



oasis

Observations of the American Society for Information Science

Los Angeles Chapter

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ASIS 1997 “Digital Collections: Implications for Users, Funders, Developers, and Maintainers”

November 1-6, 1997, Washington, DC

The emergence of the Global Information Society has profound implications for the future: implications for how we work, how our children discover their world, how we communicate and form relationships, and how we understand, appreciate, and transmit to future generations the richness of ideas and experiences. Poised at the intersection of research, scholarship, communication, publishing, entertainment, and commerce, digital collections have the potential to combine the ideas and methodologies of wide-ranging disciplines in unique and creative ways and of effecting technological and social change. This integration can enrich perspectives and expand our ability to understand how the various sectors could benefit from and participate in emerging global networks. But it can also lead to social, economic, and political isolation, control, and mediocrity.

The ASIS 1997 meeting will deal broadly with the emerging phenomenon of collections of digital objects — text, image, sound, and multimedia — accumulated in central as well as distributed repositories or virtual collections. Topics to be addressed will include research, technical, cultural, political, economic, and other key issues for users, funders, developers, and maintainers. These themes will be elaborated by keynote and invited speakers, and through refereed papers, panels, technical sessions, and other presentations which will address the following aspects of digital collections.

Users. Who are the users? What are their capabilities and needs? What are the benefits for users? What are useful evaluation mechanisms? What existing research is applicable? What research needs to be done? What is the bigger social, political, and commercial context into which digital collections fit? What are the negative impacts? How can the bandwidth and server gap between multimedia and text browsers be overcome? How will access be guaranteed?

Funders. What are the funding sources? What are their political and commercial expectations? How can funding be secured to digitize less profitable subject areas such as the arts and humanities? How can collaboration and cooperation be encouraged? What are the funding realities? What returns can be expected on the investments? How can these returns be realized?

Developers. What are the practical technical applications? What are the current and future technical architectures? What current research is applicable? What research needs to be done? What are the issues of intellectual access?

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Karen Hilzinger Wins Margaret McKinley Memorial Scholarship

(Karen Hilzinger, winner of the Margaret McKinley Memorial Scholarship, was unable to attend the annual Awards Dinner, as she lives in Australia. Her acceptance speech is reproduced below.)

It is with great pleasure that I receive the Margaret McKinley Memorial Scholarship Prize.

In Australia, a large proportion of students complete their degrees as part time mature age students. I am one of these. Ten years ago, I graduated from high school with the vague notion of wanting to work with information content. Since then, I've worked in a range of information environments, including academic libraries, subject specialist libraries, database records management, corporate research and information management.

At present, I am enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Information Studies) degree at the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia. The undergraduate student body of this course is known as BappSci. I'd like to share some insightful glimpses with you about BappSci student life at the UTS. In a nutshell, dedicated information science students are an eclectic bunch. They have been known to engage in some rather bizarre activities, such as vacuuming their book collections, alphabetizing their recipes, colour coding their wardrobes, even cataloguing the food supplies in their pantries and larders. Collectively, this behaviour is known as the Bibliographers curse. Victims of the curse experience uncontrollable urges to collect, organise and classify every material known to modern day man. Afflicted souls experience daily classification dilemmas-should the pickles be indexed as vegetables, preserves, relish, or spicy party food? After much heated debate, we decide to eat the pickles. Such bohemian philosophy works well for foodstuffs, but not for information science. After all, what would a library be without beautiful books and resources ... what would an information system be without information content? Where would we, as future information professionals, fit into the schema?

University has broadened my knowledge base in these areas, but, more importantly, it has increased my understanding. To me, information science is about much more than information content and information systems. It is about people, knowledge, events and ideas, and the way

in which these things interact socially to create a continuous flow of information.

The accurate representation of history for future generations is subject to the recordings of today's people, the events of today, and the ideas and knowledge which exist today. Information workers are entrusted with the social responsibility of recording, collecting, storing, conserving, and retrieving the history of our nations, our people, our cumulative world knowledge bank. Effectively, they are the custodians of historical content, and the mediators for contemporary content. Without the skills, integrity and dedication of information professionals, the flow of information is threatened by obstruction. Such obstruction may be due to constraints on information access, or through regulatory restrictions on information content. The Israeli government's control of the Palestinian Press during the early 1980's is a prime example of obstruction to the free flow of information. At that time the South African government was also enforcing strict censorship of all print and broadcast news information content.

I would like to draw on Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

The flow of information is intrinsic to information science. In the future, I hope to make a substantial contribution to this body of knowledge, focusing on issues of information equity, and freedom of information.

In closing, I would like to thank the American Society for Information Science, and the LACASIS Board for awarding me the Margaret McKinley Scholarship Prize. I look forward to meeting you all in Washington next year.

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President's Corner



Happy New Year to all! It is my pleasure to ring in the first issue of OASIS for 1997 with this initial chair's article. 1997 promises to be yet another fast-paced panorama of information science and technology advances. Even as the glitter might still be hanging onto the WebTV box you

saw on sale at the electronics store, you're wondering how that technology might affect your day-to-day life as an information professional. Beyond the flash of the new is a need for solid information theory and standard practices. *The New York Times* ran an article entitled, "Library Science Goes High-Tech" (<<http://search.nytimes.com/web/docsroot/library/cyber/week/010697library.html>> or *NYT*, Jan. 6, 1997, page C5). While this is hardly news to our tribe,* it is gratifying to see that the mainstream press is taking notice of our very important assets. Those outside of our profession are becoming more aware of our abilities and what better environment than a LACASIS meeting or the pages of our publications to join together in mutual congratulations?

Two upcoming LACASIS programs strive to bring the latest and greatest on the info frontlines. On February 1, LACASIS will hold a half-day hands-on workshop at USC

on World Wide Web search engines. On March 12, the chapter meeting will be held at the new Getty Center in Brentwood: an innovative and stunning architectural achievement. Vivian Hay and Murtha Baca will discuss the Getty Information Institute information retrieval vocabularies.

Of course, the company one finds attending LACASIS programs is equally important. As the lone information science professional in my organization, I value my time spent with colleagues at LACASIS functions. What a relief to be among those who speak the same language! Likewise, there are many from related professions who attend, providing ever-important cross-fertilization of ideas. An additional, excellent opportunity to get up close and personal with other LACASIS members is to join the workshop team, headed by Roberta Horowitz. We have plenty of tasks to accomplish between now and September and we'd like to have you on board.

Enjoy the newsletter!

* I view this much as I do the headlines "Economist uses theory to explain economy," *Collinsville Herald-Journal*, February 8 or "Fish lurk in streams" *Rochester, New York, Democrat & Chronicle*, January 29. Please take these citations with a grain of salt as I pulled them from Usenet.

Linda Rudell-Betts, LACASIS Chair 1996-97

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<http://www.aimusa.com>

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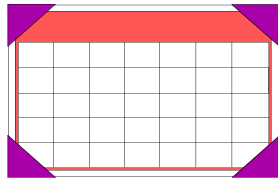
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"The Library & Information Personnel Specialists"

Mark Your Calendars

Be sure to mark your calendars for some exciting upcoming events:



February 1997

- Dr. Deanna Marcum, President, Council on Library Resources, will deliver the 1996/1997 Lazerow Lecture on February 17, 1997 3-5pm in room 111 of the GSE&IS Building at UCLA.

- The Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona presents: *Dealing With Chaos: Leadership Skills For The Special Librarian*. This 6 contact hour CE course will be offered in two locations:

Thursday, February 20, 1997

Location: Kaiser Downey, Imperial Satellite Offices, Downey, CA

Cost: \$75 MLA or SLA members—lunch included

Contact: Micki Robinson (619) 260-7024; email:

MICKIR@MERCYSD.COM

Friday, February 21, 1997

Location: University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ

Cost: \$60 MLA or SLA members—lunch included

Contact: Marylou Goldstein (602) 860-3870; email: marylg@smhsi.com

Course Description: Our environment for the next decade will be characterized by ambiguity and change. Therefore, it is essential that we develop process-oriented skills to implement strategies for the future. Using research results by such leadership experts as Warren Bennis, among others, the instructors will supply practical techniques for adopting critical behaviors for success. Achieving excellence as a special librarian at a time when entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, quality, reengineering and continuous change are the current buzzwords, will require librarians to become leaders on many levels. This course is designed for library managers to empower them with specific skills, knowledge, and attitudes to take on leadership roles within their organizations.

Instructors: Jane Dysart, Dysart & Jones; Stephen Abram, Director, Corporate and News Information, Micromedia Ltd.

- UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies to sponsor Mephistos 97.

Mephistos 1997, the 16th Annual Graduate Student Conference in the Philosophy, History, and Sociology of Science, Technology, and Medicine, and related fields, will be held (for the first time in the West Coast) at UCLA, in February 20-23, 1997.

Mephistos was created to be an annual forum for graduate students working in diverse areas touching upon the fields of science studies. The conference provides students with an invaluable opportunity to share research and discuss topics of concern across a variety of disciplines, in a low-stress environment. Students (regardless of department and university affiliation) are welcome to attend and/or submit papers.

For more information, you can check the web page at <http://scow.gslis.ucla.edu/students_m-z/mephisto/HTML/home.html> or contact Nadia Caidi, 244 GSE&IS Building, 300 Circle Drive North, Los Angeles, CA, 90095-1520. Phone: (310) 825-7154; Fax: (310) 206-4460; Email: ncaidi@ucla.edu.

March 1997

- On Wednesday, March 12, 1997, LACASIS will hold its Chapter meeting at the Getty Center where the topic will be: *The Getty Vocabularies: Structured Words for a Disordered World*. There will be a hospitality hour at 6:00 pm followed by a Southwestern Buffet Dinner and the presentation. Be one of the first to get a peek at the Getty Center! The full flyer is on page 11 as well as on our website at <<http://www.usc.edu/Library/LACASIS/>>.

- ACM97, the next 50 Years of Computing (1997 to 2,047) Conference and Exposition, March 1-5, 1997, San Jose, California.

This event begins a much-needed dialog on the long-term future of information technologies and their impacts on society, with plenary sessions from the following invited speakers: Gordon Bell, Joel Birnbaum, James Burke, Vinton Cerf, Bran Ferren, Fernan do Flores, Murray Gell-Mann, Brenda Laurel, Pattie Maes, Carver Mead, Nathan Myhrvold, William Perry, Raj Reddy, Elliot Soloway, and Bruce Sterling.

Find out about session topics, the ACM97 Exposition, and other special events, by visiting the ACM97 Web site at <<http://www.acm.org/acm97>>. This site also features online registration.

Conference registration is limited to just over 2,000, and there is no on-site registration. To attend, or to request an Advance Program, contact ACM in any of the following ways:

Online: www.acm.org/acm97
 Email ACM97info@acm.org
 Phone: 800-342-6626 (US/Canada),
 +1-212-626-0500 (worldwide)
 Fax: +1-212-944-1318

April 1997

- Sixth Annual Symposium on Document Analysis and Information Retrieval (SDAIR '97)
 April 20-23, 1997 Alexis Park Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada.

This symposium will present results of state-of-the-art research and encourage the exchange of ideas in the general field of automatic extraction of information from images of printed documents. Papers will focus on all aspects of document image analysis and information retrieval, both theoretical and applied. For further information, contact Patty Corhn, Symposium Secretary, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Information Science Research Institute, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 454021, Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-4021. Phone: (702) 895-3338; Fax: (702) 895-1183; email: sdair@isri.unlv.edu.

- Librarian, Cybrarian, Internaut, or Knowledge Navigator: Career and Skills for Information Professionals in the Nineties and Beyond.

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Whether you are a newcomer or a seasoned information professional, you must be feeling the impact of information technologies on your daily work and career prospects. Where is the profession going? What skills are employers looking for? Come join your colleagues for an evening of networking and information sharing. Bring a stack of business cards and participate in discussions with our panel of speakers. Watch for the announcement and flyer with details of the date and location, or keep an eye on our website at
 <<http://www.usc.edu/Library/LACASIS/>>.

September 1997

- Fall Workshop, September 19, 1997.

It's not too early to keep this date open! LACASIS is planning yet another successful workshop at the Industry Hills Sheraton, City of Industry, California. Watch the LACASIS website for details.

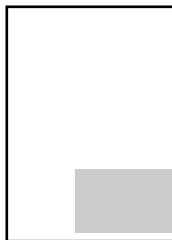
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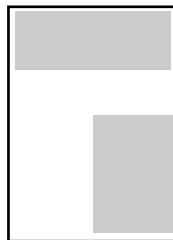
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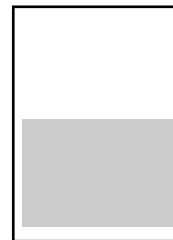
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Opportunities for Continuing Education

The University Extended Education Department, California State University at Fullerton, is offering specialized classes in the operation and administration of microcomputers in libraries. Classes include:

- Microcomputer Software Selection for Libraries (beginning February 8)
- Future Developments in Microcomputer Applications for Libraries (beginning May 3)
- Local Area Networks for Libraries (Summer, 1997)
- Essential Concepts for the WebMaster (beginning February 22)

For further information, go to <<http://www.fullerton.edu>> and choose Extended Education.

Come meet the Board!

LACASIS Board meetings are open to any member who wishes to attend. We usually meet on the first Saturday morning of each month. The location varies, so contact Linda Rudell-Betts, the current Chair, for details and directions if you would like to join us. Linda Rudell-Betts: (310)282-0774; lrudell@netcom.com.



How do you get reliable software at reasonable cost? The answer is to reuse software that works. We have pre-written components to create, clean, de-duplicate and convert MARC and non-MARC records. These are reliable and time-tested routines that can be incorporated into custom software to meet your needs. That way you get what you need without the bugs and high cost!

Examples of programs made from these components.

- BDES (Bibliographic Data Entry System) creates MARC or text records on PCs, including validation, spell-checking and vocabulary control.
- MTT (MARC-To-Text) converts MARC records to other formats.

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—The Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) has recently announced several sites of interest to information specialists.

Unclassified, unlimited bibliographic citations of over 10 years of DTIC's Technical Report Database can now be searched by the general public at <<http://www.dtic.mil/stinet/public-stinet>>.

In addition, its Nonprint Products Catalog gives access to the unclassified/unlimited portion of DTIC's nonprint collection. This collection includes over 400 videorecordings, computer diskettes, magnetic tape, and CD-ROM discs, arranged according to DTIC's subject field and group structure. Each citation includes title, publication date, corporate author, accession number, media type, price and abstract information as well as a Table of Contents is for quickly locating scientific and technical information. The Nonprint Catalog is at: <<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/npcatalog/nptoc.html>>.

—IAC Newsletters, on the electronic journals home page of Information Analysis Center of the Department of Defense, provide the latest news on several aspects of defense materials. Go to <<http://www.wl.wpafb.af.mil/library/iacnews.htm>> for more information.

—The Federal Computer Products Center (FCPC) was established to provide access to U.S. government computer software and data in electronic format, and can now be reached at <<http://www.ntis.gov/fcpc>>. Search options include direct or topic searching. Major topics include the environment and health.

—The newly combined company of Data Trek, Inc. and IME, Ltd., has now changed its name to Electronic Online Systems (EOS) International. IME was acquired by Data Trek in early 1996, and this combination is expected to lead to a truly global library automation and services company.

—Information Quest (IQ), a new web-based information access service, has just been launched by Dawson, Inc. It provides one-stop worldwide access to scientific, technical, medical, and business journals in electronic form through the Internet, with the ability to search on any word with the article content of a publication. The service includes document delivery, including graphics, to a user's desktop.

Sue Savage to Retire

by Aggi Raeder

Sue Savage is the founder and President of Savage Information Services (SIS), an information management consulting company in the Los Angeles area. SIS has been providing information and records management consulting, research services and temporary and permanent information personnel placement services for twenty years.

Sue has a thirty-five year history of accomplishment in the library and information field. She was involved early on with library automation, developing an automated library system for Douglas Aircraft in 1959. She has also designed and operated libraries and systems for NASA, the Department of Agriculture, and numerous other organizations.

She joined ASIS when it was still ADI. She served the national organization as liaison with SLA, and on the Professionalism Committee. She has served the local chapter as a newsletter chair, and has been active on committees.

She is also a member of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA), and the Special Libraries Association (SLA). She served on the Engineers Joint Council Thesaurus Working Group, was an adjunct professor at the USC School of Library Science, and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Information Institute and the International School of Information Management. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she is included in numerous Who's Who, is an author and has been an invited speaker at ASIS, SLA, ALA, CLA and National Online conferences.

Now, after operating SIS for twenty years, Sue is retiring. She plans to travel with her husband Terry, finally get the closets cleaned and do some writing. Her first project is a cookbook of family recipes. Sue can be reached at home at (310)377-7350.

ASIS 1997 : continued from page 1

Maintainers. How will digital collections be maintained? What are the information management issues? What tools are needed for managing collections (both high-end "quality" collections and personal or small user community collections)? How can the authenticity, validity, and reliability of objects be identified and maintained?

The conference will include contributed papers as well as panels, technical sessions, and other presentations. For more information, point your browser to <<http://www.asis.org/annual-97/ASIS97.htm>>.

Members In The News

Send your accomplishments to Denise Shorey at (213)740-8863, fax: (213)740-7713, or shorey@usc.edu.

Marcia J. Bates, "Document familiarity, relevance, and Bradford's Law: the Getty Online Searching Project," Report No. 5, *Information Processing and Management* 32 (1996), 697-707.

Marjorie Hlava and J. V. Eman, "Moving databases to the Web." *Computers in Libraries '97*. March 10-12, 1997, Arlington VA.

Karen Howell (Center for Scholarly Technology, University of Southern California) has been appointed to the ASIS 1997 Technical Program Committee and the ASIS Leadership Development Committee.

Denise Shorey and Xiaoyang Liu, USC, gave a presentation on "The Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Library: a Library of the Future, Today" at the CLA Conference Institute on Planning the Library of the Future: Library Buildings and Technology, in Sacramento, California.

Mark Stover, "The librarian as publisher: a world wide web publishing project." *Computers in Libraries* 16 (1996), 40-43.

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1997 Margaret McKinley Memorial Student Scholarship Essay Competition

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Society for Information Science announces the Sixth Annual Student Scholarship Essay Competition. This competition, first established in 1992, and renamed in memory of the late Margaret McKinley in 1993, is intended to encourage students in Librarianship and Information Science Programs to consider the benefits of participation in the activities of professional societies.

AWARD: The winner will receive reimbursement funding up to US \$1,000 for registration, airfare, and hotel expenses to attend the ASIS Annual Meeting to be held November 1-6, 1997, in Washington, DC, and a one-year membership in ASIS. Two runners-up will receive one-year memberships in ASIS.

ELIGIBILITY: All students enrolled in Librarianship and Information Science Programs, including those graduating in Spring, 1997, at universities within the areas represented by the Los Angeles Chapter of ASIS (Arizona, Australia, California, and Hawaii) are eligible to enter the 1997 Margaret McKinley Memorial Student Scholarship Essay Competition. Current membership in the American Society for Information Science is not required to enter the Competition.

TO ENTER: Compose an essay on the topic: "What specific benefits do I expect to derive from attending the ASIS Annual Meeting? How will I integrate these benefits into the start of my new career?" Essays should be brief, not exceeding 500 words, or two typed, double-spaced pages. Do not identify yourself or your school in your essay. Submit your essay with a separate cover sheet listing your name, address, telephone number, email address (if applicable), and school by the deadline, May 16, 1997 to:

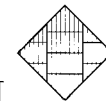
LACASIS c/o Linda Adams
The Boston Consulting Group
355 S. Grand, 33rd Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071
Phone: (213) 621-2772
Email: lladams@netcom.com

Essays must be submitted by regular mail and postmarked by May 16, 1997. Essays will be judged by a panel of LACASIS members. Winners will be notified by July 15, 1997.

LACASIS Encourages Its Student Members to Submit Essays

Not sure of the benefits of submitting an essay for the Margaret McKinley Scholarship? Wondering if your essay will make it? Recent winning scholarship essays will soon be up on the LACASIS website. In addition, Jason Binford, winner of the 1995 Scholarship, encourages all students to participate, with the following message:

"Two years ago as a new graduate of the library school at the University of Hawaii, I had the good fortune to attend the ASIS national meeting in Chicago. It was a terrific experience for me, one that I highly recommend to other students. LACASIS enabled me to attend through its McKinley Scholarship Competition. If you are an eligible student, I highly encourage you to apply for this scholarship. Sometimes a bit of effort can yield surprisingly good results."



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LACASIS

The Los Angeles Chapter

of the

American Society for Information Science

presents

The Getty Vocabularies: Structured Words For A Disordered World

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Please join us for the March LACASIS Chapter meeting at the Getty Center. Murtha Baca, Senior Editor, and Vivian Hay, Systems Project Manager, will discuss traditional and innovative applications of the structured vocabularies developed by the Getty Information Institute. The Art & Architecture Thesaurus, the Union List of Artist Names, and the Thesaurus of Geographic Names, which have long supported research in the humanities, are now becoming multipurpose tools for information retrieval across large heterogeneous databases available on the World Wide Web.

Register now!

Date: Wednesday, March 12th, 1997

Time: 6:00 pm Hospitality Hour
7:00 pm Southwestern Buffet Dinner
8:00 pm Presentation: Murtha Baca & Vivian Hay

Cost: \$20 LACASIS Members
\$18 Student, Retired or Unemployed LACASIS members
\$25 Other

Menu: Southwestern Buffet Dinner	Place:
Achiote Chicken Roasted Vegetables Black Bean Salad Mixed Greens with Peppers Stuffed Jalapeno, Corn & Green Chili Bread Dessert Coffee or Tea	The Getty Center 1200 Getty Center Drive Los Angeles CA 90049

Please RSVP by Friday, March 7th

Directions to the Getty Center:

Take the I-405 San Diego Freeway to Getty Center Drive. At the end of the exit ramp, turn south on Sepulveda Blvd. (Right turn if coming from the south; Left turn if coming from the north). Drive south approximately 1/2 mile, and turn right at Getty Center Drive, which is an underpass below the I-405. Stop at the Security Booth, then park in the lower parking garage. Take the elevator to the Tram Station on Level "T", and ride the tram to the upper Tram Station. (Trams run every few minutes). Check in with Getty staff in the Tram Plaza; they will direct you to the Getty Center Cafe, on the western side of the Plaza.

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