THE NASIG NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the North American Serials Interest Group, Inc.

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NASIG DUES REMINDER / Ann Vidor

At the front of this issue of the Newsletter, you should find a form to send to me for your membership renewal and a form to update the information in the Membership Directory. If you have recently joined NASIG or are in the category to receive a gift subscription, you will only receive the Directory form and not a membership form.

Please note the different deadlines for returning the forms. Each date is based on the schedule for that activity. Individual reminders will be sent out in mid-November if we have not received your renewal. Prompt return of your renewal form would be greatly appreciated.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER / Teresa Malinowski

Our seventh conference, held at the University of Illinois at Chicago, proved to be successful and innovative. The conference, our largest ever, had 506 attendees. This record-breaking attendance was surprising, because the past year was a difficult one economically for many of our institutions and companies. Thanks to all of the 1992 attendees for your participation.

In hindsight, it is hard to imagine the conference being anything but a resounding success. The program was exceptional. Chicago and the UIC campus were hospitable sites for our gathering. In addition to our traditional program offerings, plenary papers, and workshops, the conference featured intellectually rewarding sessions with the Society for Scholarly Publishing. I encourage you to read the conference reports included in this issue. Our proceedings editors, Suzanne McMahon, Pam Dunn, and Miriam Palm (Stanford) have started their work on the conference proceedings, which will be published early next year.

The Chicago Conference was our seventh. Seven may be a lucky number but I assure you the success of the conference was not due to luck but resulted from the efforts of many members. Scores of late registrants presented last-minute scheduling challenges to the 1992 Conference Planning Committee. Jim Mouw (University of Chicago) chaired the committee and received excellent support from Cheryl Bernero (EBSCO), Mary Bonhomme (Chicago Public Library), Gary Brown (Faxon), Linda Jayes (University of Chicago), Ken Kirkland (DePaul University), Elaine Rast (Northern Illinois University), Christine M. Stamison (University of Chicago), and Helen Trucko (University of Illinois at Chicago). Thank you for handling registration and audiovisual arrangements, for planning the social events, meals and transportation; for answering the hundreds of questions and tending to the endless details. You provided a lovely setting for a "jewel" of a conference.

This year was my first opportunity to be involved in program planning. Ann Weller (University of Illinois at Chicago) and I organized the workshops and benefitted from the support of two program veterans, Cindy Hepfer (SUNY Buffalo) and October Ivins (Louisiana State University). Ann Okerson chaired the committee and planned the plenary sessions. Cindy, October, and Ann worked with Pat Scarry and Barbara Meyers (SSP) to organize the concurrent sessions. Many thanks, we all benefitted from your efforts.

I have two favorite memories of the Chicago conference, one unique to NASIG, the other unique to Chicago. I arrived in Chicago on Tuesday evening and was greeted at the airport by Christine Stamison, a member of the Conference Planning Committee. It was our first meeting. Before leaving on Tuesday I received the message, "Christine will pick you up at the airport. Look for a woman with short dark hair and a bright floral blouse." I did. We met, we dined and spent an enjoyable evening discussing serials, library school and Chicago cuisine. It was a typical NASIG experience. What is special about NASIG is the networking and opportunities for personal contacts. I hope our meetings will always be an occasion to renew professional friendships and meet new colleagues.

I will also remember the reception at the Mid-America Club. After a rigorous day of plenary speakers and concurrent sessions with our colleagues from SSP we gathered to share our reactions to the ideas presented that day and to enjoy a sumptuous buffet. From high atop the Amoco building we watched the sun set and the lights come on in downtown Chicago.

Our conference marks the end of one year and the beginning of the next. Before focusing on the coming year, on behalf of the organization I would like to acknowledge the Board members who have completed their terms. Special thanks to Lisa Peterson (Secretary), Minna Saxe (Board member), and Mary Beth Clack (Past President). Also, many thanks to Jean Callaghan who is completing her tenure as Editor-in-Chief. This is Jean's final issue; she has edited this publication since 1990. Their contributions have strengthened our organization.

Planning has begun for our eighth conference to be held at Brown University June 10-13, 1993. Pat Putney and Jean Callaghan will co-chair the Brown Conference Planning Committee. They have

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already started organizing the committee for our first conference in New England. Plans for the 1993 program are taking shape. Cindy Hepfer and October Ivins will co-chair the 1993 committee which will be larger than previous program committees. We want to include more members in this challenging endeavor.

This year all of our committees will have the opportunity to utilize NASIG's new electronic communication abilities. Birdie MacLennan, Chair of the Electronic Publications Committee, with the support of the committee members, will focus their efforts on providing and encouraging NASIG committees to use this wonderful resource. In a future issue, John Tagler and the Strategic Planning Task Force will share the results of the membership survey. This is important because as we approach the end of our first decade as an organization we need to discuss and plan our future.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date/Time/Place: June 17-18, 1992, 2:00PM-7:00PM, 9:00AM-11:30AM, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

Attending:
A. Okerson, President   C. Hepfer
T. Malinowski, V. President   S. Martin
M.B. Clack, Past President   E. Rast
A. Vidor, Treasurer   M. Saxe
S. Davis, Incoming Secretary   J. Tagler
J. Callaghan   D. Tonkery
Incoming Board Members: J. Gammon, B. Hurst
Guest: Jim Mouw

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 24, 1992 Board meeting were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1.   Permanent Address

The Board discussed establishing a permanent address for NASIG and procurement of a NASIG credit card. The cost of a commercial post office box would be $10 per year, plus a deposit for postage. The NASIG Treasurer will be responsible for forwarding mail to the appropriate parties. There was not sufficient interest in the credit card to pursue the matter further.

ACTION: A. Vidor will set up a post office box in Atlanta as NASIG's permanent address.
DATE: Summer 1992

2.   Nominations and Elections Committee

The Board discussed what should be the composition of the Nominations Committee for the 1993 election slate. There was consensus that each year the Nominations Committee has refined and quantified the process of nominations, and that each committee has built on the strength of previous years' experience. The issues of concern to the Board and the NASIG membership in general are: how to get continuity and experience on the Nominations Committee, while at the same time ensuring variety and fairness on the slate. T. Malinowski moved, and D. Tonkery seconded, that the Nominations Committee be comprised of six members, each serving a two-year term, with three rotating off each year. The Chair will have previously served as a committee member. The Past President will serve as an ex-officio member, and the consultant position will be eliminated. The motion carried.

ACTION: The President will appoint the new committee members, leaving half of them in place for one more year, and ask Bill Robnett to continue as Chair.
DATE: Summer 1992

3.   Strategic Survey

J. Tagler reported that as of June 15, approximately 57% of the membership has responded to the survey. J. Tagler proposed and the Board approved a second mailing to non-respondents. Data input is expected to occur during July and August. J. Tagler will analyze the data and share the preliminary analysis with the task force members and the president in September. The report will then be distributed to the Board members.

ACTION: Report distributed to the Board by October 1.
DATE: Discussion of the report at the November 1992 Board meeting.

4. Student Grant Committee

A. Vidor reported that the committee had selected six library science students to be awarded grants this year. Grants were awarded to: Naomi K. Kietzke (University of North Texas), Darryl Dean James (University of North Texas), Jane E. Lecian (Kent State University), Susan B. Sommer (State University of New York at Albany), Lisa A. Rowlison (University of California at Berkeley), and Mary Salony (Clarion University). She noted that the additional publicity, which included posting the announcement on SERIALST and AUTOCAT, proved successful. The number of applications increased 30% over last year. A. Vidor acknowledged Ken Kirkland (DePaul University) for his work on the travel arrangements for the students.

The question of committee membership was discussed briefly. T. Malinowski will contact the current Chair, Harriet Kersey, to discuss possible changes to the committee.

5. Local Arrangements

Jim Mouw, Chair of the committee, distributed conference information binders and reviewed the schedule with the Board. He reported that conference expenses were in line with projections. E. Rast reported that there were 147 non-member registrations for the 1992 conference.

Mouw reported that due to time constraints the Chicago Committee would not meet with the Brown Local Arrangements Committee during the conference. Mouw offered to serve as resource person for the 1993 committee.

A. Okerson noted that the name "Local Arrangements Committee" did not adequately describe the various responsibilities of the Committee and suggested renaming the committee. After some discussion the Board agreed to change the name of the Local Arrangements Committee to [Institution/site] Conference Planning Committee. Also, the Board agreed to change the name of the Program Committee to [Year] Program Planning Committee. The 1992 Conference committees will henceforth be called the University of Illinois at Chicago Conference Planning Committee and the 1992 Program Planning Committee. The Board discussed the need to establish a conference fee for library school students and the need for press passes. No action was taken on these items.

6. Publishing/Proceedings

A. Okerson reported that Suzanne McMahon, current proceedings editor, requested a change in the deadline for submitting copy to Haworth to allow the editors additional time for revision. A. Okerson reported that Haworth had accepted the request to change the deadline from July 31 to August 31, 1992. Haworth will publish the proceedings in February 1993. Authors' deadlines to the editors are July 7, recorders' papers are due in mid-July. C. Hepfer distributed a contents summary for the proceedings. A. Okerson briefly discussed the information on the author release form which was distributed with the agenda.

ACTION: A. Okerson will work with Haworth on the next draft of the author's release form.
DATE: Report at the November 1992 Board meeting.

7. Back Issue Directory

D. Tonkery reported that 188 copies of the directory have been sold, and sales will soon cover the production costs. The Board agreed to publicize the directory in the next issue of the Newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Treasurer's Report

A. Vidor distributed a financial statement for Jan. 1-May 31, 1992 which showed a current balance of $156,387.40. An additional $12,000 in conference income has been deposited since May 31. A. Vidor reported that membership is at 964 but expected to be near 1,000 after the conference. She noted that the practice of attaching renewal notices to the front of the Newsletter proved successful and will become a standard practice.

A. Vidor praised Joan Luke Stephens for her work on the membership database. The Board expressed their appreciation and thanks.

A. Vidor reported she had been approached about NASIG establishing scholarships for library school students and about supporting conference attendance for a serials librarian in their first professional year. M. Saxe noted that given NASIG's financial status the Board also could consider funding a professional awards program. The Board agreed to discuss the expansion of the grant program after reviewing the results of the membership survey and receiving the final costs for the Chicago conference. The Board discussed the need to establish an appropriate cash reserve and explore other investment options. D. Tonkery offered to explore these concerns with an accountant/investment counselor.

ACTION: Report on investment options and recommendation on cash reserve.
DATE: November 1992 Board meeting

2.   Newsletter Editor

T. Malinowski reported that applicants for editor-in-chief will be interviewed within the next two weeks. A selection is expected immediately thereafter. Current editor, Jean Callaghan, will assist the new editor with the first issue of the new term (August 1 submission deadline). Some committee members will remain, but one or more new members will need to be appointed.

3.   Publicity

A. Okerson asked the Board to consider establishing a committee for publicity. T. Malinowski suggested the Board review the publicity efforts handled by existing committees, and assess the need for a new committee.

ACTION: A. Okerson and J. Callaghan will develop a one page summary of the issues and a preliminary charge for the committee.
DATE: November 1992 Board meeting

4.   Gifts and Awards

The Board discussed the recommendations prepared by Kit Kennedy and the need to formalize the mechanism for recognizing Board members, committee chairs and members. The Board asked M.B. Clack to consult with K. Kennedy and form a task force to prepare guidelines for an awards program.

ACTION: Report/recommendation for an awards program.
DATE: November 1992 Board meeting

5.   Secretary's Report

T. Malinowski presented the report prepared by Lisa Peterson on establishing a NASIG Master File. The report noted that various questions concerning procedures, document format and storage needed to be addressed. T. Malinowski asked the Board to reconsider the need for a master file of committee documents. After some discussion the Board agreed to abandon the idea of establishing a master file and continue the practice of having committee chairs maintain committee documents.

ACTION: T. Malinowski will contact committee chairs and discuss documentation.
DATE: Summer 1992

Discussion of documentation continued. Board members asked for clarification on items appropriate for the archives. E. Rast noted that she is still continuing to review the materials sent to her and will distribute to the Board the guidelines for materials to be sent to the archives at the University of Illinois.

6.   Date for 1993 Conference

The Board discussed dates for the 1993 conference and agreed that the conference at Brown University will begin on Thursday, June 10 and conclude on Sunday, June 13, 1993. The Board meeting will be held on June 9.

7.   Site Selection for 1994

The Board discussed the preliminary site survey reports submitted by: Northwest (Mary Devlin, Coordinator, with Laurie Sutherland and Karen Darling); Vancouver (Kat McGrath, Coordinator); and Great Plains (Agnes Adams, Coordinator, with Judy Johnson and E. Gaele Gillespie).

Based on these preliminary reports the Board agreed to pursue four sites: University of British Columbia, University of Washington, University of Oregon, and Lewis & Clark College. The Great Plains area will be considered along with other areas as possible sites for the 1995 conference. A. Okerson will join the members of the Northwest committee and Vancouver committee for site visits at the end of July.

ACTION: Reports on the site visits.
DATE: Early October 1992

8.   Reimbursements

The Board discussed reimbursements and support for the conference and other committee activities. Several members noted that reimbursements have varied from year to year. The Board agreed there was a need to establish guidelines. The following schedule of support was agreed upon:

Plenary session speakers (Non-member): waive full conference registration and pay travel if needed.

Plenary session speakers (NASIG member): waive full registration.

Workshop leaders: maintain current policy of waiving 1/2 registration fee.

Breakout speakers: same schedule as workshop leaders.

Conference Planning Committee: waive 1/2 registration fee for all committee members.

Proceedings editor(s): waive full registration fee and offer a stipend of $250 (to begin with 1992).

Newsletter editor: waive full registration fee (to begin with 1992).

The Board agreed that for other types of committee work, direct costs should be billed to NASIG. NASIG can financially assist with clerical support for committee and project activities.

9.   Next meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in New York City on November 7, 1992. D. Tonkery will arrange for a meeting room and reasonably priced hotel rooms.

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PLENARY SESSION I

CLIFFORD LYNCH, "Entwined: Transforming Scholarly Communications and Libraries in the Age of Networked Information."

Clifford Lynch, Director of Library Automation at the University of California's Office of the President, discussed the effect of technology on scholarly communication and on the role of the library. Lynch believes that the dual missions of the library -- the organizational and the economic -- which have been in harmony for twenty years are now at odds with each other because of changes in the system of scholarly communication. The focus of the library's organizational mission is narrowing when it should be broadening to encompass new formats. This is a result of economic pressures which have created an overemphasis on the journal and thus on the economic role of the library, in which it subsidizes the system of scholarly communication by paying for journals.

The Internet, according to Lynch, is a key component of the changes in scholarly communication. Currently a collection of 4,000 interconnected networks over which billions of packets move per month, it connects at least two million people and 750,000 machines in a web of autonomous, coordinated activity that lacks central control. The Internet is connected to a broader set of networks through which approximately 10 million people in 38 countries exchange email.

The Internet has two roles: its original role as a medium of communication to exchange ideas, teach, learn, and collaborate, and its newer role, as a place for commerce. The commercial role has taken longer to emerge because business has been uncomfortable with the absence of any central control with which to negotiate, but large for-profit groups are beginning to participate. Billing and credit card verification, for example, are two recent business applications on the Internet. This involvement of the for-profit sector in a network that has been considered scholarly will only heighten our confusion about the library's role in the new arena of networked information.

In thinking about this shifting role, Lynch suggested that we characterize the effect of

technology on scholarly communication in terms of the difference between modernization and transformation. Modernization consists of doing the same things we've always done, gaining efficiency through the use of technology, but without fundamentally altering the economics of the system. Transformation, on the other hand, occurs when technology's opportunities are harnessed such that the fundamental procedures of the past are completely revolutionized. Lynch believes we are on the verge of such a transformation to a system in which electronic information is created by groups of scholars and traditional print forms are not used.

Lynch believes that the library's role in this transformed system is unclear. The library's organizational role suggests that theoretically we could be involved even after a fundamental transformation of the scholarly communication system, but instead of involving ourselves in the early stages of this shift, we have put all of our energy into staying abreast of shorter term trends, emphasizing our economic role in the "food chain of scholarly information" by financing subscriptions to print literature. In a modernized model of this system, libraries would acquire material electronically and then print on demand, which would leave underlying economics intact. If we move, however, to a transformed system in which articles are instead acquired on demand, the question arises of how we would manage our costs. We could push costs back to the user, but in doing so we would abdicate our role, and in the long run this would not help our institutions manage the fundamental economic problem.

Pressures created by the shifting economics of a new distribution system, transformed by an article-on-demand model, could lead to computer systems that will track and evaluate frequency of access and citation, author popularity, and other factors in order to set a price on a given article. In this universe, Lynch suggested, it is not inconceivable -- not entirely facetiously -- that there conceivably might be speculation in periodical articles on the futures market.

Lynch is attracted to the user-focus of this acquire-on-demand model but admits that it could worsen a situation that already exists, further narrowing the patrons' already narrow view of what the library can do. In addition, the article must still be delivered from somewhere, and such a shift from collections to access may end in a rupture between research collections on one hand and libraries that emphasize access on the other.

Another challenge that faces libraries in the new arena of networked information, and which Lynch believes we are handling inadequately, is the growth of innumerable databases into a "disorganized jumble of riches." Lynch believes libraries should participate in networked information beyond the ejournal, but that doing so will create an "incredible dilemma" for libraries as they try to apply or adapt old methods to the new environment. Libraries, for example, have traditionally organized information in a cataloging system of heavy per-item investment based on the idea that all items are of lasting value. The Network mixes the lasting with the ephemeral, however, and we need new technologies that will provide quick access to ephemeral material without exorbitant per-item cost if we are to organize this information efficiently.

Libraries must consider carefully what investment they want to make. Libraries have traditionally had a stake in the print publishing world, and have helped finance that print system, but their primary role has been to write checks while others (such as indexing and abstracting services) do the intellectual work of organizing the material. People need help organizing and preserving networked information; this is a role someone needs to play and Lynch believes that libraries could be the ones to play it.

[Report by Ellen Finnie Duranceau, MIT]

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JAMES J. O'DONNELL, "St. Augustine to NREN: The Tree of Knowledge and How it Grows."

James O'Donnell, Professor of Classics at the University of Pennsylvania, believes that the shifts in modes of production and consumption of knowledge that we are beginning to experience are as exciting as the dramatic changes brought about with the first use of writing. In his talk he traced the history of the production and consumption of knowledge in the West in order to examine the parallels between past and future.

Writing began on papyrus, a form that was not at all user-friendly, with each roll 20-25 feet long and a typical text consisting of up to 24 rolls. These rolls served as a prompt script for an oral text; the only mode of access was linear, from start to finish. This rolled papyrus was replaced by the codex format, the now-familiar book consisting of bound leaves. We know little about the rationale for this transition in technologies--the codex was indeed easier to use than the papyrus roll, but this is not generally believed to be the motivation for the shift--but we do know that Christian literature was the earliest application of the new format, which became popular by the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th centuries.

When first introduced, access to the codex was apparently strictly linear, since there is no evidence of running headers or indexing that would indicate other modes of access. Ultimately, however, the codex made possible a new, nonlinear way of accessing a text. Early advances in this vein were carried out by the 6th century monk Cassiodorus who created the first library catalog with annotations that served as a guide and access tool for the monastery's collection. With the development of the codex, the page became the organizing principle and it permitted other attempts at nonlinear access. For example a list of syllogisms in a visual display provided pointers to portions of a text that had typically already been memorized.

A manuscript of Virgil with Petrarch's marginal comments made possible important shifts in the use of the manuscript. For example, O'Donnell pointed out, Petrarch's commentary allowed for multiple forms of access, offering the ideal reader the choice of hopping between text and commentary at will, and subordinating the text for the first time to the needs of the user. Such commentaries allowed more flexible access and marked the beginning of a shift away from the earlier "liveware" system in which one carried knowledge in one's head, to a new system in which memorization was unnecessary given that texts could be accessed for information as needed.

Another example of this shift towards nonlinear access with the advent of the codex is the use of Canon tables for entry into the four Gospel narratives. Numbers in the margins of the texts with passages from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John laid out parallel to each other offered the reader a way to examine what each gospel said about a particular phase in the life of Jesus. Similarly, Cassiodorus wrote a 1000-page commentary on the Psalms with reference marks in the margins and a key to the marginal notes, all designed to help the reader find information on the liberal arts within the Psalms. Thus early users of the codex were already establishing a nonlinear approach to the text, creating access to it from a double remove, with commentary to a text accompanied by an indexing system into that commentary. While reading today is often perceived as a strictly linear process, O'Donnell pointed out that this is not the case. As in the past, the codex page is flexible and accessible, and much of the use of the book today is through nonlinear access, as exemplified by phone books, encyclopedias, cookbooks, and many reference works.

O'Donnell believes that if this nonlinear access is indeed the value we place on information--as the past and present shows--then electronic access will provide a vastly superior method of achieving the same goal. Our ideal form of presentation is still linear, since the scholarly publishing world is held in thrall in a kind of "hypnosis by narrative," but the scholarly monograph is actually a dinosaur of our scholarly publishing system.

The scholarly journal, on the other hand, provides an effective first cut at targeting information to audiences. When combined with citation and subject indexing tools and new electronic formats,

the journal has made information more and more accessible. O'Donnell's idea is that the scholarly world could use the journal as a model and framework for the kind of distribution we need, but that the peer-review process, which is a pre-sorting of articles prior to publication, will need to be rethought and perhaps replaced in an electronic environment by a post-sorting process, carried out after publication.

In this new environment O'Donnell sees the librarian as a helpmate in navigating the user through an increasingly large maze of information. The librarian, in this model, would not be a warehouse operator but a software specialist, a finder-organizer. Librarians, according to O'Donnell, are better equipped than any other group to fill this role, knowing where to go, how to obtain, how to sort and sift, and how to use software tools. The Library also has the advantage of a preexisting central role on campus and is therefore already placed to organize and distribute knowledge worldwide. While publishers may become less important as time goes on, O'Donnell believes librarians are already prepared for a future role. It requires very little theoretical transformation to see librarians as gatekeepers and organizers, and they have already been in the hypertext business, linking what is in one body of information to another body of information through tools such as Library of Congress Classification System.

O'Donnell, then, found few differences between the old means of producing, distributing, and organizing knowledge and the newer means. He believes many of the current changes in this information chain are simply realizations of goals and possibilities that have been implicit for a long time.

[Report by Ellen Finnie Duranceau, MIT]

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PLENARY SESSION I

JULIA BLIXRUD, "Webs That Link Libraries, Librarians, and Information: Evolving Technical Standards for a Networking Age."

Blixrud, the Program Officer for the Council on Library Resources in Washington, D.C., believes that we need an infrastructure built on standards for our new networked environment. In searching for the appropriate metaphor for this necessary infrastructure, Blixrud selected a web or grid which she explained is needed to support scholarly communication. Standards, to extend the metaphor, are the thread of the tapestry, the central pillar for the construction site, that will allow viable links between participants. Blixrud sees the need for standards in twelve categories:

1. Data creation and content. The scholar asks, "What do I put into this? How can I mix this text and image?"; the standards to apply include those in multi-media.

2. Data structure, storage, and handling. The scholar asks, "How can I store this efficiently?"; the standards to apply include those for bitmapped images, standard generalized mark-up languages, and data compression.

3. Data identification, description, and display. The scholar asks, "How can I present this on screen and avoid duplication and redundancy?"; the standards to apply include such things as AACR2, ISSN, ISBN, SICI and the ISBD.

4. Data transfer, distribution, and production. The scholar asks, "How can I share and exchange data?"; the standards to apply include ASCII, MARC, SISAC's X12, and those for File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

5. Data integrity. The scholar asks: "How can I be sure data I add doesn't get corrupted and that I am receiving uncorrupted data?"; the standards to apply include timed backups in word processing, retrieval for deleted files, and credit card verification.

6. Operating Systems.

7. Access Systems and User Interface. The scholar asks "How can I access other systems?"; the standards to apply include Graphical User Interfaces, Expert systems and gateways, light pens and touch screens, voice-activated systems, and personal digital interactive appliances.

8. Communication systems and protocols. The scholar asks: "Where do I connect?"; standards to apply include OSI, LSI, and TCP/IP.

9. Connectivity. The standards to apply include those for all telecommunications work, including wires, fiber optics, Local area networks, and cellular phones.

10. Navigation and directory services. The scholar asks, "where is the answer to my question? Where am I and how do I get home?"; standards to apply include McGill's Archie, the Coalition for Networked Information, Thinking Machines' Wide Area Information Server (WAIS), and the University of Minnesota's Gopher, among others.

11. Tracking. The scholar asks: "Who do I owe?"; standards to apply address accounting needs.

12. Archiving and Preservation. Blixrud noted that librarians are probably the only players interested in this aspect of electronic information.

Blixrud concluded that many of our old tried-and-true standards, such as the ISSN, will continue to serve us well, and that others can be modified slightly to accommodate new formats.

[Report by Ellen Finnie Duranceau, MIT]

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PLENARY SESSION I

ANITA LOWRY, "Landlords and Tenants: Who Owns Information, Who Pays for it, and How?"

Anita Lowry, Deputy Head of the Butler Reference Department and Director of the Electronic Text Service (ETS) at Columbia University, set the theme for her talk by asking whether libraries are becoming tenants rather than landlords in the world of information, as the shift from collections and ownership towards access or leasing takes place. She described copyright as the need to balance the exclusive rights of the author against the nonexclusive rights of the users of works, and suggested that the authors' rights are heavily favored in the current system.

Information is a commodity and can be dealt with according to the rules of economics, but, Lowry said, we also need to encourage the educational uses of information. The tension between the economic and the educational uses of information requires a balanced copyright law that recognizes the social purpose of information. This social purpose is revealed in the Doctrines of Fair Use, First Sale, and reproduction rights in libraries and archives. Fair Use has been understood as allowing individuals to make copies; libraries, also, have been granted leeway, in that they may make copies of five articles from a given periodical in a five-year period before they must pay royalties. The Right of First Sale limits the author's control once the work is sold, such that the library can lend, resell, or give away a work that has been purchased. This has worked well for print material, and we have come to consider this post-purchase control by the library a fundamental part of the library's role.

Electronic formats have not, however, followed the same pattern of copyright allowances. According to the law, only one backup of a given software package is allowed, and many producers lease rather than sell CD-ROM products, so that the library is not actually acquiring a title. As for online databases, they have according to Lowry "obliterated the last semblance of the library's control over the physical object."

The practical implications of the copyright and

ownership restrictions for electronic products have become clear in Lowry's day-to-day management of Columbia's Electronic Text Service, which was established in 1988 to access advanced computer-based services in the humanities and history. Lowry pointed out that a librarian must examine both the copyright statement and the license agreement on an electronic product in order to determine the actual restrictions that are in place. In doing so, the librarian should ask whether the library is a landlord or a tenant, that is, whether the library has bought or leased the material. Very few copies of electronic products are sold outright, according to Lowry. In scrutinizing a new product's agreement, the librarian should be aware of its restrictions on wholesale copying, which is forbidden in all cases; on printing and downloading, which is generally allowed for personal use only rather than for a course; on the purpose of use and who may use; and on the disposition of the copy, that is, whether it will be a permanent addition to the collection (as in the case of H.W. Wilson disks) or whether it must be returned when the subscription expires, as in the case of most SilverPlatter products. Noting how common the latter arrangement is, Lowry suggested we may be paying owner's rates for renter's rights in the marketplace of electronic information.

Lowry believes that publishers are using licensing agreements to limit access to their products so that they can maintain control of product revenues. She recommends that librarians read the fine print, have patrons get permission to download and print on a larger scale, and become "supertenants," acting as educated consumers, vigilant and aware of the restrictions on products, and negotiating when necessary. Such an active stance is essential if librarians are to fight successfully for libraries' needs.

[Report by Ellen Finnie Duranceau, MIT]

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PLENARY SESSION II

KAREN SCHMIDT, "Professionals or Profession-less, Information Engineers or ???: Transforming Technical Services Librarianship"

Karen Schmidt, Head, Acquisitions Systems, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presented the final plenary paper "Professionals or profession-less, information engineers or ???: transforming technical services librarianship." Schmidt cited two articles (one authored by Ross Atkinson, the other written by Gillian McCombs) that could serve as useful vehicles for examining the impact of technology on libraries. Both Atkinson and McCombs provided debatable theories in their articles, including a future that could exclude librarianship.

Schmidt raised some questions that librarians need to consider in order to remain vital and viable in this technological era. What kind of relevance does information science have with regard to librarianship? Does a knowledge of information science help us in the way that we acquire material? Isn't the single most important factor for librarianship in the future funding, and not technology?

The greatest impact on technical services departments is automation, although as Schmidt pointed out, it does not change the basic fundamentals of acquiring knowledge. It has, however, forced librarians to rethink the overall acquisitions process. Certain jobs must be redefined, and some procedures must be altered to adapt to new publishing patterns, especially with the advent of the electronic book.

Our job, as technical services librarians, is to "keep in touch" with the entrepreneurial world. Librarianship always has managed to cope with the "for-profit" market, and we should continue to work with vendors and publishers, not against one another. Our future should not be a resistance to technology, but how best we, and those that market it, can adapt it to improve our acquisitions procedures.

[Report by Jean Callaghan, Wheaton College]

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NASIG/SSP JOINT PLENARY SESSIONS

CHARLES B. REED, "Higher Education in the 90's: Growth, Regression, or Status Quo"

In keeping with NASIG's tradition of fostering cooperation among all participants in the information chain, one day was devoted to joint meetings with the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP). In the first of the joint plenary sessions, Charles B. Reed, Chancellor of the State University System of Florida, spoke on "Higher education in the 90s: Growth, regression or status quo."

Dr. Reed stated that at a time of historic shifts in politics and education, universities are coming under pressure. Several prestigious universities have been accused of crimes and misdemeanors ranging from laziness, knuckling under to special interest groups and inflating athletes' grades to fraud, peculation and price fixing. Universities no longer enjoy the unquestioning respect once accorded to them. With rising costs and budgets stable or shrinking, non-academics are asking whether more research is being produced than society is willing to pay for. Do we really need all those journals? In response to pressure of this kind, a trend is developing away from publication as the sole criterion of faculty promotion. Some universities have begun to offer financial rewards for good teaching.

Universities are short of two things: money and public confidence. Although the days of limitless wealth are over, an upturn in the economy, not yet perceptible in peoples' lives but visible to economists, will make more money available in the next few years. Electronic and networking technology - CD-ROMs and e-journals - will also help to spread resources over a wider area than the conventional library can ever reach. Access, rather than collections, will need to become the criterion by which the scholarly resources of a university are judged in competitive ranking.

Unless scholars and librarians re-establish the credibility of their institutions, money may flow back into the higher education system, but public confidence will not. What can people in academic life do to combat the crisis of confidence? The answer is to talk about it - tell people how important scholarly research is. When the Wall Street Journal questions the cost-effectiveness of much scholarly activity, reply. When research topics are held up to ridicule, explain their importance. It will take time, but the crisis can be overcome.

[Report by Margaret Ferley, Concordia University]

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NASIG/SSP JOINT PLENARY SESSIONS

WILLARD MCCARTY, "A Potency of Life: Scholarship in an Electronic Age"

A quotation from Milton's Areopagitica provided the title for "A potency of life: Scholarship in an electronic age," by Willard McCarty, Assistant Director, Centre for Computing in the Humanities, University of Toronto. He pointed out that at the center of scholarship in the humanities since the Renaissance has been the printed book, which until recently has been the most powerful tool for the wide dissemination of knowledge. Now that universities are experiencing a crisis of knowledge, the forces of innovation are forcing us to re-examine the book. In this context, he proposed to discuss two phenomena: the electronic seminar in the humanities and the electronic edition, or electronic book. To understand these, it is necessary to look at the nature of electronic data and the nature of scholarship.

Electronic data are changeable; by their very nature they are fundamentally mutable. Being quick and easy to copy and transmit, they are ideal as a primary vehicle for scholarship. A 'community of scholars' is how Jaroslav Pelikan defined a university in his recent work The Idea of a University. For this group of scholars, communication is an imperative, and electronic technology is influencing the way they communicate.

Electronic communication affects collaboration by making it easy to create invisible colleges. While these have long existed in the sciences, they are relatively new to the humanities, which have

traditionally communicated by means of the book. The increase in interdisciplinary studies encourages this trend.

At the same time, the economic crisis is giving rise to experiments in electronic publishing. The fact that electronic text is mutable is the source both of resistance to it and of its liveliest possibility: namely that it can be used in an impermanent way to test ideas. Electronic talk over the Internet, informal and interdisciplinary, can "tease out values from the dross." It erases age, sex, race and affiliation and so comes closer than anything else has ever done to realizing Pelikan's idea of a pure community of scholars.

Even newer, and thus harder to analyze in terms of its effects, is the electronic edition, defined as a "machine-readable version of an established text and the software designed to access it". Such undertakings as the Dartmouth Dante Project and the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae do more than make information widely accessible that was formerly available only to a few. They change the way we interact with texts. Electronic editions have pedagogical effects - they enable "cognitive self-portraits" to be created.

Whereas a printed critical edition incorporates the editor's decisions, the electronic edition can incorporate the editor's choices. This new form, halfway between the raw text and the book, can open up the process of thought.

Milton said that books have a "potency of life" within them. How does the soul of a book, the "expressive power of written language," change when the text becomes electronic, when the medium changes the content? It is the fundamental task of the scholar to "emerge from provinciality, to find what is true amid the noise." In order to resist electronic determinism, we must understand two things: the character of the medium and the kind of world we want.

[Report by Margaret Ferley, Concordia University]

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NASIG/SSP CONCURRENT SESSION A

New Strategies for Publishing

Robert Bovenschulte, Vice President for Publishing at the New England Journal of Medicine, presented "Economic Pressures and Options for Change: Choices for Scholars, Librarians, and Publishers." He had offered a group of propositions at the Society for Scholarly Publishing's Top Management Round Table which were subsequently published in the SSP newsletter and also referred to in Marcia Tuttle's Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues. Using these propositions as a springboard, Bovenschulte discussed the options for change available to librarians, scholars, and publishers, and then developed three possible scenarios predicting what we might see in the publishing marketplace in the near future.

Bovenschulte's predictions were:
1. The economic base underlying the system of scholarly communication is showing increasing strain and the situation is not likely to improve; traditional funding sources are inadequate to the demands and new sources have not been identified.
2. Economic circumstances will force scholars to bear a greater portion of the financial burden for the system. Libraries will not receive a substantial increase in funding so will not be able to continue to provide the level of support for the system that they have been providing.
3. Librarians will be increasingly driven to economize by reducing acquisitions. Incentives for them to compete with publishers will grow.
4. Publishers will face declining demand, higher costs, and lower profit margins for print publications, forcing them to rely even more heavily on economies of scale if they are to survive.
5. Publishers will feel pressured to justify that what they contribute to the scholarly communication process is worth what they charge.
6. Technical innovations affecting the scholarly process will alleviate the situation but not remedy it because funding constraints will retard full adoption of the new technologies.

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Technology will be underexploited because new capabilities will outstrip the availability of cash to support them.

7. Technological improvements in the efficiency of producing print will delay, but not avoid, the day of economic reckoning for most publications.

8. The demand for document delivery will grow substantially and it will become a substantial business, driven by for-profit or possibly not-for-profit groups, but the economics of print publishing will be adversely affected by the drop in demand for print publications.

9. There is a greater than 50% probability that the government will emerge as a larger and more aggressive player, harming other publishers. A consensus will emerge that we need public and not-for-profit institutions controlling and managing the distribution of scholarly information, especially when it has been generated by public funds.

10. Copyright issues will eventually begin to be settled more often in favor of users, not providers, of information. The overarching goal of dissemination will erode the claims of creators and distributors of information.

11. Those seeking to take over the role of the publisher from established companies will find that it looks easier to do from the outside than it is; there are no "pools of predatory profits" lying around waiting to be used in the publishing industry.

Each constituency, publishers, librarians, and scholars, faces choices given these predictions or propositions, according to Bovenschulte. Scholars can choose to spend more of their own budget to support the current system; can join forces with librarians to make a case for dramatically increased funding; can radically change the communication process so that libraries and publishers are bypassed; or they can muddle through with reduced services available to them. Librarians can increase deselection, resource sharing, and document delivery; can push the system toward a crisis by revolting in a kind of collective action against publisher's price increases; can form coalitions with scholars to campaign for greater funding, in a kind of political action; or they can usurp the function of the traditional publisher. Publishers can maintain their current financial policies and strategies; can sacrifice profit

margins in an accommodation to the pressure of the system; can innovate in production and distribution technologies so that they can hold costs down; or they can merge and acquire in order to maintain revenues and spread overhead costs, attempting to increase economies of scale. This last option for publishers, Bovenshulte noted, has already begun to happen.

Bovenschulte's three possible scenarios for the future were that everything gets a lot worse in the near term, with prices and costs shooting up, creating severe dislocations that threaten the system; or, in a less cataclysmic scenario, that economic trends get a little worse but at the same pace we have been experiencing, deepening the gap between librarians and scholars by reducing and impairing services and functions, but not pushing the system to a breaking point; or, in the most optimistic scenario, that there is a resurgence of long-term funding that takes place because of the recognition that global competition requires more reinvestment in education at all levels. The audience, by show of hands, believed that scenario two, the slowly worsening climate, was the most likely to come to pass.

Maria L. Lebron, Managing Editor of the On-line Journal of Current Clinical Trials (OJCCT), a joint venture of OCLC and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) spoke about the historical background of the new online journal, the manuscript processing workflow and timing, and, in lieu of an online demo, showed slides of various screens from the new product, which was at the time of the talk expected to be available July 1.

Lebron emphasized that the journal is an online publication of peer-reviewed articles in a journal form, not a bulletin board or email system. The author cannot upload his or her article to the journal, for example; submission is the same as for a hard copy journal. This particular format for the journal was selected because of the culture of the medical community, for whom the peer review process is critical. The journal is released only online.

In describing the history of developing the OJCCT, Lebron reviewed the elements that were considered essential for an electronic journal and

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the kinds of barriers that arise when creating this kind of publication. The publishers believed that an electronic journal should be self-contained, accessible, interactive, fast, secure, and easy to use. At the same time, technical limitations (such as special characters, complex graphics, and hardware requirements) can prevent success, as can economic limitations (such as storage or equipment costs), or inadequate audience education. For example, the audience must understand the difference between peer-reviewed and bulletin-board style electronic journals, must overcome the habits of using the book format and relying on it for support of the promotion process, must be convinced that other scholars will see the journal and cite its articles, that it has permanence and validity as a scholarly record, and that intellectual property rights are advantageous. (Lebron pointed out that copyright laws for electronic journals are very hazy still, and that to register copyright, the OJCCT must at this time submit the journal in hard copy to the Library of Congress.)

The AAAS/OCLC joint venture that produced the OJCCT is called "Primary Journals Online," and is an umbrella under which the groups plan to publish a series of online journals. They began with a journal on clinical trials, a research activity that involves the administration of a test treatment and analysis of data, because this research is suited to the current technology: it is highly statistical, does not require half-tone illustrations, and was characterized by a perceived need for the quick dissemination of quality information.

Lebron described the major characteristics of the OJCCT. It contains many of the elements present in a print journal, including methodological papers, editorials, letters, etc. The text is typeset quality and contains graphs and tables; The journal is fully searchable, using key words and boolean logic (including proximity operators and wild cards), and a document may be viewed by components, such as the methods, the title, or the results. Any report, letter, or result that is generated in response to an original article are linked electronically to the original, and the user is made aware of the related material when scanning the original. The OJCCT has hypertext links to Medline, so that it is possible to read a Medline abstract for an article referred to in an article in the OJCCT without leaving the OJCCT. It is possible to download or print right at your workstation or PC.

Lebron described the process by which an article is peer-reviewed and then published in the OJCCT. After submission and peer review, the journal, if accepted, is released within 48 hours. The text is sent to OCLC for coding in SGML, or Standard Generalized Markup Language, which makes sophisticated access to the text possible. The AAAS then gets a facsimile transmission of the first page, while the author receives a copy for proofreading which is returned with corrections to OCLC, and then mounted online in simultaneous worldwide transmission.

The journal can be accessed in two ways. Non-subscriber users can access it through OCLC's EPIC system, which provides the journal in ASCII format with text and tables but without illustrations. It is also available to subscribers in its full electronic format through Guidon, which is a Windows-based system that comes on a disk to the subscriber. Subscribers must have at least a 286-level IBM PC or compatible, but a 386 machine is recommended since it loads Windows more quickly. Also required is a 2400 or 9600-speed modem, Microsoft Windows 3.0 with a mouse, and four megabytes RAM. A third access method, through a Graphical User Interface on Internet, is expected to be available sometime near the end of 1992. A methodological glossary will also be available, linking technical terms in the articles to a dictionary definition that will appear in a window.

The question and answer session following the presentations included a discussion of whether the OJCCT is really a "journal," or more a "sophisticated database." Lebron commented that she was told at the Library of Congress that she had created "an environment," but that she is using the term "journal," since it is the only one available right now and because they have retained many features of the traditional journal, such as peer review. A new word may be needed in the future. Lebron also clarified that they do not now carry advertisements, and that it is permissible to mount OJCCT on a Local Area Network, but that only one user is permitted to access the file at a time.

[Report by Ellen Finnie Duranceau, MIT]

Price Studies: Why and How

Barbara Meyers, President of Meyers Consulting Services, introduced a session called "Price studies: Why and how". She observed that the most common type of price study undertaken by publishers is that which measures the number of cents per 1,000 words or per 1,000 characters. Useful as these are, they need to be supplemented by other measures of a journal's impact, such as citation counts and the number of reprints requested from UMI.

Lynn Fortney, Marketing Manager, Biomedical Division, EBSCO Subscription Services, discussed EBSCO's Index Medicus price study. Medical librarians face special problems when they try to analyze collection strength: collections tend to be shelved by title rather than by class number, and subject areas are apt to increase sharply and suddenly in size. Using as a base the approximately 3,000 titles that make up Index Medicus, EBSCO selected only those titles still active and chose the non-member, United States surface mail rate as the standard price. Careful pruning of the approximately 183 subject headings in Index Medicus produced a subject authority list reduced to 114 entries.

The next step was to assign subject headings. EBSCO used Medline to look at articles in each of the journals in question. Price analyses using the information gained in this way reveal such horrors as a 313% increase in the cost of acquiring all literature on AIDS.

Because American purchasers can be the victims of currency fluctuations when they buy the many medical titles that emanate from outside the US, EBSCO also issues a report analyzed by country of origin. The Index Medicus study appears in Serials Review and is also available privately from EBSCO.

Deana Astle, Head of Technical Services at Clemson University Libraries, addressed the need for price studies. Costs are rising, and salaries are in competition with materials budgets.

Ownership is being replaced by access: an ARL graph covering the period 1985/86 to 1990/91 shows a drop of 2% in serials subscriptions while registering an increase of 47% in interlibrary borrowing. Price studies provide the information libraries need to manage this crisis.

Such measures as cents per 1,000 words or characters and dollars per page can be used to flag titles for inspection, though of course they cannot assess the quality of a journal or its usefulness to a given collection. On the other hand, a very large journal can be too expensive to continue even if its unit cost is low; a number of libraries have cancelled subscriptions to Brain Research for this reason.

Longitudinal studies, i.e., those which analyze the behavior of their subjects over time, are especially useful. An example is Kenneth E. Marks and Steven P. Nielsen, "A Longitudinal Study of Journal Prices in a Research Library," (Serials Librarian 19, no.3/4 (1991): 105-129). Such studies allow librarians to see how each title behaves in relation to others in its field and to review those whose price falls outside a given standard deviation.

Another study, which appeared in the same issue of Serials Librarian, (Dorothy Milne and Bill Tiffany. "A Survey of the Cost-Effectiveness of Serials: A Cost-Per-Use Method and Its Results,": 137-150) assessed whether it was costlier to subscribe to a journal or to deliver the needed articles through interlibrary loan. They found 44% of the titles examined to be cost-ineffective for subscriptions. Interestingly, they found no correlation between the cost-effectiveness of a title and faculty opinion of it.

Astle ended with a plea for more price studies. In discussion she remarked that such information can be useful in the event of a sudden need to cancel and that it is the responsibility of librarians to supply the necessary information to those who make cancellation decisions.

[Report by Margaret Ferley, Concordia University]

Copyright and Licensing in the Electronic Environment

Anita Lowry, Department Head for the Butler Reference Department at Columbia and Director, Electronic Text Service (ETS) for Columbia, drew from her experience managing the ETS to describe the models that currently exist for the control, access, and pricing of electronic texts. The Electronic Text Service (ETS) is a collection of computer-based source materials, including text, data, and bibliographic databases. The collection includes, for example, the complete works of religious, philosophical, and literary figures; the French language database ARTFUL; PERSEUS, which comprises surviving works of ancient Greece and Rome; and DANTE.

Lowry described four models for the control of electronic texts. The first, ownership, is fundamental to library service and is based on Section 109 of the Copyright Act, called the "Doctrine of First Sale," which limits the rights of the author once the work has been sold. This model, Lowry said, has been abandoned for electronic publications because publishers are nervous about ceding rights. In a second model, the permanent license model, the publisher retains all rights of ownership and there is significant restriction on use, but the purchaser can retain the resource indefinitely. Most monographic materials fall into this category, but of the commercial bibliographic CDs, only H.W. Wilson uses this model, allowing libraries to retain superseded disks. The temporary license model is Lowry's least favorite, but also, she explained, the most prevalent. It is standard for UMI and SilverPlatter, for example, and involves temporary possession. Libraries must return superseded disks and all of their holdings should they cancel their subscription. The final model Lowry described is that of online dissemination, the most worrisome of all for libraries in terms of retention and control of information. What is sold is essentially access for a limited time and in limited quantities. This leaves the library at the mercy of commercial publishers' decisions to make certain databases continuously available, and a recent example of the vulnerability of libraries on this point was Dialog's

decision to drop the MLA Bibliography. Libraries cannot count on commercial publishers to continue to offer databases that are not economically viable, and this model leaves them open to serious lack of access.

Lowry also reviewed models for access to electronic texts. She covered two: access according to the number of users of the resources, and access restricted by classes or categories of users of the resources. In the first model, Lowry described the paradox which has characterized the marketplace, in which the computer allows sophisticated retrieval but publishers fear wide use, so the "genie of electronic access" is kept in the bottle by single user access. The second model tries to limit use to, for example, only students of a certain school or department, forcing librarians to police materials.

Pricing and payment models included pay-per-use, or transaction pricing, which makes library budgeting difficult and has often led to libraries passing the cost along to the user; flat rate pricing, which has been a factor in the unprecedented success of CD-ROMs; and a hybrid model, in which a flat-rate annual subscription for a certain number of searches is offered.

Sanford Thatcher, the Director of the Penn State University Press, began his talk by stating that copyright is not an obstacle to progress in an electronic age. While there are many calling for a "bloody revolution" against publishers and the replacement of copyright law, Thatcher believes that powerful practical and political forces make the overturning of traditional copyright law unviable. Copyright is succeeding on an international level as never before and we see for the first time the possibility of Western domination of copyright control; the copyright industry is used to help the trade imbalance; the 1976 Copyright Act took a massive effort to create and Congress does not have time to undertake a revision; and a conservative Supreme Court will not challenge fundamental property law. All of these factors mean that a revolution is unlikely. The question, Thatcher suggested, is how we can improve the current system.

Improvement will come by rethinking the question, but not the concept, of ownership. We need to

reallocate costs without turning over copyright as it exists. Thatcher believes that the law gives the University a very strong ground on which to retain control over the copyright of all the work done by its faculty. Universities missed their opportunity to take control when they did not offer photocopying services on-campus, and now commercial firms make the profit on these copies. Examples such as the system at Northeastern University, in which the University press works in conjunction with Kinko's to provide copyright clearance and copying, could allow Universities to operate effectively without an abandonment of current law.

There are in fact many signs that abandonment is not necessary; the litigation against Kinko's, the immunity for State Governments in which judicial interpretation was amended by legislation, and the fact that the 1976 Act was written with technological change in mind, all suggest that the current law is adequate. The solutions we need fall into four operational areas: the development of technical devices for encrypting and compiling each article with a copyright notice, which Thatcher believes is our best approach; creative licensing agreements, which are still in early stages of development; reallocation of economic costs and the restructuring of publishing, since scholarly journals often don't pay their way, and publishers can't pass the cost along because the subscriber will cancel and move to simply copying the journal; and moral education, to get our thinkers to learn what is for the public good and in their own enlightened self-interest.

Thatcher elaborated on the third of these solutions, suggesting that the notion that University Presses can somehow rescue libraries by taking over publications that are now in the hands of commercial publishers is untenable. Only the largest University presses can even manage to continue publishing journals, which are economically unviable and are usually subsidized. These presses are being asked to become self-supporting more and more frequently, as the recent decree to Stanford's University Press attests. One possible way to change the economics of the system would be to have university presses publish monographs electronically, doing copy-editing and editorial work at the press and then depositing the text in an electronic database maintained cooperatively by a consortium such as the Big Ten.

The greatest obstacle facing presses in making this kind of change is getting the faculty to accept electronic publication as a vehicle for promotion and tenure, but they may be driven to change because of the economic unviability of print publication. We may move to an environment in which university presses do syntheses, mid-list trade books, and electronic formats only, while monographic and journal publishing will devolve back onto society publishers who will then distribute titles over the Internet to scholars.

Thatcher questioned whether, in this kind of restructuring, something would be lost to scholars. If too much publishing is taken over by societies, we may lose flexibility and the important role young scholars play in the peer review process. Thatcher wondered whether, for example, if societies had controlled all publication, women's studies have been able to evolve, since university presses did a great deal to allow this field to develop.

[Report by Ellen Finnie Duranceau, MIT]

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NASIG/SSP CONCURRENT SESSION D

Preservation: Future Strategies for Retaining the Past

John Tagler, Director of Corporate Communications, Elsevier, convened a session called "Preservation: Future strategies for retaining the past." The first speaker, Jan Merrill-Oldham, Preservation Librarian at the University of Connecticut, prefaced her discussion with a look at non-electronic preservation. In spite of the prospect of electronic technology as a medium of conservation, most of the record of our past is, and will remain, in non-electronic forms. Methods of preserving this material will continue to be needed and used. She suggested some ways that librarians and publishers could cooperate for this purpose.

Librarians can demand, and publishers can issue, books whose paper and cloth meet ANSI standards. Microform publishers should issue products that meet the admittedly complex standards for silver halide microforms and

librarians in charge of collections must be prepared to handle these materials wisely. They should make the necessary use and master copies and store archival copies in a way that protects them from humidity and from contamination by lignin. Institutions unable to follow all standards for storing archival microforms should consider giving their collections to research libraries where the standards are in place.

To make the most efficient use of resources for microreproduction projects, universities should make good item level bibliographic records for microforms and publishers should consult with research institutions before undertaking projects.

Merrill-Oldham then discussed electronic technologies, as both objects and as media of preservation. Electronic records are surprisingly unstable. A recent House of Representatives report (1) explains why several major government data files are now unreadable. Magnetic tape can wear out, optical disks can lose data. Obsolete hardware and software can make data impossible to access: information has effectively disappeared if it was stored in an incompatible video format, created by an obsolete operating system, or stored on tape or disk without a machine which can still read it. At present, efforts to preserve and access this material are spotty and inconsistent.

The archival community tends to misunderstand the problems of electronic data storage. Technology is the problem, not the solution. All the same, there are measures that can be taken. Standards for data transfer are needed. Publishers and research institutions should lobby for development standards. Publishers who issue CD-ROMs on the basis of lease, rather than sale, must ensure that the originals are archived.

Merrill-Oldham described several projects undertaken to study electronic preservation. Cornell is using a scanner to input the contents of 500 brittle books from its mathematics collection. Yale has undertaken a feasibility study to examine the prospect of creating a digital library from existing archival microfilm. In Spain, material from the American colonial period is being digitized, stored on optical disc, and put on a network.

David Cohen, Director of Libraries, College of Charleston, looked at the problem from a single, practical point of view. How can a copy of an out-of-print book be obtained? Books go-out-of print quickly because there is not enough demand for many copies of a given book. Yet a demand remains for a few copies of a large number of books.

Cohen described two projects that address this issue. The first was the Cornell project mentioned earlier. Texts scanned as images at the rate of 1,500 pages a day are transmitted to a printer capable of printing 135 pages per minute. The quality is high and, at about $100 per book, the cost is reasonable. The process also produces on-screen images so that users may browse the book's table of contents and have all or just selected parts of the text printed on demand.

Cohen next discussed another project, one dealing with books which are out-of print but still in copyright. He is involved with a proposal to create a corporation, to be called Ibid, which would ask publishers to assign a title to the corporation when a book is about to go out-of-print. Ibid would make a digital image of the text from which copies could be printed on demand. Ibid would pay copyright fees to the publisher for any copy made. The publisher would be able to withdraw the title at any time.

While the plan would require the cooperation of publishers, it offers advantages which may encourage them to agree to it. It enables the publisher to satisfy the reader, to maintain a relationship with the author, to have access to the electronic image, and to gather market information. A problem with the plan is that publishers may worry that books could be published illegally: electronic images are hard to control.

(1) U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Government Operations. Taking a Byte out of History: The Archival Preservation of Federal Computer Records. 101st Cong., 2d sess., 1990. H. Rept. 101-978.

[Report by Margaret Ferley, Concordia University]

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Regional Library Networking: New Opportunities for Serving Scholarship

Barbara Von Wahlde, Associate Vice President for University Libraries, State University of New York at Buffalo, and Jim Neal, Dean, University Libraries, Indiana University, offered two views of successful regional library networks. Enhanced information delivery and cooperative resource sharing are major components of each network.

Von Wahlde's library network region is comprised of the four University Centers within the New York system: Buffalo, Albany, Stony Brook, and Binghamton. Through utilization of available technology the University Center libraries have been able to pursue a number of cooperative collection development and resource sharing ventures. Among these are joint licensing of electronic databases and coordinated access to databases through campus mainframe computing networks. Efforts to strengthen and improve the delivery system have allowed the Centers to minimize collection overlap while focusing collection building on the campus mission.

Jim Neal described the State University Library Automation Network (SULAN) in Indiana. SULAN is a statewide information services network consisting of more than 150 libraries and private institutions. The collective database contains more than 8 million records. Resource sharing and document delivery are important aspects of the network. Expanded access to additional services, cooperative collection and resource development and collaborative efforts, such as a joint acquisitions module, are developments currently underway or being studied.

Both presenters offered a glimpse of what regional networking promises for the future of libraries. By working together the resources and services of the network members are synergistically transformed for the benefit of students and scholars.

[Reported by Agnes Adams, University of Nebraska, Lincoln]

Z39.1 - You Just Don't Understand! Librarians and a Publisher Discuss the Standard for Periodicals Format and Arrangement

Regina Reynolds, Acting Head, National Serials Data Program, Library of Congress, explained that Z39.1, a NISO (National Information Standards Organization) standard, was established by publishers and librarians working on the same committee. With both sides working together, it was hoped that a mutual understanding of each other's needs would form an agreement of some acceptable standards for periodicals. Hopefully, this would be an important first step that would lead to a future dialog between publishers, who produce the serials, and librarians, who provide bibliographic description, access and control of these serials.

Specifically, the Z39.1 standard established requirements for format and arrangement of periodicals that would make them easier to identify, catalog, preserve, and access. Reynolds pointed out that Z39.1 was unique among NISO standards. The lack of adherence to it would not have disastrously negative effects while adherence would have dramatically beneficial consequences: the savings of time and money for libraries, and easier identification, use, and retention of periodicals.

Z39.1 is not a new standard, according to Reynolds. It was first published in 1935 with revisions in 1943, 1957, and 1977, but it is not well known. This is not surprising, as it is not available now and also is woefully out of date. At present, a committee is working on its revision. The current draft was balloted in December 1990 with 3 no votes, 28 yes votes, 7 yes votes with comments, 2 abstentions, and 7 comments from interested parties. The negative votes and conflicting comments have not been resolved and, because of other factors, no new draft has been sent out for balloting.

Reynolds emphasized the importance of Z39.1, especially in these days of budget cuts and reduced staff providing serials control. She stated that Z39.1 is a standard in need of support and this

need was the purpose of her presentation. She wanted her audience to believe in the need for librarians and publishers to understand how they could help each other.

By showing a few examples on how difficult it is to determine the title proper of certain serial publications. Reynolds demonstrated the current relevancy of having a revised Z39.1. She then described the scope of Z39.1, which is limited to conventional paper periodicals, more narrowly defined than in AACR2, because it excludes newsletters, newspapers, series, and conference reports. Electronic journals are also excluded. Z39.1 provided specifications for overall production of periodicals, issues of periodicals, completed volumes and special sections or issues, errata, abstracting and indexing, and reprints, plus 11 appendices such as how to get an ISSN, copyright, the Copyright Clearance Center, coverage by abstracting, indexing services, etc.

Because the length of Z39.1 increased from 11 pages in the 1967 edition, to 37 pages, including the summary and appendices, in the current draft, Reynolds posed some relevant questions for further consideration. Have serials gotten more complicated since 1967, or have librarians become more fond of complexity? Is the standard asking for too much and therefore ending up with very little? Should a handbook, instead of a more authoritative standard, be devised?

The rest of Reynolds' presentation was devoted to outlining the major recommendations and highlighting some of the controversial aspects of the draft. She detailed important points in such areas as title, frequency, volume and issue numbering, printing and binding, considerations for individual issues, ISSN, SISAC code, barcoding, identification of individual articles, and volumes.

Nina Kramer, Manager of the Journals Publishing Division, American Society of Civil Engineers, was the reactor representing the publisher perspective. She affirmed the need for a standard and welcomed Z39.1 as a product with input from librarians and publishers. However, she emphasized that there should be sensitivity to any financial restrictions faced by publishers if Z39.1 becomes the accepted standard.

Kramer assured the audience that publishers abhor, just as much as librarians, any title changes because, first and foremost, they entail great expenses, in design as well as in publicity. But sometimes there are compelling reasons for a publication to change its title. Relevancy to trends, changing boundaries of disciplines, survival, and maintaining a leadership role in a field are just a few of the valid reasons. Kramer then addressed the specific requirements and changes in the major sections in the draft Z39.1, such as title change, the use of permanent paper, outside margin, etc.

Minna Saxe, Chief Technical Services Librarian, Graduate School, City University of New York, was a reactor presenting the librarians' point of view. To Saxe, Z39.1 almost was like a "Second Coming," which may not deliver librarians from all serial woes, but it certainly would help ameliorate the eternal despair felt by most serial librarians. She wholeheartedly endorsed the revised draft and hoped it would be accepted as the national standard. Furthermore, she added a few more requests for the publishers, such as making the ISSN a bit larger, and the adaptation of the newly approved SICI (Serial Item and Contribution Identifier) to facilitate access. Though her comments were brief, Saxe's enthusiasm for Z39.1 was contagious and seemed to be shared by most librarians in the audience.

[Report by Daphne Hsueh, Ohio State University]

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NASIG/SSP CONCURRENT SESSION G

Marketing to Libraries: What Works?

Vicky Reich, Chief, Serials and Acquisitions, Stanford University Libraries, opened the session with the question: what do librarians need from publishers? The list of "do's" includes: determine the correct contact person (by calling the library); assess the current status of the library's budget; send material (i.e. new title announcements and general material catalogues) only to the most specific collection development person; and supply detailed publication information (content, point of

view, revisions, etc.). The list of "publisher don't's" includes: do not send unsolicited books or sample serials issues; do not send marketing information to the serials or acquisitions departments; and do not use telemarketing as a solicitation tool.

Expanding on the above list of "do's" and "don't's," Reich explained that, especially in large library systems, such as Stanford, acquisitions and serials departments and collection development departments each need very different information. The challenge that she posed to publishers is to get the right information to the appropriate person.

Budgetary cuts have forced many libraries to scrutinize every purchase. The days of "buy everything" have passed, and collection development librarians are not only concerned with content, but price - quality counts. Many libraries are relying on approval plans and are experimenting with document delivery services. The publishers that can gain the most from this information are the smaller ones that can concentrate on supplying the most pertinent information to the collection development librarians.

How are acquisitions departments changing? Reich cited many examples which may be applicable to most libraries: less staff; decreased ability to verify bibliographic information; more use of online sources; increased use of publisher flyers and catalogues for ordering information; and more centralization and rigidity of accounting and payment procedures.

What marketing strategies do librarians like? The list for publishers includes: continue to build "partnerships" with librarians; advisory groups (with both publishers and librarians); focus groups; topical programs; personal contacts and good working relationships.

Libraries are constantly changing: there is less time, less staff, and smaller budgets. Reich concluded that publishers would be well advised to make print runs to meet expected demands and provide quality material at appropriate prices.

Nan Hudes, Senior Director of Marketing, New Business and New Technology, R.R. Bowker,

Martindale-Hubbell, Reed Reference Group, presented the viewpoint of the publisher or marketing agent. Hudes explained that just as library budgets have decreased, so have those of most marketing departments.

The Bowker Library Advisory Board meets twice a year and examines ways that publisher marketing trends can adapt to the changing needs of libraries. Is there currently an information overload, and should publishers market their products by subject to help decrease this overload?

Discussing the specific techniques employed by the Bowker group of publishers, Hudes stressed that direct mail and telemarketing are the most effective ways of selling their products. Direct mail introduces new titles, new editions, and sells the image of the company. Telemarketing is more personal and is the best method for obtaining subscription renewals as the response is immediate.

The public relations department has certain objectives: prepare publicity for new products; solicit/obtain reviews of products; and inform the marketplace of current trends and the direction of the company. Marketing is successfully accomplished at exhibits and seminars as new products are showcased; direct mail campaigns are reinforced; and company representatives can conduct on-the-spot market research.

Customer service departments perform many functions: they serve as a mechanism for solving customer problems and serve as a quick way for customers to discover new products, order titles, and receive more product information.

Hudes concluded by explaining the effectiveness of marketing, and how more time is spent on assuring that customers receive all of the necessary product information.

[Report by Jean Callaghan, Wheaton College]

Article Delivery: An Alternative to Ownership?

With the growing serials price escalation and the continuing shortage of funds for library services, both the academic and corporate communities are seriously looking at alternatives to ownership.

Martha Lewis, Head, Library Operations, Abbott Laboratories, presented an overview of the problems facing the corporate library and ended the myth that corporate libraries have few funding problems and are not concerned with the price escalations. Abbott Laboratories has moved to a number of commercial document delivery services that supplied 16,000 articles in 1992.

While most commercial article delivery companies promise 48 hour delivery service, it was the feeling that the actual delivery times are much longer and frequently exceeds ten days. There is room for improvement from the commercial community.

There was a general consensus that even though libraries own the vast majority of the material that commercial services are supplying, the average library does not have the structure nor support from their institution to develop an acceptable delivery service. Delivery times are frequently too long for libraries to be dependent upon the traditional interlibrary loan services.

Anne McKee, Bibliographic Services Librarian, reported on a promising document delivery service that is supporting Arizona State University, West Campus. With a systematic and well organized approach, it is possible to satisfy the campus' information needs. The traditional library concept of resource sharing through organized and planned collection development may go far to support the concept of just-in-time information delivery.

From the many questions raised by the audience, many libraries are facing the difficult task of finding alternatives to buying the hard copy subscription of major publications. Article delivery is becoming a serious substitute for the hard copy but the delivery mechanisms must be improved.

[Report by Dan Tonkery, Readmore, Inc.]

AUTOMATED SERIALS CLAIMS: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING? / Joan Loslo

The timing and frequency of periodical claiming with an automated system was the topic of this discussion group moderated by Cynthia Coulter and Joan Loslo of the University of Northern Iowa. The moderators had invited representatives from two jobbers and two publishers to participate in the discussion and to present possible solutions from their point of view: Philip E.N. Greene III from EBSCO, Gary Brown from Faxon, Nina Kramer from the American Society of Civil Engineers, and Susan Malawski from John Wiley.

The jobber representatives suggested that libraries had expected that automation would make claiming more efficient, but staff editing of claims is still required before the claims are sent to jobbers or publishers. All available information must be entered on check-in records, and it must be utilized in the claim process. Electronic transmission of information will help to standardize the serials industry and facilitate the claiming process.

The publisher representatives stated that they receive up to 50 percent more claims than are necessary. Often the claims they receive are requests for information, not actual claims.

The following suggestions were offered to libraries wishing to make their automated claiming more efficient: make sure information in check-in records is complete and correct, pay attention to information from jobbers and publishers, don't send multiple claims too fast, and don't confuse claims for issue with non-service problems. A professional librarian should be consulted before a fourth claim is sent. Libraries should request that their automated systems vendors provide systems which are compatible with EDI.

For more information about this meeting, contact:
Joan Loslo, Serials Librarian
Donald O. Rod Library
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-3675
319-273-2801 Internet: loslo@uni.edu

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
INFORMAL DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING

CATALOGERS' DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING / Marilyn Geller

The Catalogers' Discussion Group Meeting was attended by over 60 diehard catalogers at the end of a typically busy day of NASIG conferencing. Several people contributed questions about "problem titles" which allowed the group to discuss both specific titles and more general issues. The first cataloguing issue discussed related to serials issued in parts. The specific example at hand was Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers. The Institution began issuing its journal in five individually named parts with continuous enumeration in 1992. Regina Reynolds, Head of NSDP explained that these titles were catalogued on separate records because they could be ordered separately and did not have continuous pagination. There was, however, some support for cataloguing the parts on one bibliographic record which would make binding and shelving the titles less confusing for staff and library patrons.

Next, the group reviewed a recent SERIALST discussion regarding customized issues of Newsweek. Regina reported that the publisher of this periodical does not consider the customized issues to be different editions in that esoteric catalogers' sense of the word. We can, therefore, continue to use one bibliographic record for this title.
The third topic on the agenda was a discussion of the treatment of reprints of serials. While AACR2 rev. and the LCRI's appear to be specific about cataloguing serial reprints as serials, there was some discussion regarding the merits of a monographic record and the problems of dealing with title changes within a single reprint volume as engendered in the examples, The Syndicalist, reprinted by Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, and The San Francisco Oracle, reprinted by Regent Press.

The final "problem title" was an example of an in-house printed report from LINC (Log-In North Carolina), a periodically updated statistical database. The topic produced much discussion and many alternatives, including: treating these reports as "generated" (not published) or using the computer file format instead of the serial format. Another option was to catalogue these reports in the serials format using file dates for the chronology and mentioning coverage dates in a note. There was mention of the danger of cataloguing items of extremely local interest in a shared environment.

Following the discussion of specific cataloguing issues, there was an announcement of year round options for getting answers to serials cataloguing questions. One option is to submit problems with appropriate documentation to "The Case in Point" column edited by Jim Cole in Serials Review. Another option is to subscribe to and send messages to SERIALST.

Mitch Turitz delivered a brief statement on the status of the report from CC:DA Task Force on Multiple Versions. The MULVERS Task Force has submitted the Guidelines for Bibliographic Description of Reproductions to CC:DA. [The report was accepted by CC:DA, with minor changes, at ALA]. According to Mitch, the main stumbling blocks in acceptance of the guidelines have been the concept embedded in AACR2 0.24 which states that the cataloger must work from the piece in hand. This would disallow the concept of creating a bibliographic description of the original from a reproduction. The AACR2 definition of "edition" has also caused problems. [At ALA, the Task Force on the Definition of Edition decided that the MULVERS guidelines could be considered an "exception" to the rules and could be implemented without changes to the definition.]

There was a brief update on planning for format integration at the Library of Congress sent in by John Levy. According to John, LC is currently in "phase II" of planning and implementation, which includes adding new and changed fields that do not impact on indexing to the validation tables for each format in their OPAC. "Phase III" will include the validation of fields that impact on LC's online indexes and is scheduled for 1993. Implementation of format integration is still scheduled for late 1993. Additional information is available in the 1992 ed. of Format Integration and Its Effect on the Bibliographic Format which can be purchased from the Library of Congress Cataloguing Distribution Service, Customer Services Section, Washington, DC 20541-5017 for

$18.00 (North America) or $20.00 (International).

Topics we never got to on the agenda include a discussion of cataloging policies and practices for electronic, multimedia and network resources and "The Perennial Issue: Topics for workshops and plenary sessions for next year's conference." Please think about the kinds of workshops you would like to have at next year's conference and consider areas where you have developed expertise that we can all share.

The topic that never made it to the agenda is a discussion of the discussion group. If we were to extend the metaphor of NASIG as a serials spa, catalogers might justifiably feel that the discussion group meeting must be the Perrier Bar at the spa. I am looking for input on how we can make these meetings better. Is our agenda too big or our time to short? Is the meeting well scheduled? Are we covering the topics we should be covering? Please send me your comments and suggestions (accolades also accepted).

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this meeting and everyone who gave me their reminiscences of the meeting which are the basis of this report.

Marilyn Geller, Serials Cataloguer
MIT Libraries, Room 14E-210A
77 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
617-253-7137 Fax:(617)253-2464
Internet:mgeller@athena.mit.edu

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMAL DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING

DYNIX USERS GROUP / Marcella Lescher

The Dynix Serials Users Group met with thirteen in attendance. M. Diane Raines, Ed Riding, and Louise Derr, all of Dynix, were present to answer the group's questions and discuss several new enhancements anticipated with Release 135.2.

Ed Riding spoke briefly to the group about Release 135.2's capabilities to allow libraries to share their publication patterns with each other and the new publication pattern test capability. He

noted also that the current release 135 allows libraries to use the SISAC barcode to search for bibliographic serial records during check-in. A later release will allow bibliographic records to be accessed through scanning of the UPC code. Riding also discussed the first OCLC Union List custom data load of LDRs which was completed for Wheaton College (Illinois).

The group discussed issues concerning the establishment of claim cycles, processing notes, check-in of film/fiche formats, and the correction of check-in errors.

The importance of sharing knowledge between libraries also was discussed. Diane Raines gave the group a list of libraries who have completed training for serials. The use of E-mail discussion groups such as Dynix-L also was noted as a possible means of communication between individuals involved with the serials module.

For more information about this meeting, contact:

Marcella Lescher, Periodicals Librarian
St. Mary's University, Academic Library
One Camino Santa Maria,
San Antonio, TX 78228-8608
512-436-3441 Bitnet: acadmarc@stmarytx

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMAL DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING

GEAC USERS' GROUP MEETING / Rose Robischon

Six people attended the NASIG Geac Users' Group Meeting. Interests and concerns centered around the Geac Advance system. The most beneficial aspects of the meeting were the sharing of names and addresses, and the announcement of a listserv for Geac Advance users: ADVANCE-L.

For those who did not participate, a list of names and addresses of those attending is available from:

Rose Robischon, Serials Librarian
United States Military Academy Library
Building 757
West Point, NY 10996-1799
Internet: ur6146@usma3.usma.edu

**NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
INFORMAL DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING**

SISAC/SERIALS STANDARDS / Betty Landesman

On June 19, 1992, seven people attended a NASIG discussion group on the subject of SISAC and serials standards. The session was moderated by Betty Landesman (George Washington University) and Tina Feick (Blackwell's Periodicals).

As last year, the discussion began with a review of the goals and work of the Serials Industry Systems Advisory Committee. Since the last NASIG conference, the SICI (Serial Item and Contribution Identifier) standard, ANSI Z39.56-199X, was adopted. The "item" (i.e. "issue") level of this standard forms the basis for the SISAC barcode symbol. The existence of an issue identifier was necessary before any information about that issue could be communicated electronically. Some of the publishers now carrying the barcode on their issues (or who will in 1993) and the automated systems which support scanning it into their serials control modules were reviewed. "Check-in with SISAC symbol" was one of the workshops being offered at this NASIG conference.

System users have more leverage with their vendors now that there is a body of publishers and journal titles carrying the barcode. We discussed ways in which librarians can work with their publishers and system vendors to increase support of the SISAC barcode symbol. There is a publicity kit available from SISAC, which includes a sample letter to a publisher. Use of the SISAC barcode symbol increases the efficiency and accuracy of check-in. A task force also has been formed to explore the feasibility of extending the barcode symbol to the article level for document delivery.

The discussion then moved on to X12, a standard for Electronic Data Interchange of business transactions. SISAC is developing subsets of this standard for the transmission and receipt of serials orders, claims, invoices, cancellations, and acknowledgements. Drafts of claims and invoices are complete. An Implementation Task Force, including representatives of automated system vendors, will test these drafts. After testing, the formats will be sent out to SISAC members and NISO for comment (but not voting) and then be available for purchase.

There were some questions about X12, MARC, and NISO. Some history of a previous NISO standard for computerized serials orders, claims, cancellations, and acknowledgements (Z39.55) was given. It was pointed out that X12 is well-established (in 1984) and IS a standard; SISAC is simply adapting it for serials implementations. MARC will not work for business transactions. It is for bibliographic information, relies too much on free text, and would be prohibitively expensive to implement. The X12 subsets will be pulling information from MARC, not abandoning it. Many subscription agents are participating in this development process, as they don't want to continue preparing many different customized invoice programs for many different vendors!

X12 is a U.S. group. However, ICEDIS, an international group for the EDI of serials, is working to implement X12 as well. They have produced an X12 subset for dispatch data, a list of things sent out from the docks. By using this, agents can check when they receive a claim from a library to see whether the issue has been sent. Publishers can't afford to process all the claims they receive, when often the issue has just been sent out in the mail. It was also pointed out that anyone doing business with Waldenbooks and K-Mart MUST use X12; so this is a widely-used standard, now being adapted by the serials industry.

The meeting ended with a description of SISAC-related activities at the upcoming ALA conference. [Editor's Note: There was an ALA preconference on "EDI and the Library."] During the conference, demonstrations were scheduled where Dynix and Data Trek showed how their serials modules scanned the SISAC barcode symbol.

Attendees supported continuation of this topic in a discussion group format at future NASIG's.

For more information about this meeting, contact:
Betty Landesman, Coordinator for Systems Planning, Gelman Library
George Washington University
2130 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20052
202-994-6848 Bitnet: betty@gwuvm

NASIG 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
INFORMAL DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING

UNION LISTING INFORMAL DISCUSSION
GROUP REPORT / Cathy Clayton Kellum

The first meeting of the Union Listing Informal
Discussion Group was held at NASIG '92 at the
University of Illinois at Chicago with eight very
dedicated union listing-oriented people in
attendance. Moderated by Cathy Clayton Kellum,
Librarian Supervisor, Tec-Masters, Inc., Huntsville,
Alabama, and former coordinator of the Alabama
Union List of Serials, the group quickly launched
into a heated discussion about union listing and its
directions for the future.

Representatives from the states of Georgia,
California, South Carolina, Texas, New York,
Ohio, and Alabama, as well as from Canada,
participated in discussions of such topics as:

-union listing as a "natural" target for budget cuts
(and ways to prevent such cuts)
-small union list groups contracting to large
networks or agents instead of having a local
contact person as "expert troubleshooter" for the
area
-difficulty in educating other departments and
higher administrative bodies such as boards of
trustees, CEO's, and directors on the importance
of union listing as an effective tool for resource
sharing
-problems of staff reluctance and the "time crunch"
factor of the frequent necessity of updating
holdings in a local system AND in a vendor system
(such as NOTIS) AND in a bibliographic network
(such as OCLC) when no method or equipment
for interface exists between all systems

Linda Arnold, OCLC Resource Sharing Manager,
answered several questions from the group. She
covered what union list agents do, who they are,
and the benefits involved, both in using agents for
holdings entry/updating and serving as an agent for
other libraries. Calling the concept of union listing
"one-stop shopping," she explained OCLC's plans
to connect its document delivery system to
holdings in the Union List Subsystem, and also the
plans to make a quicker, easier transition from the
PRISM Interlibrary Loan Subsystem to access
holdings statements.

After a short discussion of possible workshop
topics for NASIG '93, the group reluctantly parted
at the end of the hour, unanimously deciding that
there should be a second annual meeting of the
Union Listing Informal Discussion Group next
year at Brown University!

Anyone with suggestions for agenda items for the
discussion group or workshop topics (especially
volunteers to lead!) should contact me at the
following address:

Cathy Clayton Kellum
Tec-Masters/Library Support Services
Redstone Scientific Information Center
AMSMI-RD-CS-R
Department of the Army
US Army Missile Command
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5241
205-955-7768 FAX: 205-842-0990

NASIG 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CALL FOR PAPERS
CALL FOR WORKSHOPS
CALL FOR DISCUSSION GROUP LEADERS

The North American Serials Interest Group
(NASIG), an organization committed to serving
the interests of all members of the serials
information chain, will hold its eighth annual
conference from June 10-13, 1993, at Brown
University in Providence, RI. NASIG's annual
conference provides a forum in which serials
librarians, publishers, vendors, educators, binders,
systems developers, and other specialists exchange
views, present new ideas, and discuss matters of
current interest. The proceedings are published
and distributed to a wide audience.

This is a call for PAPERS treating any aspect of
serials activities such as administration,
acquisitions, cataloging, automation, binding,
budgeting, union listing, publishing, and future
developments. Topics addressing interrelationships
between the various NASIG constituencies are of
special interest, as are presentations on new
developments and new paradigms for the
dissemination and control of the serials literature.

This is also a call for abstracts from individuals
interested in leading a WORKSHOP at the
conference. Workshops are sessions designed to

develop ideas and techniques for managing any aspect of serials work. Related to workshops, NASIG is also calling for informal DISCUSSION GROUP topics and leaders to stimulate lively exchanges, particularly about links between librarians, publishers, and vendors.

Submissions from all members of NASIG and the serials community are welcome. Topic and speaker suggestions from the information community at large are also welcome. Titles and abstracts, to a maximum of 100 words, must be submitted by October 1st to:

Susan Davis, NASIG Secretary
Head, Periodicals Section
SUNY Buffalo
Buffalo, NY 14260-2200
716-645-2784 FAX: 716-645-5955
Bitnet: UNLSDB@UBVM
Internet:UNLSDB@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU

[Editor's note: SUBMISSION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 7, 1992]

NASIG EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICER NOMINATIONS / Bill Robnett

NASIG members names are solicited for the 1993/1994 NASIG Vice-President/President-Elect, Treasurer, and three Member-at-Large through October 15, 1992.

The submission form is included in this issue of the NASIG Newsletter; members may put forward names of their NASIG colleagues to the Nominations and Elections Committee by mail, Bitnet/Internet, or telephone. Members are encourage to nominate themselves.

The individuals whose names are forwarded must be current NASIG members and should meet the eligibility requirements in Article VII, Section 1 of the NASIG Bylaws.

Ballots with the final slate of nominees will be distributed to the NASIG membership on February 15, 1993 and should be returned to a member of the Nominations Committee by March 15, 1993. Election results will be published in the June 1993 NASIG Newsletter.

The Vice-President/President-Elect coordinates the Annual Conference program and site selection for the Annual Conference during her/his term of office, assists the current President with committee appointments and activities coordination, chairs the Executive Board meetings in the absence of the President, serves, if needed, as NASIG's representative, and serves as President if a vacancy occurs. The incumbent is Past President in the year following her/his term of office.

The Treasurer (two-year term) handles financial affairs of the organization, assists the President and Executive Board in general and in committee budget preparation, implements and oversees insurance transactions, manages the membership renewal process, chairs the Finance Committee, and maintains financial records.

The Members-at-Large serve on the NASIG governing body for two years to represent the general membership, carry out special assignments as requested by the President and Executive Board, and may serve as liaison to one or more committees. In addition to six Members-at-Large, the Executive Board includes the NASIG President, Vice-President/President Elect, Past President, Secretary, and the Treasurer.

It is important that the NASIG membership participates in the nominations and elections process. Please consider forwarding the names of individuals who can make significant contributions to our organization. If you believe you can do this, please do not hesitate to nominate yourself.

Nominations and Elections Committee:
Dana Alessi (Baker & Taylor)
Starla Doescher (University of Oklahoma)
Wayne Jones (National Library of Canada)
Judy Luther (Faxon)
Ann Okerson (Association of Research Libraries, ex-officio)
Bill Robnett (Vanderbilt, Chair)
Kathy Soupiset (Trinity University)

[Editor's note: addresses of committee members may be found in the Membership Directory. The Chair's address is included on the nominations form.]

TREASURER'S REPORT 1991/92 / Ann Vidor

This has been an interesting year with very few problems. Our membership remains constant at almost 1,000. Our financial status, as is evident from the financial statement, is sound. We were able to increase the organization's investments, while still maintaining adequate funds in the checking accounts. All records continue to be entered into the Quicken database. Again this year, Joan Stephens provided valuable assistance in preparing various financial reports.

The major procedural change this year was sending out the renewal and directory forms as the first two pages of the September Newsletter. We used brightly colored pieces of paper to catch the attention of our readers. While a few members responded to the second, individual renewal notice by saying they had not noticed the renewal form in the Newsletter, the overall results were very successful - 15% more members responded to the first notice than in previous years. We will continue to follow this procedure next year. Also, as you may have noticed, we shortened the renewal season this year in order to have the directory be more up-to-date and so that ballots and surveys would not be sent to people not renewing.

The Finance Committee members for the year were: Joan Stephens, Roger Presley, Judy Luther, Martha Hill and Tina Feick. All committee members, with the exception of Tina Feick, live in Atlanta and the committee met there in November. We sent out individual renewal reminders, discussed the need for having a safe deposit box, which Roger Presley subsequently obtained, and also discussed the continuing question of whether NASIG needs a permanent address. Another discussion topic was the possibility of having a credit card for use by NASIG Board members.

NORTH AMERICAN SERIALS INTEREST GROUP, INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JANUARY 1-MAY 31, 1992

Income

Conference	$	98,857.50
Back Issues Directory		1,140.00
Interest - Savings		391.81
Membership fees		5,053.00
Haworth Honorarium		3,000.00
Royalties		173.14
Total income	$	108,615.55

Expenses

Bank charges	$	102.64
Conference		7,709.27
Insurance		557.00
Meeting expenses (Board)		113.00
Other		119.33
Photocopying		3,328.49
Postage		2,374.50
Stationery & supplies		226.43
Telephone		23.75
Temporary help		147.50
Travel - hotels		481.00
Travel - transportation		807.38
Expenses - other		251.49
Total expenses	$	16,241.78

Investments	$	35,006.00
Beginning balance	$	29,007.73
Ending balance	$	156,387.40

Membership Statistics

New Members	197
Renewals	767
Total	964

Investments

Certificate of deposit	$	10,624.76
(including dividends as of 3/92		
Municipal funds	$	25,304.00
	$	35,928.76

NASIG SEEKING CO-EDITORS FOR 1993 PROCEEDINGS

If you are a NASIG member who wants to become more involved in the organization and you write/edit well, here is your chance! NASIG is seeking editors for the 1993 Brown University Conference Proceedings.

NASIG proceedings editor must be well-organized and able to meet deadlines. In addition, the editor must possess outstanding communication skills since the position requires working with NASIG speakers to obtain their papers, communicate deadlines, discuss editorial changes, and get signatures on the letters of indemnification. Other qualifications the editor must possess are:

--Demonstrated writing ability (required)
--Prior publishing/editorial experience (highly
    desirable)
--Access to word processing support (required)
--Ability to complete the majority of the editorial
    work during the period of mid-June to late-
    August, 1993 (required)
--Access to electronic mail (highly desirable)

The editors will work under the general direction of the NASIG Executive Board liaison. Julia Gammon is currently liaison from the Executive Board to the Proceedings Editor.

You may volunteer as an individual or as a part of a team of two or more persons. Previous editors have found it helpful to work with a colleague from the same institution or geographic region.

To volunteer, submit a letter outlining your qualifications and a sample of your written work, including names of other team members if applicable, to Julia Gammon at the following address. Questions regarding qualifications or expectations may also be addressed to Julia.

Julia Gammon, NASIG Proceedings
Acquisitions Department, Bierce Library,
University of Akron, Akron, Ohio 44325-1708
216-972-6254 Bitnet: R1JAG@AKRONVM

Application deadline: November 1, 1992 or until position is filled.

TO POTENTIAL PROCEEDINGS EDITOR APPLICANTS / Suzanne McMahon

"Hopefully a brand new editor will be chosen soon so the library community can begin to really be appraised of the very latest developments in the modus operandi for publishing, distributing, and disseminating scholarly information to the patrons of the research libraries that are generally speaking scholars, students and the general public."

If that sentence sets your teeth on edge, then editing the NASIG proceedings is the job for you.

Editing the proceedings is challenging. You have to meet tight deadlines, handle many levels of writing expertise, be careful in your editorial zealousness not to change an author's meaning, and come out in the end with a readable proceedings that preserves the flavor and spirit of the NASIG conference. The Stanford editorial team (Pam Dunn, Miriam Palm, and myself) spent about 250 hours collectively on the 1991 proceedings. Our deadline to submit the finished manuscript was July 31, barely six weeks after the conference in San Antonio. This year, thanks to the negotiating skills of Ann Okerson and the cooperation of Haworth Press, we have until the end of August. Even with an extended deadline, plan for the proceedings to take over your life for a least a month.

Editing the proceedings is rewarding. You hone your editorial and writing skills. You become a more responsible and sympathetic custodian of the English language. You learn a lot about translating word processing formats (turns out it's pretty easy). Your standing goes up inestimably in the eyes of your peers. You have the opportunity to make a big contribution to NASIG.

Editing the proceedings is fun. Working with one or two other people on the project makes the project more enjoyable. It's also safer. We have a first reader and a second reader for each paper. After you've polished a paper to perfection, you could discover that your tight, lucid prose looks like mush to someone else.

Editing is not the whole story. Before the conference you will need to send information to the authors on submission procedures, preferred

media formats, deadlines, copyright, etc. It is helpful to meet with the plenary speakers and the workshop recorders at the NASIG conference to emphasize important points. After the conference you may have to track down missing papers or query authors about points in their papers that aren't clear to you. You'll send page proofs to the authors around the first of November. Then one final proofreading and you're through. When your complimentary copies of the proceedings arrive in the mail, you'll see it was all worth it.

The retiring editorial team will be happy to share its experience, form letters, schedules, anecdotes, and arm-twisting techniques with the 1993 proceedings editors. Good luck to the applicants.

NASIG NEWSLETTER APPOINTS NEW EDITOR / Jean Callaghan

The NASIG Executive Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Ellen Finnie Duranceau as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Newsletter. Ellen, Associate Head of Serials and Acquisitions Services at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has helped to edit this issue, and will begin her two-year term with the December issue.

Also new to the Newsletter Editorial Board is Marguerite Horn, Head Serials Catalog Librarian at the University of California, Davis. Maggie will serve a two-year term as Distribution Editor, replacing Daphne Miller (Wright State University). Daphne will assume the position of Submissions Editor. Kathy Schmidt (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse) will continue as the Production Editor. The new Executive Board liaison to the Newsletter will be Elaine Rast (Northern Illinois University), replacing Teresa Malinowski, who is currently very busy in her term as the NASIG President.

Leaving the Editorial Board will be Jean Callaghan, Editor-in-Chief, and Daphne Hsueh (Ohio State University), Submissions Editor. Thank you very much to Daphne for all of her help, and thanks also to Lenore Wilkas, Roger Presley, Mary Beth Clack, Brian Scanlan, Teresa Malinowski, Joan Luke Stephens and Ann Okerson for their guidance and support in the past two and a half years.

NASIGNET: A REPORT FROM THE ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE / Birdie MacLennan

Introduction
Over the course of the past year, members of NASIG's Electronic Publications Committee have been working with colleagues and supporters at the American Mathematical Society's (AMS) Ann Arbor office, headed by David Rodgers, to develop and implement, for NASIG, electronic mail and networking capabilities on the Internet. The goal is to create a more connected, technologically alert national organization of "serialists."

In March 1992, after several months of planning, gathering electronic addresses via membership surveys, and manually inputting those addresses into the "e-math machine" (i.e., the AMS computer that is linked to the Internet), NASIGNET was introduced as the official electronic communications forum of the North American Serials Interest Group.

NASIGNET is designed to serve as an outlet for matters, concerns, and issues that are related to the organization and its membership. Participation in NASIGNET is limited to members of NASIG. More than half of the NASIG membership (approx. 550 members, as of July 1992) now have electronic addresses and have been added to our mail distribution list(s). Electronic addresses are based on Internet or Bitnet e-addresses that were supplied in the Electronic Publications Committee's survey form, which was sent out to the membership last fall. Addresses that were not supplied in survey returns were subsequently added with the help and support of Joan (Luke) Stephens, Chair of NASIG's Directory & Database Committee. Currently, anyone who joins NASIG and has an e-mail address is automatically added to NASIGNET.

NASIG-L: The Membership's Listserver
The first phase of implementation of our networked services began on March 17, with a Listserv application, or discussion forum, called NASIG-L. NASIG-L, a compilation of all known NASIG members with electronic mail addresses, is the central e-mail distribution list for the membership. It is intended to serve as an electronic bulletin board (or "talking outlet") for

members of the organization. Appropriate topics for NASIG-L discussion include: announcements, news, meetings, reports, publications, and issues of concern to members. Messages within these guidelines may be sent to:

NASIG-L@E-MATH.AMS.COM

The intent of the NASIG discussion forum is NASIG organizational issues. It should not address matters of generic serials content or serials processing. Persons wishing to participate in a serials content forum and/or to address matters of general serials interest are referred to the SERIALST forum (e-mail to: serialst@uvmvm or serialst@uvmvm.uvm.edu for more information).

Listserv Applications for Committee Work

In addition to NASIG-L, NASIGNET has expanded to include electronic discussion forums for NASIG's Executive Board and 11 of NASIG's standing committees. Although the Board has been using their Listserv discussion forum quite successfully for close to a year, we are pleased to now be able to offer this capability to NASIG committees as the most recent development in our "electronic organization." Committee Listservers that are currently operational include:

Bylaws: nasig-bylaws@e-math.ams.com
Continuing Education:
    nasig-cont@e-math.ams.com
Finance: nasig-finance@e-math.ams.com
Conference Planning (1993):
    nasig-local@e-math.ams.com
Nominations & Elections:
    nasig-elections@e-math.ams.com
Conference Program:
    nasig-program@e-math.ams.com
Professional Liaisons:
    nasig-liaisons@e-math.ams.com
Database & Directory:
    nasig-db@e-math.ams.com
Electronic Publications:
    nasig-ecommun@e-math.ams.com
Newsletter: nasig-news@e-math.ams.com
Student Grants: nasig-grants@e-math.ams.com
Executive Board: nasig-bd@e-math.ams.com

For More Information About Using NASIGNET Listservers

For more information about using the NASIGNET

Listservers, please read "Command Options for NASIGNET Listservers." Note that because NASIGNET resides on an Internet node, some commands may vary slightly from those of the BITNET Listserv forums.

Future Plans

NASIGNET (and the world of networking in general) is in its infancy. We learn by doing and sometimes our "doings" don't work as impeccably as we would like. Nonetheless, we feel that networking technologies have evolved to a point where there is great potential for enhancing personal, professional, and organizational communications, retrieving vast amounts of information, and making us all a bit more knowledgeable in dealing with issues and concerns confronting us in the world of serials. We realize that 100% of NASIG's current membership do not have access to the Internet. But as our recent survey has indicated, a majority of you do have e-mail access.

Two priorities of the Electronic Publications Committee are: (1) To get as much of NASIG's membership "connected" and comfortable with discussion forums in each of their respective areas of work and interest (be it through committee forums, or NASIG-L, the general forum), and (2) to provide information about alternative forms of network access to those who don't have such access through the organization or the institution in which they work. To this end, Shiela Keil Osheroff has compiled a partial directory, "Communications Vendors Providing Internet Access," which lists 16 possibilities for gaining access to the networks, for those who are not yet connected, but would like to be. If there is sufficient need and interest, the Committee will continue to investigate, revise and update this directory as a resource for the membership.

As time goes on, we hope to be able to provide the membership with an ongoing continuing education resource (i.e., workshops, as well as printed and online materials) about the world of networking in general, and NASIGNET capabilities in particular. Progress reports and announcements will be posted regularly on NASIG-L, as well as printed in the NASIG Newsletter. Watch for details!

Command Options for NASIGNET Listservers
where <list> =NASIG-L, or
where <list> = <committee list>

This listing documents command options that can be sent to NASIGNET Listservers to adjust mail distribution options in sending or receiving mail, to retrieve archives, or to find out more about what's available from the listserv service at the AMS/NASIGNET e-math machine.

Send all commands to:
LISTSERV@E-MATH.AMS.COM

Available commands are:
    help [command]
    set <list> <option> <value>
    subscribe <list> <your name>
    unsubscribe <list>
    recipients <list>
    information <list>
    statistics <list> [subscriber email address(es)]
    lists
    index <list>
    get <list> archive [parts]

Syntax: set <list> <option> <value>
option can be: mail
value can be: ack, noack, postpone
Examples:
'set <list> mail ack': your message is sent back to you
'set <list> mail noack': your message is not sent back to you
'set <list> mail postpone': no messages will be sent to you until you change mode again (i.e., 'set <list> mail')

Syntax: subscribe <list> <your full name>
The only way to subscribe to a list

Syntax: unsubscribe <list>
Remove yourself from a list

Syntax: recipients <list>
Get a listing of the current subscribers for the specified list

Syntax: information <list>
Get various information about a list

Syntax: statistics <list> [subscriber email address(es)]
Get statistical information for all subscribers, or for the specified one(s) only, in the specified list

Syntax: lists
Get a list of all discussion lists served by this server

Syntax: index
Get an index of available archive files

Syntax: get <list> archive [parts]
Get a specified file (or portion of the archive) from the archive index

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NASIG LIBRARY SCIENCE STUDENT GRANT COMMITTEE 1991/92 ANNUAL REPORT / Harriet Kersey, Chair

Publicity
Grant announcements appeared in selected journals on a more timely basis, seemingly as a result of phone calls to journal editors. Announcements were posted also on SERIALST and AUTOCAT electronic bulletin boards. The improved publicity was obvious from the increased number of applications, up nearly 30% from last year.

Committee Meetings
Committee members were geographically scattered from Texas to Georgia to Illinois to North Carolina, making it difficult to hold a meeting in a central location. For what we think was the first time in the history of the committee, we conducted all our business among ourselves by telephone, e-mail, and FAX with only a small amount of "snail mail."

Selection Guidelines and Criteria
Since clarity of criteria and objectivity in ranking were necessary to facilitate the selection of recipients, the committee made revisions in the selection guidelines and criteria and also in the process for ranking the grant applicants.

Revised Application
The grant application also was revised this year, with the idea of improving and standardizing the information obtained from the applicants, slightly

rephrasing questions about education, relevant employment, courses taken, career goals, and reasons for wanting to attend the NASIG conference. As a way of evaluating our publicity, a question was added regarding where the applicant had heard about the grant. Replacing the very vague request for statement of support from a faculty sponsor was a set of six specific reference questions; this questionnaire could be completed either by a faculty sponsor or by a library supervisor.

Selection of Recipients
The committee's primary task was quite challenging, that of selecting only six recipients from the 60 applications received. The importance of having revised the selection guidelines and criteria, as well as the ranking process, quickly became clear.

Survey of Previous Recipients
In process is a survey of past grant recipients. We are attempting to find out where they are, what they are doing, whether they are still in serials, and whether they are active in NASIG. When the survey is complete, a report of the results will appear in the NASIG Newsletter.

Grant Recipients
The grant recipients for this year's 1992 conference are as follows: Naomi K. Kietzke (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Darryl Dean James (University of North Texas), Jane E. Lecian (Kent State University), Susan B. Sommer (State University of New York at Albany), Lisa A. Rowlison (University of California at Berkeley), Mary Salony (Clarion University)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NETHERLANDS SERIALS GROUP /
Peter Bongers

Dear North American colleagues,

As chair of the Netherlands Serials Group, I very much regret not being able to attend your annual meeting. I recognize the importance of international cooperation on serials developments and want to tell you that in the Netherlands attention is paid to our common field of interest.

Background
In 1991, we started our activities by founding the NVB-Serials Group as a section of the Netherlands Association of Librarians, Documentalists and Information Specialists (acronym-NVB). This was the result of a consultative meeting of Dutch representatives at the first European Serials Conference in the Netherlands in 1990, organized as an initiative of the UK Serials Group.

The NVB unites people and organizations active in the field of information supply. It is organized into sections with a thematic or a library type orientation and subdivisions with a more regional character. In the sections, private members and institutional members from all over the country are divided by interests (e.g. special libraries, public libraries, academic libraries, polytechnic libraries, law librarianship, biomedical information, serials publications).

In the subdivisions, people in the field of information supply from all types of libraries meet in their own region/province; they discuss topics and pay visits to interesting libraries or related organizations.

Serials Group
The NVB-Serials Group just recently started its activities by presenting a platform on serials affairs. Participants are those who are involved in librarianship, serials publishing, serials distribution, and serials use. The latter also include the authors and editors who desperately need an outlet for their products.

We just started our activities:
-planning for the second European Serials
  Conference to be held 9-11 September.
-encouraging people to become a member of our
  Serials Group. We now have approximately
  40 members and recently had our first annual
  general meeting.
-being involved in studies and meetings relating to
  serials.

Policy
The international character of serials publishing urges us to maintain and strengthen international contacts and cooperation.

I am convinced that we will have to participate in each other's activities and pay attention to each other's national activities. We should exchange ideas and meld them into international concepts and ways of dealing with serials. First of all, we should now consider the needs of the scientific world, make an inventory of needs, and find new ways for scientific information storage and communication.

Please accept greetings from Holland and our best wishes. And, if possible, I hope to meet you in the Netherlands.

RESEARCH AWARD
LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS:
PRACTICE & THEORY

Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory (LAPT) is pleased to announce the recipient of the 1992 Research Award, Anna H.Perrault. Ms. Perrault is Head, Interlibrary Services and Head, Reference Collection Development, at the Louisiana State University Libraries in Baton Rouge, LA. Her publication with Beth Paskoff, "A Tool for Comparative Collection Analysis: Conducting a Shelf-list Sample to Construct a Collection Profile, received the American Library Association, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services' Best of LRTS Award in 1991.

Her proposal, "A Study of the Effects of the Diversion of Funds from Monographs to Serials on the Monograph Collections of Research Libraries," has been funded as the first Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory Research Award. Her research will investigate the "shrinking non-serial resources base for United States academic libraries," "shifts in monographic collecting patterns and trends in the acquisition of foreign language imprints," and "the decline in monograph acquisitions as distributed across subject disciplines or among language groups." The rationale and objectives follow:

"The research is intended to provide information for discussion within the academic library community of the issues of the decline in the monographic research base and the shifts in collecting patterns by subject and by language in

the collective resources base of academic research libraries. The research will also provide management data for use by academic library managers."

The Call for Proposals for the 1993 Research Award will be released shortly. Questions concerning this award should be addressed to:

Carol Pitts Hawks
Editor-in-Chief
Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory
5380K Coachman Road
Columbus, OH 43220
(614) 292-6314
FAX: (614) 292-7859

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 22-28, 1993
ALA Midwinter Meeting
Denver, CO

May 14-20, 1993
Medical Library Association Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL

June 5-9, 1993
Special Libraries Association Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL

June 10-13, 1993
NASIG's 8th Annual Conference
Brown University
Providence, RI

June 17-20, 1993
Canadian Library Association Annual Meeting
Hamilton, Ont.

June 24-July 1, 1993
ALA Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA

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NASIG
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EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS
1993/94

Candidates for:

Vice President/President Elect

NAME:
AFFILIATION:
ADDRESS (if available):
PHONE (if available):

Treasurer

NAME:
AFFILIATION:
ADDRESS (if available):
PHONE (if available):

Members-at-large (Three to be elected)

NAME:
AFFILIATION:
ADDRESS (if available):
PHONE (if available):

NAME:
AFFILIATION:
ADDRESS (if available):
PHONE (if available):

NAME:
AFFILIATION:
ADDRESS (if available):
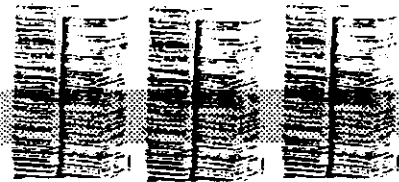PHONE (if available):

Return by October 15, 1992 to:

Bill Robnett, Chair
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Director, Central & Science Libraries
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419 21st Ave., South
Nashville, TN 37240-0007

OR to any other member of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

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