Issues In Science and Technology Librarianship 001 (March 1992)
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                                LIBRARIANSHIP

        March 1992   Number 1
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FROM THE EDITOR:

     You may notice the date on this issue is March 1992 because that
is when I hoped to get it out. However we are still working out the
mechanics of putting it together and distributing it. I hope you will
find this issue informative and worth the delay. I want to thank all of
you for your responses and suggestions. In future issues I will discuss
in more detail how Issues In Science And Technology Librarianship is
evolving but I need to be brief in this issue so as not to delay
delivery anymore then it has been. Thanks to all the authors
who sent in contributions for this issue. I hope Barbara von Wahlde's
guest column, From The Director's Chair, will encourage other directors
to offer their opinions about some of the issues Barbara raises and/or
add to them.   I would like to make this a regular column. Finally I
want to welcome John Saylor of Cornell University to our editorial

number in the millions and usually focus on specific
geographical regions or on categories of flora and fauna--
will be available. A centralized database of specimen
information will allow researchers (among other things) to
identify geographical areas that are sparsely represented,
determine the distribution of rare and endangered species,
and study correlations between distribution and habitat.
factors. RLG is pleased that the scope of this project
encompasses science museum collections, and to be involved
in the development of standards for the description of their
data.

A third project of relevance to the sciences is CitaDel,
RLG's new citation and document delivery service. This
project, too, had a cooperative impetus, from our community
of public services librarians who urged RLG to make
citations databases available centrally and thus save each
of their institutions the need to do it individually.
CitaDel is aimed at campuses that plan to make citation
information available to a large population through a
library or campus network. Because pricing is on a
subscription basis, CitaDel files can eliminate the need for
libraries to load tapes locally or to network CD-ROMs. Two
science files are already available: Ei Page One from
Engineering Information, Inc., and the History of
Technology, produced by the Society for the History of
Technology. The history of science bibliography that
appears annually in the journal Isis will be added in the
near future, and RLG is also talking with a number of other
vendors of large science indexes. Ei Page One, ABI/INFORM,
Newspaper Abstracts, Periodical Abstracts, and History of
Technology will all preview at Rutgers and BYU in April and
May. Documents from the first four files can be ordered
through the use of a new "doc" command and delivered via
mail, Ariel, fax, or courier.

If any of the readers of this newsletter have comments,
questions, or suggestions about the initiatives described,
please feel free to contact me at BL.CCG@RLG.Stanford.edu.
I welcome the opportunity to participate in this forum, and
look forward to learning more about the community of science
and technology librarians through it.

You may also obtain additional information as follows:
Single copies of the information needs assessments are
available free of charge. Serial Access Initiative
diskettes cost $99 each. These can be ordered from RLG's
Distribution Services Center, 1200 Villa Street, Mountain
View, CA 94041. For further information about CitaDel, call
the RLIN Information Center at 1-800-537-RLIN Monday through
Friday.

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                    CATCHING UP IN LIBRARY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
                          IN EAST-EUROPE: HUNGARY

By: Karoly Kokas, University Library of Szeged, Hungary

   Only weeks separate us from the moment that we have long been waiting
for: Hungary, first from the former socialist bloc, was removed from the
COCOM-list (Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Strategic Export
Controls). One may think that this restriction has entirely deprived us
from the possibility of joining the information circulation of the world.
It almost happened but, thank heaven, in the end it did not. Let us see
what happened during the last years and that was decisive in avoiding
irreversible backwardness. The more open political situation and the
relative economic strength of the country within the region made it
possible that Hungary, in the field of information technology, could keep
itself at least on such a level that when the time came it was able to
"communicate" with Western technologies.

It was an important step in the sphere of computer culture that from the beginning of the 80s, following other businesses, companies with a share in the production and dissemination of information made the use of personal computers an everyday routine. Naturally, there had been previous experiments with computers in libraries. One result of these was e.g. that from 1977 the Szeged University Library kept its new books on an R-40 then an R-55 computer (has anyone heard about them at all?), and what is more, in a standard MARC-record format. However, in wider areas the experiments began with the appearance of IBM compatible PCs and with the use of Micro- ISIS, a text retrieval database system developed by the UNESCO.

Parallel with that, the development of some national and public databases commenced on the bigger brother of this software on the IBM mainframe computer of the Computing Science Institute (SZTAKI) of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In the PC-category there were some successful developments, e.g. the TEXTAR program which covers almost the entire library working process. Hungarian programmers, whose excellence is widely known, came forward with such programs and program expansions in the field of microcomputer application that went beyond the type of the machine itself. By the end of the 80s the IBM 43xx serial machines and the DEC megaminies appeared in more and more institutions. Their characteristic operation system is the VM and the VMS. On a small scale, things developed in accordance with the slogan of the BITNET network (Because It is There NETwork). Since there were the machines they had to be linked. Of course, the international information services were not completely unknown. From the very beginning of the 80s some big services (DIALOG, DataStar etc.) were available in some centers, on a very low speed, with the help of Radio Austria and the NEDIX line. In 1986, on the initiative of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the National Information Infrastructure Development Program (its Hungarian acronym is IIF) was started. As a result of that the local networks of more than 150 academic and research institutions could be connected. The above mentioned machines are available in an interactive mode according to the X.25 standard recommended by the CCITT. This served as basis for electronic mail which began to work, first in the region, in 1989 and which at the beginning was represented by an IIF developed program, ELLA. This is a public e-mail network based on a high-performance machine and personal computer link, with a single national center where the information is transferred by rented lines and phone- connection. The international connection was realized with the help of the UUCP gateway. The ELF, a prototype of a national information BBS, and the PETRA, performing the role of a fileserver program, follow a similar architecture. It is worth mentioning that today already dozens of public BBS-s work with telephone modem.

One should not be surprised that the "bible" of networkers (Quarterman: The Matrix) does not know about Hungary in 1989 because it was in only 1990 that Hungary officially joined the EARN (and by that, the BITNET) through the national node (HUEARN). This soon was followed by other BITNET hosts put into operation. In a short time e-mail gave room to the known listservers, e-journals (e.g. PACS-L, ASTRA etc.), moreover, in 1991 an independent Hungarian listserver was created to help to accelerate the communication of Hungarian information experts in the libraries (KATALIST@HUEARN). The X.25 connection used all over in Europe made possible the access to the international networks and the use of the bigger automated library OPACs (e.g. the catalogs of the JANET). Shortly, a demand developed for on- line access on INTERNET too. At the start, this could be realized only through foreign nodes, but nowadays, though provisionally, in an experimental period, one can access INTERNET directly from Hungarian computers (e.g. sztaki2.sztaki.hu) as well.

The present situation can be characterized by the combination of old and new technology. More and more libraries buy the most up-to-date CD-ROM databases (Wilson, SilverPlatter etc.), even Hungarian CD-ROMs have been developed. With the aid of IMF, TEMPUS, PHARE or private foundations libraries have begun to purchase integrated library systems and at the same time the vendors started to establish their agencies in Hungary (ALEPH, CARLYLE, DOBIS/LIBIS, TECHLIB, TINLIB, VTLS etc.). Currently several partially or entirely integrated library systems are in operation in the country. In the field of the national database service two softwares seem to spread and take the place of the old ISIS: BASIS and BRS/SEARCH. The national and international meetings and conferences

organized during the last years to discuss this subject matter and the
comparison of our knowledge with the foreign literature show that Hungary
possesses the necessary professional grounding to be able to have the
modern software and hardware devices in good hands. Perhaps we could say
that the more fortunate western part of the world can add so much to this
capital accumulated not without difficulties that by 2000 the motherland
of Janos Neumann (or as he became world-famous: John von Neumann) need
not feel ashamed.

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                    A CONFERENCE FOR THE EXPLORATION OF A
            NATIONAL ENGINEERING INFORMATION SERVICE (NENGIS)

                        A Primer For The Conference

Provided by the Council On Library Resources

March 1992

Dear Colleague:

     The Council on Library Resources and the Engineering Foundation
have joined forces to explore steps to improve U.S. engineers' access
to the variety of information resources and services now available.
We are convinced that improved access will significantly enhance the
productivity of this nation. We believe the conference described in the
attached announcement is the first step in a process vital to the
engineering profession and to the information services that support
that profession.

     The enclosed preliminary program describes the general nature and
content of the conference. The combination of speeches and attendee
participation is intended to help us arrive at meaningful recommendations
and a plan for further action.

     We hope you will join us in Palm Coast, Florida, June 14-19, 1992,
where we will develop a plan of action to create a National Engineering
Information Service.

Sincerely,

W. David Penniman, Ph.D., P.E.
President and Conference Chair

David M. Liston, Jr., P.E.
Conference Co-Chair

Introduction

The basic rationale for organizing a conference such as this is
our belief that there is no integrated infrastructure for
handling engineering information and data such as one finds in
other major disciplines. Consider these: Education has the
Educational Research Information Center (ERIC), Health has the
National Library of Medicine (NLM), Agriculture has the National
Agricultural Library (NAL). In contrast, the engineering
discipline finds its information and data being tended by a
diverse conglomeration of profit-making and non-profit
organizations. Examples include the numerous engineering
societies, university libraries and databases, the Engineering
Societies Library (ESL), Engineering Information Inc., the
Library of Congress (LC), the National Technical Information
Service (NTIS), and various units of the Department of Defense
(DOD), Department of Energy (DOE), National Air and Space Agency
(NASA), and the National Institute for Standards and Technology
(NIST). Please take note that this is far from a complete list.

Our basic theme is that a means for integrated access to this
fragmented store of information and data is sorely needed by