



Special Libraries Association

EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Editor: Neil Infield
+44 (0) 171 680 2214
N.Infield@Hermes.co.uk

SUMMER 1997



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. 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.

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 catalogue 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 association's 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 Astrofisica 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/

Uta Grothkopf, ESO Library, esolib@eso.org
Monique Gomez, IAC Library, mog@ll.iac.es
Sarah Stevens-Rayburn, STScI Library,
library@stsci.edu on behalf of the LISA III Scientific Organizing Committee



The Chapter at Conference Cris Kinghorn.

As ours is the only Chapter extended the privilege of holding a session at conference, it is all the more gratifying when it is so well received! Our theme this year was "Europe: Partnering with the World", which was sponsored by Financial Times Information and interpreted by two individual speakers and a team from the Rothschild Group.

Alex Weld from Toronto, Mary Ann Kalambay from New York, and Veronica Wootliff from London (pictured above l-r), elaborated on the rewards of being part of Rothschilds international network of information professionals and the ways in which their co-operation enables them to better serve their individual user communities, as well as providing a more cohesive information resource for their organisation. Our current ESLY - Tuula Salo of the M



Alex Wood, Mary Ann Kalanbay & Veronica Wootliff

Merita Bank, Finland then covered the internal partnerships helpful when two information units from merging banks are brought together. Our final speaker was Adrian Mc Bride V.P., North America, Financial Times Information, who spoke about the global partnerships the Financial Times is creating to improve the content offered via their electronic products and services. The FT generously donated a bottle of pink champagne as a "door prize" which was won by the current Chapter President, Sylvia James who moderated the session. Everyone who stayed to network after the more formal part of the meeting was over also enjoyed an array of "pink" refreshments, courtesy of the FT, not to mention copies of that day's newspaper! Our grateful thanks are extended to the Financial Times for their support.



The European Chapter Welcomes the following new members:

Jo H M Kierkels, of DSM Research BV, Netherlands.

Philippe Z Van Lint, of National Bank of Belgium, Belgium.

Miss N S Walters, of MRC Business Information Group Ltd, UK

Karan E Brown, of The Coba Group, UK.

Miss Julie Watson, of The Coba Group, UK.

Jonathan Gordon - Till, of Alexander Clay, UK.

Paula Dale, of Heidrick & Struggles, UK.

Edward Lyndall Dicks, of The Coba Group (Coba Consulting Limited), UK.

Ms Sue Pollock, of Ovum Ltd, UK.

Please help us maintain our list of e-mail addresses by sending yours to Paul Pedley at paulpedley@theodregoddard.co.uk