

INTRODUCTION

Pauline Simpson

Co-Conference Convenor IAMSLIC/PLC 1998

IAMSLIC President 1998-1999

National Oceanographic Library

Southampton Oceanography Centre, UK

Electronic Information and Publications: looking to the electronic future, let's not forget the archival past, was the rather long theme title for the joint IAMSLIC/PLC Conference held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 1998.

For the first time IAMSLIC shared the conference with another information organisation, the Polar Libraries Colloquy, who normally hold their conferences every two years. The disciplines within the marine and polar sciences overlap considerably and the theme of the conference was of generic interest to both organisations. The conference ended with both organisations identifying areas where further collaboration could be pursued. We thank the Iceland Organising Committee for hosting a stimulating conference and coping with some 118 participants from all over the World; their thoughts follow this introduction.

The overwhelming availability of electronic information resources has to be addressed by all information managers and the conference covered important topics such as the acquisition and management of electronic publications, and the still unresolved question of electronic copyright. Many of our members have made great strides in building networks, making databases available on the Web and in converting from paper to electronic format to produce many diverse products from CD-ROMs, directories and bibliographies. Both our sciences have a huge historical background and we learnt how to start to build the archives of those earlier scientific investigations and at the same time enjoyed some tales of a few of the more well known pioneers.

The next IAMSLIC Conference will be held in Woods Hole, Massachusetts in October 1999. It will be our 25th Anniversary and we have much to celebrate. The Library and Information community has coped with many dynamic professional changes over these years, and we are still being challenged by new and exciting products and carrier technologies.

The 18th Polar Libraries Colloquy will be held in Winnipeg, Canada June 13-17, 2000. The theme will be "Gateways: Polar Libraries and Archives into the Next Millennium."

For the first time also, this Proceedings is being issued jointly on behalf of IAMSLIC and PLC. Jim Markham and Andrea Duda have again completed the editorship with great patience and professionalism coping with some 47 paper presentations and additional poster sessions; our thanks to both.

