OFF-CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES CONFERENCE II

More than one hundred librarians and educators gathered at the Knoxville Hilton on April 18 and 19, 1985 for the Off-campus Library Services Conference II, sponsored by Central Michigan University Libraries and the Institute for Personal and Career Development. Carrying on from an earlier conference held in St Louis in 1983, participants representing academic institutions from thirty-three states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and England were joined by US military education services officers. The conference brought together for the first time at the international level, the librarians, faculty, and administrators who must work together to develop successful library programs for the distant learner. The primary objective of the conference was to provide a forum where practitioners could gather to exchange relevant ideas, concerns, perspectives, and research.

The keynote address was presented by Barton M. Lessin, Assistant Director for Library Off-campus and Administrative Services at Central Michigan University. Setting the tone for the conference, Mr Lessin concentrated on the constituencies involved with off-campus library services and challenges which will be faced by those services in the coming years.

The conference highlighted the speeches of four distinguished educators whose featured discussions centred on the role of the library in the context of accreditation, licensure, off-campus/off-duty military academic programs, and the impact caused by off-campus academic programs. These speakers were Bruce N. Chaloux, Co-ordinator of Institutional Approval and Academic Projects for the Virginia Council of Higher Education; Jack Allen, Associate Executive Director for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; Frances Kelly, Head of the US Navy Education Services Section; and Darrell Jenkins, Director of Library Services at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

The conference theme, Current Practices — Future Challenges, was not only explored by these speakers but through twenty paper sessions. Topics covered in the concurrent papper sessions included: case studies of specific on-going library services; bibliographic instruction; accreditation processes; licensure practices; off-duty military academic programs and library services; remote delivery; support for graduate education; the view from an impacted library; the adequacy of vicinity libraries for external degree programs; a comparison of on-campus and off-campus library use and preferences; reading as a measure of academic standards on and off campus; and microfiche and telephone accessible catalogues.

Linda L. Bennett of Oberlin, Louisiana and the Louisiana State University School of Library and Information Science, was the recipient of the conference scholarship which was offered to library school students nationwide to encourage their interest and research in off-campus library services. Her paper proposed specific methods of co-operation among academic and state libraries, networks, and local public libraries. Ms Bennett's scholarship covered air transportation, accommodation, conference fees, and meals involved with her attendance.

People interested in receiving information about this conference or about the opportunities to plan and participate in the next conference scheduled for October 1986, are invited to contact Mr Barton M. Lessin, Assistant Director of Libraries, 206 Park Library, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan, 48858. (517) 774-6419.

Data Publishing

CAVAL will occasionally publish files of data in machine-readable form. The first such publication will consist of the AARL Annual Statistics. The data will be in the form of Lotus 1-2-3 files.

The initial offering will cover the statistics for 1974-1983 as annual files. Both 'raw' (as published) and 'cooked' (reflecting currently existing institutions by combining the numbers for their amalgamated ancestors). Lotus 1-2-3 worksheets will also be supplied for use with the data. (One of these will allow the instant sorting of the statistics into sensible sequences.)

Lotus 1-2-3 is a popular spreadsheet program which runs on IBM-PC computers and most clones. Disks will be in the MS-DOS/PC-DOS 2.0+ format (360 kb disks). The statistics will be usable only on such microcomputers and only using Lotus 1-2-3. CAVAL will not be supplying the Lotus 1-2-3 software itself.

Permission to publish the data in this form has been granted by CAUL, ALCAE and AARL itself. The current publication date is 1 July, 1985. The projected cost of the initial 10-year cumulation is $150.00 per set. An annual subscription to subsequent issues will probably be $50.00.

Orders for AARL Statistics for Lotus 1-2-3 should be sent to the CAVAL office.

80th Birthday Honour

The Council of the National Library of Australia has decided to commemorate the 80th birthday (June 14) of Australia's first National Librarian, Sir Harold White, by naming its fellowships in his honour.

The annual fellowships, which were introduced last year and are awarded to academics and others for studies at the Library, will in future be known as Harold White Fellowships at the National Library of Australia.

Sir Harold made an outstanding contribution to the foundation and development of the Library, which he envisaged as a great centre of scholarship. He was National Librarian (the position now known as Director-General) for 23 years, from 1947 to 1970.

Living in retirement in Canberra, he is still a frequent visitor to the building.

NETWORKING THE FUTURE AT CHISHOLM

Information networking is the watchword as Chisholm Institute of Technology Library moves into its next five years. The Library will seize opportunities offered by information technology and new management techniques to upgrade its activities within Chisholm, and in the wider community.

The first quarter of 1985 has seen fundamental change in the Library's approach to planning and organisation. Three major factors have made this possible. These are the Institute's Corporate Plan; the readiness of library staff to re-assess their working methods and their role in the Institute within a 'matrix style' organisational structure; and the success of the Dataphase system.

With the support of the Library Policy Committee, Library staff have been studying the Institute's Corporate Plan, and recording the Library objectives and programs that support each point in the plan. Many of these programs are already in place, but others are ideas that need to be explored with other Chisholm departments and with business and community groups.

The Library's response to the Chisholm Planning Document will be made available by the Library Policy Committee for widespread comment within the Institute. The response will demarcate the role of the Library as an instrument of the Institute's academic programs, and its involvement in the community.

The Library's planning emphasises information networking as the key to the Library's internal and external relationships. The Library wants to work with others to see that appropriate information resources exist in the Institute and the region, and that they are accessible to those who need them. Within the Institute the Library aims to work with each academic area in building up Information and Resource teams, consisting of Library and academic staff, to generate the resources, environments and skills for the educational use of information in all forms, including on-line resources.

Externally, it is intended to make the expertise and facilities of Chisholm Library available in co-operative programs with business, government, community groups, and other libraries, particularly in the southern regions of the metropolitan area. The new Library structure includes a Division for Information Networking which will facilitate the development of self-supporting programs such as the creation and marketing of databases; on-line searching services; publishing; a systems bureau service to smaller libraries; and consultancy on records management problems. Wherever possible activities of the Division will be undertaken jointly with Chisholm academic departments and centres.

Using its Dataphase system, Chisholm Library already provides 18 on-line public access catalogue terminals at its Caulfield and Frankston sites. This level of on-line provision is among the best in Australia. Soon it will be possible for users to consult the Library's system from terminals or microcomputers in their departments or at home.

The smooth implementation of the Dataphase system last year, and its very successful operation since then, has placed Chisholm Library in a position to consider a wide range of promising options for increased effectiveness and co-operative effort both within and outside the Institute, in the framework of the Institute's Corporate Plan.

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