preservation techniques have not kept pace with the variety of materials to be preserved. What has not changed is the basic function of the librarian: providing information to users in whatever format by whatever methods necessary.

Library and Information Services in Astronomy III will provide an opportunity to examine the current state of

the art of information maintenance, delivery, and preservation, as well as to learn from invited experts the directions in which our profession is moving.

The Keynote speaker will be Ann Okerson from Yale University, USA who will speak on 'Managing change gracefully, challenges and opportunities of integrating tomorrow's technology with yesterday's resources'. LISA III will bring together librarians from astronomical institutes and observatories worldwide as well as astronomers, publishers, and computer specialists active in the field of astronomy.

The LISA III Scientific Organizing Committee cordially invites you to submit contributed talks or poster presentations. Papers are solicited in particular, but not exclusively, on the following topics:

- Access to external resources: hardware and software requirements, costs, responsiveness.
- WWW resources in astronomy.
- User acceptance of electronic information resources and usability studies.
- Influence of electronic publications on librarians' tasks.
- Optimizing communication amongst astronomy librarians in the digital age.
- International collaboration and resource sharing projects in astronomy.
- Handling and care of print and multimedia library resources (CD-ROMs, microforms, observatory publications etc.)
- Setting up WWW user guides for astronomy libraries.
- Accuracy of bibliographic databases / bibliometric studies.

If you are interested in giving an oral or poster presentation, please submit title, author(s) name(s) and affiliation(s), full mailing address(es), fax number(s) and e-mail address(es), as well as a half page abstract to the LISA III email account at *lisa3@iac.es* or send the information to Monique Gomez, Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias Library, Via Lactea S/N, E-38200 La Laguna (Tenerife), Spain Fax: +34 22 605 21. Submission deadline will be November 30, 1997.

A registration fee of approx. \$125 US will be charged to help defray meeting costs and proceedings publication. Limited financial support will be available in order to help colleagues from less economically-advantaged areas. Further announcements on this matter will be made by the Friends of LISA III committee later this year.

The conference will be held 21-23 April 1998, with a visit to Teide Observatory and IAC Headquarters on April 24th. An optional post-conference visit to Roque de los Muchachos Observatory on La Palma Island will be organized on April 25th.

Potential participants are invited to pre-register by e-mailing the organisers at *lisa3@iac.es*. This will

ensure that you will receive updated announcements about the conference as they become available. Additional information can be found on the LISA III WWW site at [www.iac.es/biblio/lisa/](http://www.iac.es/biblio/lisa/)

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