

NEWS LIBRARY News

Vol. 14, No. 5/SUMMER 1992

SPECIAL REPORT

STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND: A News Librarian's Perspective on ANPA/TEC Digital Photo Archive Systems: How Do They Look?

By Paula Stevens

Last fall I made the tough decision to budget funds to attend ANPA/TEC instead of SLA this year. I needed to get a good feel for the digital photo archiving systems available and ANPA/TEC was the way to do it. I am involved in a New Technology Committee at our papers, so I wanted to see what's new with audiotex and fax services as well as the archiving.

I knew I would miss seeing my colleagues and miss the learning opportunities in San Francisco. As it turned out, ANPA/TEC was a major learning opportunity and a chance to meet new colleagues.

PHOTO ARCHIVING

Our immediate concern in Phoenix is with archiving wire photos, although we will eventually store local photos and graphics as well.

The two major players in photo archiving are the Associated Press and AXS Optical Technology Resource. Both have decent systems with advantages and disadvantages, and both have a high price tag.

AP's main selling point is its claim that the AP Leaf Preserver system is — or will be — a seamless operation with the existing Leaf Picture Desk. AP will work with each site on their specific needs and propose an appropriate system configuration. It

is committed to the IBM RS6000 RISC-based server running IBM's AIX (UNIX) operating system.

The system looked easy to learn and easy to use. A look at the record structure and field labels showed that AP has finally paid attention to some of the suggestions submitted to them by the News Division, although the sales reps give AP the credit. The system can handle multiple users and AP claims it will be able to store graphics as well as text, such as full pages of the papers.

A lack of true proximity searching could be a frustration once a database gets larger than the 200-picture demo database you see at exhibits.

A typical demo would go something like this: "Suppose you want a sports picture. Just type in sports." About five assorted sports photos would quickly be recalled, and observers would ooh and ah. Since we know this is not reality, I asked them to find photos of just Magic Johnson. It stumped them. AP says they are working on proximity commands, but I don't know when and how they will work.

The main disadvantage I saw in the AP Leaf Preserver is that it's an untested, not-quite-ready system. Many of the features will not be available until the System 8 software for the



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These folks don't just talk about computer-assisted reporting, they're doing it!

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THE ASIDE BAR



I have come to know first-hand the phenomenon of hyperventilating. I'm not sure whether I held my breath or sighed in relief more often.

I survived, though, and had fun putting together this conference coverage issue. As the articles rolled in, I was reminded of points that hadn't quite made it into my own notes (well, they were there but I couldn't remember why!).

I hope our coverage serves as expanded notes for those of you who were able to attend conference. More importantly, I hope those who were not able to attend find this issue a useable primer to the knowledge and expertise offered by our Division programming.

When you see something you like, call the author and let them know.

When you see something you don't like, call me. I'll be holding my breath, so call soon!

Mona Hatfield
Managing Editor

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T H E H . W . W I L S O N C O M P A N Y

9 5 0 U N I V E R S I T Y A V E N U E , B R O N X , N Y 1 0 4 5 2



By Colin Preston

The SLA conference wrapped up weeks ago and I'm still rummaging through the box of handouts I picked up from the Exhibitors' booths. I should be able to recycle this material for the next few columns with ease. A recent issue of "Byte" magazine had a special section entitled "Managing Infoglut". After a conference or after a typical day's work, the term makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?

Budget a problem? How about a free online service? PR On-Line bills itself as "the first free on-line source of breaking news from participating Presidential campaigns." US Newswire also kicks in 10-30 daily releases from government agencies, politicians, unions, environmental groups and advocacy groups. Publications from the Brookings Institution are now also available. You can hook up with PR On-Line by dialing 1-800873-0010. The service is provided by Stephen K. Cook & Company 1090 Vermont Avenue NW Suite 800 Washington, DC 20005. They publish a newsletter, "On-Line Journal" and provide assistance by phone (202) 347-8918, Fax (202) 347-8920 or CompuServe Email, 76170,706. ■

At the tail end of the SLA conference I managed to tack on a Portland junket to the IRE (Investigative Reporters and Editors) get-together. I was overjoyed to discover a vibrant subculture of active, savvy journalists engaged in various facets of CAJ (Computer Assisted Journalism). The concept is certainly worthy of ongoing discussion in *NLN*. A good (and cheap) summary of CAJ stories filed can be found in "IRE: Selected Computer-Assisted Stories from the IRE Morgue." 66 CAJ stories starting in 1985 are summarized with useful notes such as "How the Story Got Started", "Database Information", "Sources" & "Results", "Advice to Others" and the all important "Difficulties, Uniqueness or Other Notes on Special Circumstances". This publication isn't a primer on CAJ, but a useful overview of real applications of the special techniques and technology. There's an obvious connection between what we library folks do as our bread and butter and what these journalistic information surfers are up to. I wonder if we're making all the right connections? Oh, the book is \$10 and can be obtained from IRE, 100 Neff Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. ■

A more scholarly approach to the topic (among others) might be found in Philip Meyer's updated "The New Precision Journalism." The blurb says it best, "— how to use the new technology to analyze data and provide more precise information. Covers .. data analysis, use of statistics, computers, surveys, database applications." I don't know how many of you are responsible for maintaining a collection of professional literature, but this ought to be a consideration for purchase. I was fortunate enough to hear Professor Meyer address a crowd of investigative journalists. He's got something to say to us Information Professional wannabes. The text (\$28 cloth, \$12.95 paper) is available from: Order Department, Indiana University Press, 10th & Morton, Bloomington, IN 47405, Phone: 1-800-842-6796. ■

Speaking of subcultures, what happens to all that tape and film accumulated by the TV News Library folks? Perhaps we can look to the UCLA Film and Television Archive for some research and direction in that area. These folks and their collection of 200000+ films and television programs and 27 million feet of newsreel film are already grappling with issues of access, preservation and restoration with which the rest of us in the TV and radio realms are going to have to go to the mat all too soon. They publish a newsletter and have a handy list of facilities for those in need of cleaning or restoring videotape. For those retrospective pieces, they also license archival footage from their Hearst Movietone Newsreel collection for broadcast use. LA denizens and visitors can also take advantage of their nightly screenings. The rest of us will have to be satisfied contacting them at: UCLA Film and Television Archive, 1438 Melnitz Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90024-1622. Phone (310) 206-8013. ■

A couple of issues ago I mentioned a kinky catalogue, store and mail order service based in LA all under the corporate umbrella of "AMOK". I was pleased to discover in a recent bookstore prowl that their catalogue, "Amok: Fourth Dispatch" has now been reprinted and should be available at a bookstore near you. ■

Interested? Call Colin Preston for more information at (604) 662-6855, FAX: (604) 662-6878, CompuServe Email: 71730,3307

Small Library News



By Elaine Raines

Conference Roundtable Generates Much Food for Thought

When Mona called to ask me to write the Small Library News column, I was concerned that I was not really from a small library. But then I started thinking about how my staff has been cut in half over the last few years, how we still face the paper each day armed with our date stamps and rippers and how we are not situated in a major population center—I agreed to do the column.

I hope to continue its interest for librarians from smaller papers and those with small staffs, and also reach out to include those who, like me, face dwindling resources and may not be at the forefront of technology.

Some observations from San Francisco.

A small but enthusiastic group of news librarians met in San Francisco on Wednesday, June 10, for the Small News Libraries Roundtable. Diane Sponsler will be the chair of the Roundtable for the coming year. Elyse Eisner led the discussion.

One of the first topics discussed was the need to schedule the meeting as a regular session at next year's conference. Diane will work with Donna Scheeder to get the roundtable a program slot. Diane is compiling ideas for the program in Cincinnati.

She would like to address the needs of small libraries to find ways of adapting to the new photo technologies. How can smaller libraries be prepared with budget requests and plans that can be incorporated into their more limited settings and financial constraints? How can the smaller library handle the problems of photo collections *without* some of the new technologies?

Closely tied with these photo issues is the storage and retrieval of graphics generated by the art department. Diane is interested in suggestions from others regarding this topic or alternative ideas for programming. Please contact her at *The Pantagraph* Library, 301 West Washington, Bloomington, IL 61701. Phone: (309)829-9411.

One of the next topics discussed was how to make good use of computers already available in the newsroom. Although there were no specific answers, the participants believed that there are ways non-automated libraries can move more into the computer age by acquiring access to equipment already on site.

It has been several years since there has been a review of software that might be of special benefit to smaller libraries, this is another area worth exploring.

We also talked about public service, what levels of service can a small library provide? What about faxing, billing, etc.? How are photo reprint orders handled?

As you can see, the discussion in San Francisco covered a variety of topics. In the coming issues of *NLN*, I would like to explore some of these further. Also, Diane and I have talked about trying to reach the librarians from small libraries who cannot attend the conference so we may find out their concerns and interests.

If you have any ideas for upcoming columns, please write to me at *The Arizona Daily Star* Library, PO Box 26807, Tucson, AZ 85726. ■

Notes From The Chair



By John Cronin

Well, at least a hundred and sixty-five of us are back from the San Francisco conference all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and ready to retackle the day-to-day business of running our respective news libraries.

That number, by the way, was the official count of News division members who had pre-registered for conference; no final numbers are available yet, but this represents a pretty decent turnout in economic down-times, doesn't it?

For those of you who couldn't be there, keep reading through this issue as it fills you in on what happened at conference. The preconference issue outlined the topics and issues of our conference programs. Please contact the individual program chairs if you need further information.

As you'll see from this and upcoming issues, the division's Automation-Technology committee is maintaining its constant vigil presenting division members' concerns when and where necessary about developments in the area of Image Storage & Retrieval.

The Automation committee's work is just one example of our continuing efforts to maintain the visibility, concerns and interests of the division.

This year the Publicity-Public Relations committee will make electronic bulletin boards its priority with a view, naturally, toward making them more "meaningfully" useful for division members. Also, the membership committee will be guiding the publication of a new membership directory; establishing further guidelines to make it more responsive to membership needs.

A quick glance at the listing of the new Executive Board will tell you just who is responsible for what. If any of you have a question or concern about any aspect of our division's activities by all means call or drop a note to the respective board member or committee chair.

Just be prepared to volunteer your own services if the need is there!

Naturally, I want any member to feel free to call or write me whenever necessary but I will hedge on that commitment just a little bit! I know it's easier to call the chair when you have a question, but getting the correct response often will be delayed if I just have to pass you along to somebody else. Please just keep that in mind. Or, as they say in philosophical circles, utilize the principle of subsidiarity!

To division members who sometimes or never get to conference: please continue to use *NLN*, the chair and the board as your "sound-ing-board". Believe me, we've already heard "plenty enough" from the regular conference attendees!

Several vendors contributed, as usual, to the success of the Conference. I would especially like to thank: Congressional Quarterly for its annual division luncheon; DataTimes, Dialog-VU/TEXT and Mead Data Central for their respective Suite sponsorships; Information Access for the San Francisco Harbor cruise; NewsBank for its division breakfast; and Predicasts for its sponsorship of the Pacific Rim program.

To the outgoing board members and committee chairs, I thank you for your contributions. To the continuing and incoming board members I look forward to your contributions and to working with all of you.

Please welcome Donna Scheeder as this year's chair-elect. As someone stepping down from that "lofty" responsibility I know that she has a busy and interesting year ahead of her. She will need everyone's help and support.



And, finally, to Margaret Neu, as she enters the "twilight year" of the chair, my thanks for her leadership of the division over the past year and for the innovative passing of the gavel in San Francisco when, having forgotten the division gavel at home, she passed on to me a wooden/plastic-combination substitute hammer and proceeded to bang herself with it on her bad knee. I say "well done, good and faithful servant"! (heh! heh!) ■

People

By Barbara Hijek

Division Members In The Conference Limelight

We were a visible division in conference activities this year: Kitty Scott, *Smithsonian*, assumed her new duties as president of SLA; Barbara Semonche is floating on air now that her role as 1992 conference planner came to a close; and Cathy Jones, Library of Congress, was honored as an SLA Fellow.

Rewards for excellent work

Barbara Newcombe, a librarian for the Center for Investigative Reporting, was awarded a James Madison Freedom of Information Award in April from the Northern California Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) for promoting access to government records and for her research for the 1990 book *Paper Trails*, a user's guide to various local and state public records.

When the *Sacramento Bee* won two Pulitzers this year Tom Knudson, one of the winners, called the experience "fantastic," then circled the newsroom thanking editors, photographers and "the unsung heroes in the library!" Pete Basofin, Research Manager, received a credit line for his contribution to the award-winning series.

The April 10th *USA TODAY* (page 11A) ran a piece by columnist Barbara Reynolds praising the library staff. She calls the *USA TODAY'S* library "the best in the business" and even extends a national "thank you" to them. In print. Top of the page. Great going!

New faces in new places

Bob Isaacs, *Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel*, welcomes Dottie Horrocks as his new Assistant Manager of Library Services.

Michelle Quigley, a former law and government librarian, has joined the library staff of the *Palm Beach Post* as Research Systems Support Librarian.

The *Daily Oklahoman's* new Library Manager is Carol Campbell. Carol has been with the paper for 24 years - four of those in the library.

People magazine recently appointed Jim Oberman as Manager of Research Operations. Jim formerly ran the *Entertainment Weekly* library and also worked at the ABC News library.

Amy Wahl, Senior Researcher at the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, has left to become a researcher at the Washington Post.

The number you have reached —

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* has recently changed all of its telephone numbers. So if you trying to reach Jerry Brown or the Library Staff please dial 314-340-8274.

And it's Off to the Press—

Barbara Semonche, Library Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, edited a new treatise in our field: *News Media Libraries: A Management Handbook*. The book is a collaborative, 30-chapter effort of more than 25 news librarians in the academic, print and broadcast arenas. Info covers everything from clipping papers to international news librarianship. Hightech topics as well as ethics also are addressed. All proceeds from the sales of this book benefit SLA's News Division Scholarship and Continuing Education Fund. It will be available from Greenwood Press in Fall 1993.

Fine-tuning the gray matter

Nora Paul, Library Director of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, will conduct three library/news research oriented conferences in 1993. Interested? Contact Nora at Poynter or send her a message via CompuServe E-mail (address is 76216,1006). Nora was the keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual Data Trail Conference at the University of Minnesota Journalism Center in June.

Linda James, Library Director of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, was granted a three-month leave of absence this summer to participate in the SEASSI program at the University of Washington to study Intermediate Vietnamese. Linda serves on the Board of Directors of the St. Paul Red Cross and works with Southeast Asian refugees.

Reference aides available online

Mary Kate Leming and Michelle Quigley of the *Palm Beach Post* have compiled a list of full-text magazines, newspapers and public records — BY STATE. It's available in CompuServe's JFORUM library. Take a look and send them your thanks.

Also on JFORUM—Kitty Bennett, News Researcher for the *St. Petersburg Times*, has a list of 10 FOR 10 (ten great and cheap) databases to access for under \$10. Pete Basofin uploaded his "Six Archetypes of News Librarians" speech that he presented at the SLA Conference.

You Wanna Be in Pictures?

Nancy Burris, Head Librarian at the *Times-Picayune*, was glad to see the production end for Oliver Stone's JFK—all the clips and photos concerning the Garrison Investigation had to be kept under lock and key out of the library. Nancy adds, "It was a long, long summer." ■

Tips From the SLA Conference for Your Reference Collection

Barbara Semonche tuned into National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" June 26 and was intrigued with reporter Mara Liasson's program on political campaigning, "Opposition Research and Attack Librarians." [!!!] The premise was that politicians are not elected without top information specialists on their team to uncover the blemishes of the opposing candidate(s). The tape may be purchased from NPR; the transcript is available from Burrelles or contact Kee Malesky at NPR.

Susan Mulvihill, *Spokane Chronicle and Spokesman-Review*, started a discussion at conference about a telephone book exchange. Last year Carole Teshima-Morris, *Bellingham (WA) Herald*, sent her a phone book and asked for the Spokane phone book in exchange. They thought it was a great idea and started a phone book exchange with other newspapers in her region and it was quite a success.

Here's how it works: She sends a copy of the Spokane book to another newspaper library; with it is a cover letter asking the recipient to accept the phone book with her compliments and asking if they would like to reciprocate. The mailing costs are \$2.70 in the U.S. and \$4.00 to Canada.

Several librarians at conference were enthusiastic and said they would participate. One even suggested the exchange could be taken a step further to include professional journals and — who knows?

If you're interested contact Susan at (509)459-5528. ■

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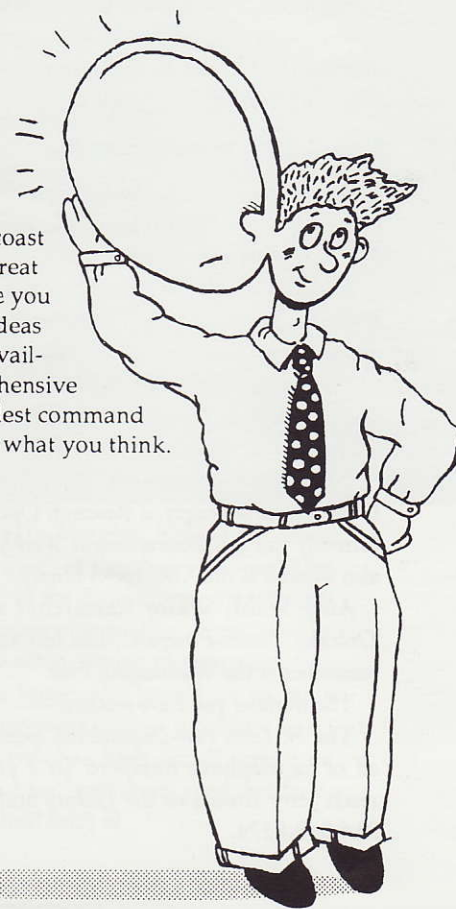
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Poynter Seminar Welcomes "The Other Guys"



Illustration by CRAIG MACINTOSH

By Nora Paul

Which of the following describes the relationship between the news library and the newsroom at your paper?:

- A. The Hatfields and the McCoys
- B. The Christians and the Lions
- C. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
- D. Bonnie and Clyde

This multiple-choice test kicked off this year's News Library and the Newsroom seminar. Although it was a silent vote, I suspected most of the participants selected one of the first

three. Traditionally, the news library's relationship to the newsroom has been mostly adversarial or, worse, invisible.

I told them the ideal relationship was Bonnie and Clyde. Yes, they were outlaws who broke the rules. But they had a common goal and, most importantly, were equal partners.

To get news libraries and newsrooms together in a mutually beneficial and equal relationship, some rules would have to be broken. That was the theme of the week's seminar. We wanted to identify and tear down barriers between

the library and the newsroom.

We needed a different approach than the almost exclusively news librarian and library manager attendance of our 1990 and 1991 seminars. Participants commented on the great talks with other news librarians and the personal and professional development that grew out of those talks - but something was missing, they wished the "other guys" were there, too.

This year we asked for team applications: the news librarian and an editor from each newspa-

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Administering Video News Collections: Conservation Techniques and Resources

Editor's Note: This issue of BLN is contributed by Gregory Lukow, Deputy Director of the National Center for Film and Video Preservation at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles where he coordinates the moving image preservation activities of the nation's archives. You can reach Lukow at: National Center for Film and Video Preservation, American Film Institute, P.O. Box 27999, 2021 North Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027.

For information on any of the other television-related conference presentations please contact me: Debra K. Bade, Reference/Special Projects Librarian, CNN, 1 CNN Center, Box 105366, Atlanta, GA 30348.

By Gregory Lukow

The decade of the '80s featured tremendous growth and development in the area of archiving television news materials. To give you an idea of the scope of this growth, during the past 10 years television news collections have come to comprise the largest and fastest growing constituency within the entire North American moving image archival community. This column hopefully will relay some of the challenges facing television news archivists and present some of the resources available to them.

Historical Developments in Television News Archives

Growth has taken place in both the public and the private sectors for very specific historical and economic reasons. In the public sector, the 1980s saw many local stations and network affiliates across the country make donations of their historic news film collections to dozens of public archival institutions. As with the major television networks, these stations had completed the transition from news production on 16mm film to electronic newsgathering on magnetic videotape. In the process, many found it no longer cost-efficient to continue supporting the storage costs and equipment necessary to maintain these film libraries. Although many of these collections unfortunately were destroyed, many were donated to local archives or museums, university libraries, and state historical societies across the country.

Today, these film collections, which had tra-

ditionally been comprised of unedited news stories and outtakes, are supplemented by local archives with recordings of newscasts in their entirety from a range of local stations. In many cases, these recordings are the only way for public institutions to make current news programming available to the scholarly research community.

In the private sector, television networks and stations themselves have increasingly recognized the ongoing historical as well as economic value of their news productions. Local stations that have maintained film and video collections over the years—some of them with material covering several decades—often find they have a significant market advantage on competing stations in the same area. Similarly, larger network news organizations, in addition to ongoing in-house re-use of footage, often license portions of their collections for personal viewing or for use in out-of-house productions or programming.

Association of Moving Image Archivists

Accompanying the rapid growth of the television news archival community has been the increasing professionalization of the field. In 1986 we saw the establishment of the News and Documentary Collections Working Group within the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA). AMIA, for which my office, the National Center for Film and Video Preservation, serves as institutional secretariat, is a national organization whose members come from a broad range of film and video archives, both public and private, throughout North America.

Through annual AMIA conferences and the publication of the association's newsletter, the News and Documentary Collections Working Group has developed an ongoing topical agenda of direct relevance to the administration and conservation of all kinds of television news collections.

Curatorial Manual for News Collections

In developing this national agenda, it soon became clear that the process of archiving television news materials (the bulk of which is



Gregory Lukow

often raw or unedited footage) is significantly different from the long-extant practices and standards for archiving other, more traditional moving image materials, i.e., edited and titled fictional and documentary film or video.

In addressing this problem, archivists saw the need to produce a basic archival handbook for use by archivists and librarians responsible for administering news film and videotape collections. In 1991, a proposal to produce this manual was submitted by the National Center for Film and Video Preservation and accepted for funding by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an agency of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. I am currently co-directing this project in collaboration with Steve Davidson, director of one of the nation's premier local news archives, the Louis Wolfson II Media History Center in Miami.

Davidson also serves as editor of the curatorial manual, which will feature chapter contributions from a number of television news archivists, producers, and researchers across the country who are actively involved with the editing and re-use of news materials in a variety of new television productions. The project directors would welcome participation in this

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project from interested members of SLA's News Division.

Videotape Conservation

Moving image archivists are quick to point out that videotape, unlike motion picture film, is not a long-term preservation medium. With a reasonable life expectancy of only 20 years for all analog and digital videotape formats, the best that video archivists and librarians can hope for is to:

1) Provide proper archival storage conditions (low temperature and relative humidity); and 2) Continually monitor and inspect tape holdings for signs of signal degradation, being prepared to transfer deteriorating tapes and obsolete formats to the best quality contemporary formats.

It is important to remember that the life expectancy of digital videotape is no greater than that of other analog tape formats (and in some instances may be even less). However, entering a digital environment does provide the advantage of allowing archivists to transfer deteriorating tapes without a generational loss of image quality.

To keep up with the newest research on videotape longevity, news librarians should be aware of the ongoing work of a committee recently established by the Audio Engineers Society (AES) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This body is known as the Joint Technical Commission (IT9-5/AES) on the Stability of Optical and Magnetic Systems. It is an accredited committee of ANSI and has the responsibility for writing documents on the physical properties and permanence of these materials. The committee investigates storage, transfer and life-expectancy issues related to both analog and digital formats. To date, it has not shifted from its recommendation of analog 1-inch open-reel tape as the best current format for mastering magnetic materials. ■

FYI ASIS 1993 Mid-Year Meeting in Knoxville, TN, May 21-27, 1993, is organizing sessions focusing on the technology of imaging: hardware and software technology, scanners, frame grabbing, database developments, the future for imaging and much more. ASIS is currently soliciting proposals for papers and presentations for this conference — if you have something to contribute contact ASIS at (301) 495-0900 or Gregory Lukow at (404) 827-1125 for more information. Debra Bade.

Television News Libraries: Visual Images on Course for the Future

Colin Preston of CBC Vancouver moderated this panel, which included speakers Jeannette Kopak, Kathy Christensen and Tom Byron.

The CNN News Archive: Where the Images Never Stop

Kathy Christensen of the CNN News Library included in her presentation some television vocabulary terms useful in any discussion of television libraries. Some of the terms included were:

Aircheck: A complete recording of a program as it appeared on the air.

Beeper: A live or taped report phoned in from a field correspondent.

Cutaway: Shots of an audience while the primary camera is pointed toward a speaker are called cutaways.

Font: Words superimposed on the video — reporter's name, location, or speaker identification.

Incue: The first few words heard in a package or soundbite.

Natural Sound: The naturally occurring sound that accompanies video - the babbling brook, etc.

Outcue: The last few words heard in a package or soundbite.

Package: An edited story containing a reporter track and video elements.

Playback: The airing of taped material.

Raw: Unedited video.

Reader: A story read by an anchor (anchor appears on the screen throughout.)

Rundown: The producer's rundown for a news show.

Slug: A few words that identify the story — Shuttle Launch, Bush Rio trip, etc.

Soundbite: Words spoken by the interviewee or subject of the package.

Standup: A reporter speaking on camera.

Timecode: Time of day in hours:minutes:seconds.

Track: Reporter reading his story, recording it on the tape.

TRT: (tape running time) The length of the package or soundbite.

Voiceover: An anchor or reporter reading a story while video is shown.

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Continued from page 11

The News Broadcast Materials Library: A Picture Can Tell The Story

Jeannette Kopak, CBC TV News Library

Transcripts of television news packages are incomplete story records that don't take into account facial expression, tone of voice or the fact that the focus of the story usually forces the journalist to emphasize one event with words, leaving the other images without much explanation. A good example of such a challenge is a story filed in 1955 about the opening of the Shakespeare festival in Stratford, Ontario. The original indexing included the location (Stratford), a subject heading (Culture), and the date. What's lost with this indexing: good shots of 1950's children playing — boys wearing Daniel Boone caps and playing with toy rifles; a then-unknown actor, William Shatner, playing a minor role in Julius Caesar; and Lorne Greene rehearsing his lines as Julius Caesar (this was prior to his role in Bonanza). Predicting the rise of actors like Shatner and Greene in 1955 would have been difficult just as knowing the other ways television news images will be used in the future is impossible for us today. These factors make detailed shotlists (descriptions) and cataloguing critical for accurate information retrieval.

Live Action Video: Opportunities and Uses in Personal Computer Applications

Tom Byron, Public Relations Manager, Spectrum HoloByte

As personal computer technology matures, the ability to use full-motion video within applications is increasing, especially in the areas of entertainment and education. Why should players settle for crude animation techniques when they can see the real thing? Dozens of games and multimedia programs include full-motion video to incorporate a sense of realism and human drama never before realized in these media. Video footage can be attained from a variety of sources, including private and public-domain archives. Spectrum HoloByte's "Crisis in the Kremlin," a geopolitical simulation of the Soviet Union, is an excellent example of how full-motion video is quickly becoming an integral part of game design.

Can Our Video Collections Be Saved?

This session was moderated by Stan Singer of the NBC News Archive and included speakers Dan Einstein, Blaine Bartel and Gregory Lukow.

Stan Singer, left, with Marie McKenzie



Preserving Videotape and Newsreel Film at the UCLA Film and Television Archive

Dan Einstein and Blaine Bartel, UCLA Film and Television Archive

The UCLA Film and Television Archive inaugurated its video preservation program in 1987 when it began work on the restoration and preservation of AN EVENING WITH FRED ASTAIRE (1958) and two other Astaire specials produced during the next two years on 2" color tape. Since that project's successful completion, the Archive has undertaken the preservation of over 40 programs originally produced on 2" tape, including some news and news-related programs. Earmarked for preservation is a group of 2" tapes from the 1960 JFK presidential campaign, most prominent among them Kennedy's address on the religion issue to a group of Baptist ministers in Houston. Another important part of the Archive's collection is the Hearst Metrotone Newsreel Collection that includes much historical footage that has been successfully preserved. In addition to focusing attention on the preservation of actual broadcasts, the Archive stresses the need to preserve obsolete video equipment and maintain contact with engineers who can operate and service such equipment. ■



Blaine Bartel

For more information

UCLA Film and Television Archive
24-hour recorded programming information, call: (213)206-FILM

Archive Mailing list
UCLA Film and Television Archive
1438 Melnitz Hall
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1622

To research the collection:
Archive Research and Study Center
46 Powell Library
405 Hilgard Avenue
L.A., CA 90024-1517
(213)206-5388

Facilities For Videotape Restoration

(provided by Dan Einstein and Blaine Bartel)

Research Video
(818)503-5920
Paul Surratt, Bill DeCicco
2" videotape

DC Video Post
(818)563-1073
David Crosthwaite
2" & 1" videotape

Film Technology Company
726 N. Cole Ave.
Hollywood, CA 90038
(213)464-3456
Bill Lindholm
1"; 1/2" open reel; others

Advanced Video, Inc.
(213)655-3511
1/2" open reel

Specs Brothers Video Services
(201)440-6589
Peter Brothers
Physical rejuvenation of videotape (fire damage, etc.)

Bill Rose Productions
(916)929-9181
Bill Rose
1/2" open reel; wire recording (audio)

IVC Company
(213)463-7884
Ken Holland
1: A-format

Facilities for Cleaning, Restoring and Remastering Videotape

(List compiled by Stephen Vitiello and Leanne Mella)

Audio Plus Video
240 Pegasus
North Vale, NJ 07647
Diane Falciola;
(201)784-2813

Backtime
225 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012
David Shulman;
(212)431-7781

Caesar Video
137 E. 25th
NY, NY 10010
Jeffrey Antkers;
(212)684-7673

CTL Electronics
116 West Broadway
NY, NY 10013
C.T. Lui;
(212)233-0754

Devlin Productions
1501 Broadway, Suite 408
NY, NY 10036
John Krams;
(212)391-1313

Electric Film
87 Lafayette St.
NY, NY 10013
Chris Martinez;
(212)925-3429

Electronic Arts Intermix
536 Broadway
NY, NY 10012
Ivar Smedstad or Stephen Vitiello;
(212)966-4605

Intercontinental Televideo
29 W. 38th St.
NY, NY 10018
(212)719-0202

Obsolete Tape Transfer
1234 South Hampton Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19116
Joe Pagano;
(215)464-3158

Sony Technical Support Services;
Sony Magnetic Products of America
Highway 84 West
Dothan, AL 36301
Steve Tice;
(205)793-7655

Standby
536 Broadway
NY, NY 10012
Maria Beatty;
(212)219-0951

Technisphere
21 E. 19th St.
NY, NY 10003
Jack Goldman;
(212)777-5100

Unitel Video Services
515 West 57th St.
NY, NY 10019
Carl Levine;
(212)265-3600

Information about sources of obsolete equipment:

National Center for Film and Video Preservation
American Film Institute
JFK Center
Washington, DC 20566
Susan Dalton;
(202)828-4070

Andy Warhol Videotape Preservation Project
22 E. 33rd St.
NY, NY 10016
Mirra Brockman;
(212)683-5300

News Division Annual Report



By Margaret Neu

The post-conference period has been extremely busy for me since I have accepted a newly expanded position at my newspaper.

Looking back over the past year, I realized that my role in the News Division seemed to correspond with that at my newspaper. I spent this past year as Features Editor and Library Director, an interesting combination of responsibilities that resulted in a lot of productive activity and, for me, newly acquired skills. Likewise, the role of News Division Chair meant coordinating with a great group of active division members on a variety of projects while learning quickly all the new duties.

I'd like to review the News Division's accomplishments and activities over the past year.

Image archiving

Image archiving attracted much attention. Lany McDonald, a member of the AP PhotoStream Advisory Committee and a main mover on this topic, along with other division members met with AP several times during the year on photo archiving needs. The Automation Committee, co-chaired by John Jansson and George Schlukbier, followed up on those meetings with discussions on standards for enhancement and indexing terms, a standard ID for graphics in text databases, and definition of other image archiving needs. They shared some of their work in their program at the annual conference. M.J. Crowley has been heading up a task force setting standards on enhancement terms.

Newsletter

Elizabeth Whisnant completed her tremendous responsibility as managing editor of "News Library News" with the Vol. 14, No. 4 issue. She added a special pre-conference issue to *NLN's* schedule. Members at the annual business meeting approved a resolution commending Elizabeth as *NLN* editor and Charlie Campo as director of publications for their accomplishments in successfully redesigning the newsletter, both in appearance and content. Elizabeth and Charlie helped Mona Hatfield take

on her responsibilities as the new *NLN* editor by having her co-edit the last issue with Elizabeth.

News Division Officers

The Nominations Committee chaired by Mona Hatfield quickly selected a fine field of candidates for office. The officers elected for 1992-93 are: Donna Scheeder, chair-elect; Bridget Janus, director of publications; and, Dargan Richards, secretary.

Membership

Membership chair Kee Malesky mailed News Division brochures to each new member. She and Charlie Campo worked with DataTimes to publish the division's directory. The division database became accessible on DataTimes computers, thanks to Linda Paschal at DataTimes. [See *NLN* Vol. 14 No. 1 for access information]

Public Relations

Nora Paul, Publicity-Public Relations Committee, worked out an arrangement to include the News Division in CompuServe's JFORUM. This has provided an opportunity for online communication with reporters, editors and news librarians. A survey on the use of JFORUM and bulletin boards in general is included in this issue of *NLN*, please take a moment to complete it and send it to Nora.

Conference in San Francisco

The annual SLA News Division conference was a success in great part due to John Cronin. He led a team of programmers and speakers who put together a comprehensive schedule of seminars on which this *NLN* issue reports.

Continuing Ed Seminar

Director of Education Teresa Leonard organized an outstanding continuing education seminar on the hot topic "Computer Assisted Reporting."

Awards

Director of Awards Lany McDonald arranged a memorable evening at the City Club of San Francisco for the division's annual awards banquet. The elegant Art Deco interior was the setting for cocktails (courtesy of UMI), dining and dancing. Lany and her committee are to be commended for not only a fabulous banquet, but even more importantly selecting such deserving award winners: Shirley Mooney Aabjerg, Kwapil Memorial Award for major achievement in the field of news librarianship; M.J. Crowley, Henebry Roll of Honor Award for service to the division; DataTimes, certificate of appreciation recognizing their efforts in helping with out membership directory and database.

The members at the

annual business meeting approved the Awards Committee proposal to name the annual continuing education seminar after Dave Rhydwen, former chief librarian at *The Globe* and *Mail*, in honor of his distinguished service to the division.

Thanks to Gail Bulfin and her committee for selecting the recipient of the Vormelker-Thomas Student Stipend Award, Teresa Prince. This award is co-sponsored by UMI and the News Division. UMI's generosity increased the stipend from \$1,000 to \$1,500 this year.

Notes of appreciation

The conference success must also be attributed to our San Francisco hosts. Thanks to Richard Geiger and his wife, Susan, who hosted a garden party at their home in Castro Valley.

Thanks also go to Judy Canter, the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *San Jose Mercury News* and *USA Today* for arranging and sponsoring a field trip to the wine country for the conference finale.

Finally, many thanks go to all of the board and committee members who not only helped me, but also gave much of their time for the News Division. ■

Image Storage and Transmission in the News Library

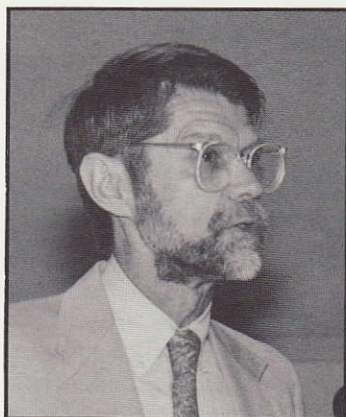
By Pete Basofin

George Schlukbier, co-chair of the division's Automation Technology committee, moderated this session on computer archiving of news photographs. In his opening remarks he said that now is a great opportunity for news librarians to play a big role in automating not only libraries, but newsrooms.

It's important for librarians to understand fully how a photo archive will fit into the overall flow of images around the newspaper. He laid out several guidelines for establishing a digital photo archive in the newsroom, including:

- start with the archive and work backwards to each section in the newsroom to develop the interactive use;
- select one section for experimenting with the electronic archive;
- be selective in your initial introduction of the archive to the newsroom.

The "perfect opportunity" of a big project may cause hives in your



John Jansson

editors as they lose the security of printed photos. Insist on one master archive that may be accessed by individual departments, don't let the control of the archive go to those separate departments.

John Jansson followed George with an explanation of the current status of the IPTC-ANPA Newswire and Electronic Photography Standards, an effort to standardize the transmission and storage of all digital information, including images. He provided an excerpted handout of the special report

ANPA prepared on those standards and pointed out some of the significant fields for archiving needs.

Jansson urged librarians to become familiar with the specific components of a digital "record," even those that have little relevance to archival work. A committee of librarians is working to ensure there are sufficient archival fields in the digital record.

Harold Buell of The Associated Press described the hardware, software and cost of a typical AP Leaf Photo Archive system. The system allows librarians to capture images from the AP photostream, view and index them, then search for them using boolean operators with a substantial number of fields. The archive preserves images in both compressed high-resolution form and as low-resolution "thumbnails," which are viewed when searching.

He described a basic system as an IBM RS6000 RISC-based server with a 1 gigabyte disk drive to store approximately 25,000

Moderator: **George Schlukbier**, Sacramento Bee, (916) 321-1177.
Panel: **John Jansson**, Chicago Tribune, (312) 222-3466.

Harold Buell, Associated Press, (212) 621-1909.

For copies of the ANPA-IPTC Newswire and Electronic Photography Standards special report contact ANPA, Box 17407, Dulles Airport, Washington, D.C. 20041. Phone (703)648-1000.

For information on the AP Leaf Photo Archive call (800) 845-8450, ext. 1596.

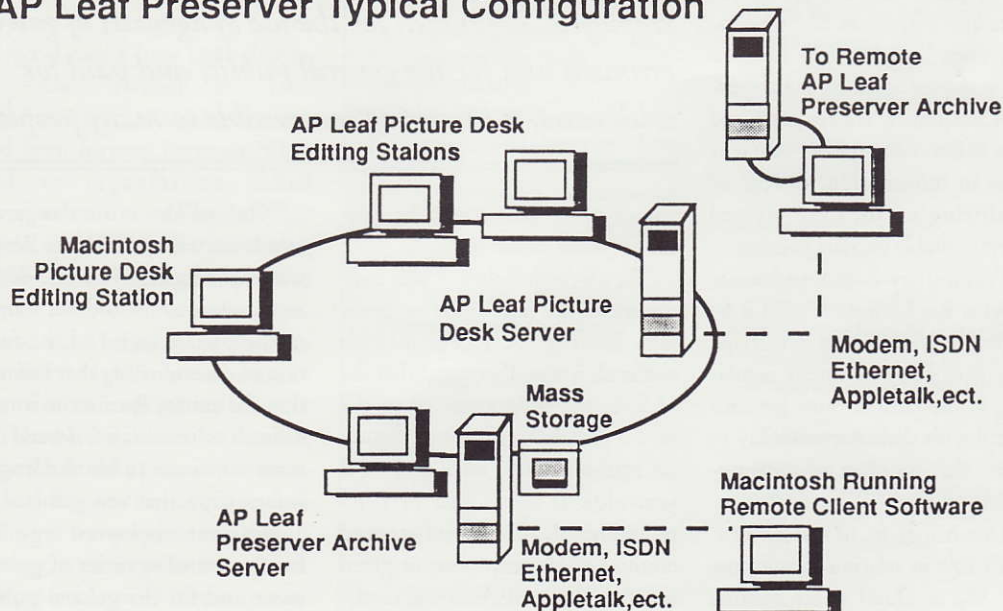
For suggestions about keywords for photo archives contact **Nora Paul**, Poynter Institute for Media Studies, (813) 821-9494..

"thumbnails" and a driver to hold optical platters containing around 600 compressed high-resolution images each. He stressed that an on-site evaluation is needed to determine the exact configuration needed in each newsroom.

Buell also announced plans by Associated Press to establish its own photo archive database, which will preserve many (but not all) of its daily photo output.

A demonstration of the AP Leaf Photo Editor system with its searching capabilities followed Buell's talk. The AP Leaf Photo Archive was not available for a demo as hoped because of disk problems that developed in the transport of the system to San Francisco. ■

AP Leaf Preserver Typical Configuration



FOI vs. Privacy and the News Library

Barbara Newcombe moderated this session and set the tone for the afternoon with her message that "we, as taxpayers, paid for the collection, storage and retrieval of government information so *don't* ever tell me the *only* way to get it back is by paying a private vendor."

Computers, which promised to be a boon for quick, efficient access to information, instead of benefitting us all, have created insurmountable barriers to many.

Expanding on that theme with some penetrating analysis was Zoia Horn, with the DataCenter in Oakland, a nonprofit research library and information center focusing on U.S. public policy. Horn's speech addressed the increasingly threatened access by the public to government data. Much of her speech was based on information found in the American Library Association publication, "Less Access To Less Information By and About the U.S. Government." Excerpts of her talk are included here.

"I remember a very smart and ambitious former librarian turned information entrepreneur, in Berkeley, who strongly resented the federal government's early plans to develop computer data banks for the use of the public. She considered such government behavior unacceptable competition with the private sector. At that time, her organization consisted of a stable of bright librarians who naturally used the libraries of the University of California at

Berkeley: its government documents depository, its engineering library, its energy information center, etc. The information was used to answer the requests of paying patrons.

"The government funding that developed those organized collections was disregarded, or simply taken for granted. The fact that much of the software had been developed with tax money was forgotten. I am not against making an honest living providing research services for people who are willing to pay for the service. The problem is that information, which is an infinite natural human resource, is being converted by government and business into a commodity to be bought and sold, to be controlled, manipulated, or suppressed. This commercialization has been converting citizens into consumers and public squares into shopping malls.

"The development of the computer has made it easier to control the information and charge for its use. Of course, that has been the role of publishers for years, but books and magazines and newspapers, once bought, may be used over and over again by many people. Computers, which promised to be a boon for quick, efficient access to information, instead of benefitting us all, have created insurmountable barriers to many.

"Technology is not to blame; but what has been done with it by the people who control it through ownership or government regulation. Those people must be confronted with their responsibility to correct this problem of undemocratic inequity.

"This brings us to our government's role in relation to information. We at DataCenter became concerned with the attack on information access when President

Reagan and Attorney General Meese eliminated one out of four of the government's 16,000 publications.

"The statistics that provide essential numerical information for policy planning are now so poor that they are not dependable. You have read that the 1990 census count has been strongly criticized for under-counting minority people and the homeless. Such under-counting has serious political ramifications. It is interesting that Barbara Bailar, head of statistical research at the Census Bureau, resigned in March 1988 claiming the defective method would result in precisely that miscount. She said that "although methods exist to compensate for that inaccuracy the Commerce Department ruled out any adjustment in the 1990 census."

"Other examples of undependable or missing statistics have to do with childhood immunizations, prescription drug use, the con-

sumed by the contrast between improving immunization rates throughout the third world and five consecutive years of decline in the U.S." Incidentally, as of 1990 the U.S. is again gathering the statistics on immunizations.

"An Associated Press report in the *Oakland Tribune* June 4 was headlined, 'Job-loss count greatly underestimated.' Approximately 2.2 million payroll jobs had been lost during the recession, 'a figure that is one-third higher than the government's previous job-loss estimate—' Officials were described as red-faced. They denied there were any political undertones and were at a loss to explain how the miscount occurred. But, as reported in the *New York Times*, they managed to find four explanations for the occurrence.

"For librarians trying to provide dependable information to their patrons, this behavior is very disturbing.

Information that was gathered by government employees, organized for the use of agencies of government and for the general public, and paid for with taxes, is becoming inaccessible to many people.

sumer price index and the hazardous waste cleanup.

"As a grandmother, I was curious about the immunization problem. During the recent measles outbreak it was discovered that the U.S. is the only country in the world that has no official figures on immunization rates of 1 or 2 year-olds. It seems that in 1985 public health official had stopped counting. The explanation given was that data collection was costly. "Critics contended that the Reagan administration was embar-

"One of the most dangerous trends started by President Reagan was the privatization of government information and the transfer to the private sector of the function of disseminating that information for profit. Because it is most difficult to reverse, it is a trend that must continue to be challenged. Information that was gathered by government employees, organized for the use of agencies of government and for the general public, and paid for with taxes, is becoming

Continued, page 17

ing inaccessible to many people.

"The government is not alone in this move. The aggressive Information Industry Association (IIA) is at the elbows of government officials and members of Congress. They have been most persuasive and successful. This close relationship has resulted in some interesting developments:

"In March 1988, I attended a meeting dealing with the National Technical Information Service. The Reagan administration was determined to sell to private business this 'highly acclaimed service.'

"NTIS has provided technical and scientific reports to the research community at reasonable cost and is paying its way, not costing any tax money. The IIA pressed hard for free enterprise to have a shot at owning this important service. A strong contingent of librarians, scientists and academicians fervently stressed that a private company's profits would increase users' costs and that only the profitable reports were likely to be made accessible.

"The matter was dropped. Apparently, though, only on the surface. I read a June 1991 citation in 'Less Access to Less Information' that a joint venture had been formed between NTIS and an organization called Government Counselling Ltd. that produced a CD-ROM containing OMB circulars, federal acquisition regulations, GAO decision synopses, etc. The subscription price is a hefty \$1,495. Is this another way of privatizing, gradually?

"The National Weather Service, once the world's premier meteorological forecasting organization and now second-class for lack of funding, is under pressure to privatize profitable parts of the system. Private companies have acquired from the government the right to

As a result of this privatization, citizens seeking information from government agencies... must increasingly rely on data companies ...

distribute readings from federal observation offices.

"Private companies have become profit-making middlemen between the government and the public. As a result of this privatization, citizens seeking information from government agencies as varied as the Census Bureau and the Federal Maritime Commission must increasingly rely on data companies such as Knight-Ridder, Mead Data, McGraw-Hill and Martin Marietta.

"There are endless horror stories, but there are also some remarkable things that have hap-

pened.

"The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science finally came through with a document called, 'Principles of Public Information' in which it defines 'public information' as information created, compiled and maintained by the federal government. In its truest sense, 'public information' is information owned by the people and held in trust by their government.' Although NCLIS calls it a theoretical basis for operational decisions throughout the government, it is a beginning.

"Also, a coalition on govern-

ment information works out of the Washington, D.C. ALA office. Members includes the Special Libraries Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Women in Communications, People for the American Way and others. The network has been effective in working with some members of Congress to start undoing the harm that has been done.

"Senator Paul Simon of Illinois once remarked, 'a people deprived of information about their government and the world around them are constrained by their ignorance. Their choices are limited by what they are permitted to know.' As librarians, we must push out those constraints and battle ignorance for all our sakes." ■

FYI on FOI

(From recommendations of Zoia Horn and a bibliography compiled by Nora Paul, Poynter Institute)

American Civil Liberties Union
132 W. 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036
(212)944-9800

Published "Litigation under the Federal Open Government Laws: The Freedom of Information Act, The Privacy Act, the Government in the Sunshine Act, The Federal Advisory Comm. Act" 1990.
Edited by Allan R. Adler.

American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
(312)944-6780

Publishes a chronology "Less Access to Less Information By and About The U.S. Government"

ASNE
Freedom of Information Committee
P.O. Box 17004
Washington, D.C. 20041

(703)648-1144
Published "Electronic Access to Government Information." 1990.
Includes FOI laws at the state and local level and a contacts list.

Brechner Center for Freedom of Information
College of Journalism and Communications
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2084
(904)392-2273

DataCenter
464 19th Street
Oakland, CA 94612
(510)835-4692

Publishes "The Right To Know", a collection of reprinted articles that systematically examines the continuing governmental, corporate and societal restrictions on public access to vitally important information. Volume 4, 1992 edition now available. Past editions of Vol I-III also available.

"Extra"
Newsletter, published by Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, rec-

ommended as a must for any librarian involved with news publications.

"Lies of Our Times"
Another newsletter recommended by Ms. Horn.

Privacy Journal
P.O. Box 15300
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202)547-2865

"Compilation of State & Federal Privacy Laws," by Robert Ellis Smith. 1991

"Project Censored"
Carl Jensen
Sonoma State University
Annual publication of a highly selective listing of 10 under-reported stories of the year.

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
735 Eye St., N.W., Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202)466-6313

THE LIGHTER SIDE: "Kicking Back" a Delight in the Bay Area

By Gay Nemeti

"San Francisco only has one drawback. 'Tis hard to leave."

Rudyard Kipling
From Sea to Sea, 1899

What a host city!

San Francisco, home of Anchor Steam beer, the legends of the Barbary Coast and the gold rush. And, in recent history, home to major news events - the fires of the Oakland Hills across the Bay Bridge, the earthquake we watched through the television camera at Candlestick Park. Nature is healing itself in the surrounding hills and new construction has begun in Oakland.

News and how to pursue it is what we do and why we meet. But there is another angle—

The lure of the city and the timely drop of airline ticket prices spawned a great turnout. The charm of San Francisco cannot be underestimated, and many families attended this year. The weather was beautiful, despite the warning of the locals; even the hint of the infamous fog was vague. It is a true walking city - conference attendees could walk to the Marriott host hotel and to the Moscone Center for vendor exhibits and meetings. Fisherman's Wharf and Chinatown were in striking distance, not to mention Macy's and the great Union Square shopping area.

The conference proved so popular this year, there were more people than tickets for the division's annual award banquet on Monday night. Sold out. Fortunately, everyone was able to attend the cocktail reception provided by UMI. The banquet and reception were held at the elegant City Club, which offered an exceptional view of the city.

Down to serious business. Lany McDonald opened proceedings in her inimitable way - sorry, no rap in this year of Garth Brooks and Billy Ray Cyrus - and left the podium to gracious presenters and winners—

Jim Scofield presented the Joseph F. Kwapil Award to Shirley Mooney Aabjerg, retired from Pacific Press. M.J. Crowley of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* received her Agnes Henebry Roll of Honor Award from Kathy Foley. Teresa Leonard presented the Certificate of Appreciation to DataTimes, which was accepted by Linda Paschal; Margaret Neu received the Ralph J. Shoemaker Award of Merit from John Cronin; and the Vormelker-Thomas Student Award went to Teresa Prince of the University of Michigan, presented by Gail Bulfin.

After the dinner the band heated up and the dancing started. DataTimes dedicated the song "Hully Gully" to John Woolley of Vutext/Dialog. Woolley was a popular dance partner as news librarians used the opportunity to express their opinions on the proposed Megafile.

Information Access Company treated division members to a wonderful cruise of San Francisco Bay Sunday night aboard the Empress Hornblower Yacht. News division members spent some time wandering from pier to pier looking for the boat. Eventually, the division arrived on board, intact. Three levels of the ship offered open bar and hor d'oeuvres, views of Alcatraz, the Golden Gate bridge and Angel Island. Lots of mingling took place as everyone circulated to find the best side of the boat to avoid the chilly wind. There was no escape for Bob Isaacs of the *Fort Lauderdale News & Sun Sentinel*. He was soaked with bay water while on the bow as his quick-witted former assistant Gail Bulfin slammed the door shut behind him as she saw the wall of water threaten.

The San Francisco contingent set-up a '60s party afterward at a local club, with the right tunes, like In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida, and videos of Jimi Hendrix and Janice Joplin. Some in tie-dyed made the rounds. You know who you are.



From left, award winners Margaret Neu, M.J. Crowley, Shirley Mooney Aabjerg, Linda Paschal and Teresa Prince.

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

The CQ luncheon was standing room only, the Marriott staff scrambled to set up additional tables. Philip Duncan, CQ political editor, entertained with interesting analyses of the news biz and this election year and comments on the impact of H. Ross Perot on the campaign trail. He suggested seeking alternative angles to cover the elections to interest the American public. CQ spotlighted its new biweekly journal American Caucus, which reports on Congress and public policy.



Bettieann Wise welcomes Division members to Congressional Quarterly's luncheon

Dialog offered a tour of its facilities in Palo Alto to providers. Scary when you realize how close the computer complex is to a major fault line. The tour covered some of the customer service aspects and file specialists, and a look at the banks and banks of computers. There was discussion with Dialog's John Woolley and Pat Tierney on the issue of the Megafile for smaller newspapers.

The combined efforts of local hosts Richard Geiger and Judy Canter, and the sponsorship of their respective newspapers - the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner* - led to a division excursion to the wine country on Thursday. The trip began with a ride through San Francisco, narrated by tour driver, Dan, who delighted us with the history of the areas we were passing. First stop was the small winery Hacienda in Sonoma, followed by box lunches from the Cheese Factory there. We moved on through the beautiful rolling countryside to the large winery of Beringer passing familiar names like Inglenook, Krug, Domaine Chandon — Dan was very knowledgeable on the process of wine-making and so thoroughly taught the culture of the grape, Judy Canter cast aside her prepared notes. Judy and Richard received about 20 job applications during the tour.

The city offered many sites to see and Division members seized the moment: visiting John's Grill - where Dashiell Hammett's character Sam Spade hung out and (a) Maltese Falcon rests; shopping for chocolates at Ghiardelli's; trying not to break anything at Gump's department store; riding the street cars; studying the rare plants at Golden Gate Park; rambling around the Haight; photographing the Victorian homes in Pacific Heights; enjoying the cuisine at the Fog City Diner (they don't take reservations and they don't take... you know what); viewing Diego Rivera's murals at the Coit Tower; taking the audio tour of Alcatraz; experiencing the sights and tastes of Chinatown sandalwood soap and silk kimonos, and duck hanging in the windows. ■



Left to Right: Mary Ann Skinner, Lynne McKay & Sherri Adams visit together at the reception.

The Megafile Phenomenon: Proactive News Librarians A Must

By Ginny Everett

Barbara Quint, editor of *Database Searcher*, sounded the alarm when she spoke at the News Division's computer-assisted reporting seminar in San Francisco June 7. At that time VU/TEXT and Dialog had announced plans to create a "megafile" of 26 VU/TEXT newspapers not already on Dialog instead of loading each newspaper as a separate file.

They also had announced that VU/TEXT would cease to exist as a commercial database at the end of 1992 when this new file was loaded onto Dialog. While service bureau newspapers would still have access to their own complete files in Philadelphia, other VU/TEXT customers would access former VU/TEXT newspapers through Dialog.

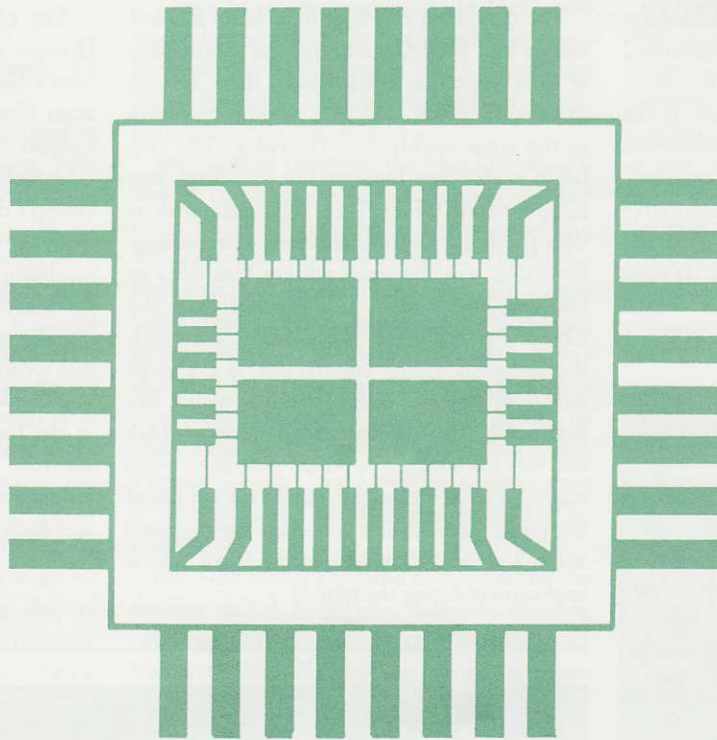
Barbara had learned from conversations with VU/TEXT and Dialog officials and with news librarians affected by the change that this combined file would contain staff-written articles from the metro, business and news sections of each newspaper. It likely would not include national or regional wire stories or sports and feature stories.

Alarmed that many stories from newspapers not available on other databases would cease to be available, news librarians bombarded the VU/TEXT-Dialog booth with protests, as did other librarians who got wind of the plan.

Those of us who are VU/TEXT information providers made our feelings known at meetings with VU/TEXT and Dialog staffers and at a visit to Dialog where we met with Dialog officials, including Dialog's new president, Pat Tierney.

Here's what they told us:

Dialog plans to limit the



PAPERS group to the top 50 circulation newspapers (with a few exceptions).

The revenue produced by smaller newspapers simply does not warrant the cost of storing and maintaining cover-to-cover files, especially when producers of other kinds of information are competing for space.

They see the megafile as a way to deal with the issue of wire story duplication.

Here's what we told them:

Many stories that we need are in sections other than news, metro and business. For example, if NFL expansion contenders want to see what's happening in competing cities, the sports section is where most of those stories will be. If you're looking for stories about The King (Elvis, that is), as searchers of my newspaper often are, usually you'll find those stories in the arts and entertainment section.

In searching only selected news-

paper stories it's hard to be sure that a crucial story is not missing. To be absolutely certain we've found all relevant information, will we be forced to ask other news librarians to check their complete in-house database? And, what do you do if a reporter doesn't want you to tip off another newspaper that he or she is working on a story?

Regional and state wire stories are not included in the AP database. Local newspapers often are the only way to find them. And, what about stories with no local credit to which local information has been added?

Searchers sometimes need to analyze coverage of a particular topic. For example, we may want to see how often a Bill Clinton/Gennifer Flowers story ran and how other newspapers played it.

The problem of multiple hits on the same wire story is a legitimate issue that needs to be addressed.

But why deal with it piecemeal and only in smaller newspapers?

What's next?

To their credit, VU/TEXT president, John Woolley, and other executives listened to our concerns. In the weeks since SLA they have been very responsive to issues that we've raised.

VU/TEXT personnel are working hard with librarians at megafilebait newspapers to figure out how to include local material in all its forms as well as regional wire stories. In fact, the number of stories to be included for each newspaper already has been increased.

VU/TEXT plans to look at new ways to track wire stories as well. News librarians need to play a part in creating a solution. The situation is changing almost daily. The issue now is not only how to include the stories that we want in our databases as we go forward, but also how to preserve as many pre-1993 stories as possible. One way to keep the discussion going is through CompuServe's JFORUM. Some interesting ideas were exchanged in a May-June message thread called Dialog Debacle.

Look for articles by Barbara in *Database Searcher* and by Nora Paul in *Database*.

Will Dialog load a megafile that we can live with?

If not, will megafile newspapers appear on another databank in a more complete form? As they say on Wall Street, money goes where it's treated best. The same can be said for information providers.

The saga continues. ■

Pacific Rim: Implications for the News Library

By Marie McKenzie

In his book "The Pacific Rim Almanac", Alexander Beshler states that the Pacific Rim encompasses "Southeast Asia, northeast Asia, including the Soviet Far East, Australasia and the South Pacific, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Latin America, and the West Coast of North America right up to Canada. It represents a \$3 trillion market, which is growing at the rate of an estimated \$3 billion a week".

Beshler goes on to say that the Pacific Rim is essentially a trade-driven and technocultural phenomenon - a direct descendant of the Silk Road of ancient India and China.

But in the 90s it is also a Silicon Road, he says, traveling from East to West and back again and encompassing everything from Hong Kong finance to Burmese cuisine, from Balinese music to Chinese medicine, with sprinklings of optical fibers and satellite communications thrown in for good measure.

The theme of our conference discussion was "The Pacific Rim: Implications for the News Library". Tina Owens, marketing representative for Predicasts opened the session with a lively and informative overview of information sources relevant to the Pacific Rim, available on Predicasts. The theme of her presentation was "Perception vs. Reality" - determining what is available vs. reading between the lines - and covered such areas as editorial selection, source coverage, business environments, and marketing and consumers. An expertly prepared and presented booklet illustrating her talk, brim full of examples of relevant searches and other tasty morsels is a much needed and valuable resource.

Thom Calandra, business writer for the *San Francisco Examiner*, spoke about the difficulty of retrieving information about Pacific Rim investors, despite the abundance of electronic databases. He pointed out that reporters who lack a local contact in the country of interest find it difficult to obtain information quickly and inexpensively. But, he said, there are still ways, including visits to these countries as well as diligent monitoring of English language translations of Asian periodicals, to get results.

Jon Funabiki, Executive Director of the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism at San Francisco State University spoke on his experiences as a reporter "on the beat, in the field" of the Pacific Rim. While a reporter he specialized in East Asian political affairs, international business and US-Asia relations, and even assisted in obtaining the release from jail of a fellow journalist who had written a book disagreeing with some of his government's policies.

The final speaker for the session was Ching-Ning Chu, international lecturer, author and president of Asian Marketing Consultants. She described for an enthralled audience the inner workings of the Asian business psyche, and identified in some depth the strategies that the Chinese, for example, have developed over the past centuries to deal with opponents in war and now in business.

In a few short hours we were taken on a journey around the Pacific Rim. The exploration revealed to us just how the Pacific Rim relates to each of us in our daily tasks of providing up-to-the-minute information for our newsrooms. ■

News Division CE explores Computer-Assisted Reporting

Teresa Leonard put together a seminar that covered computer-assisted reporting from every angle: hardware, software, reporters and researchers. It ran all day and probably could have continued all night. Here's a rundown on what was presented.

Hardware and software

— there are literally hundreds of possible configurations and they all cost money, so where do you start? A brief rundown was offered by George Landau.

Hardware:

—A 386 PC or equivalent is a must; for only a little more money, the 486 is best

—At least 4 mb RAM; 8 if you can afford it (it costs about \$50 per mb to extend your RAM). RAM is what your software needs to function and if the past is any indication of the future, you soon can expect software to want at least 8 mb RAM to run.

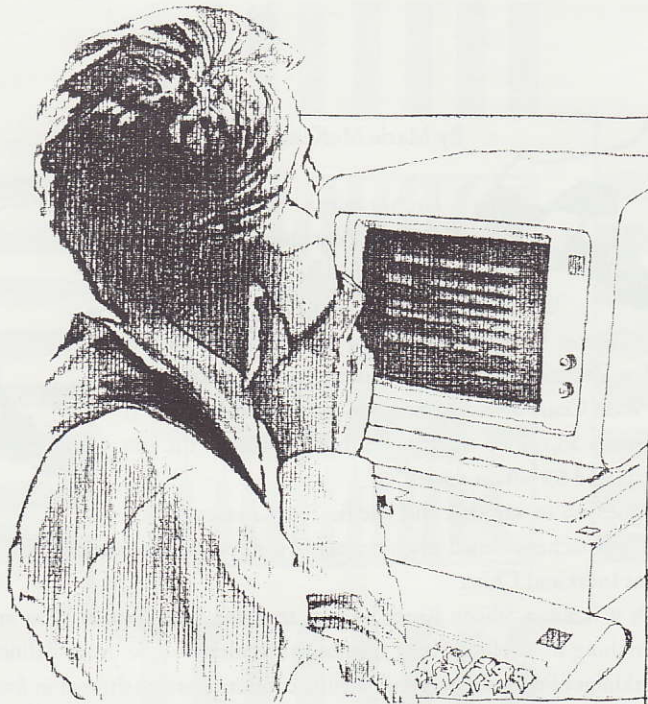
—An EISA (rhymes with Lisa) bus for fast data transfer to and from your disk; a SCSI-2 ("scuzzy-two") hard drive controller that supports fast SCSI (10 mb/second).

—A hard drive of at least 300 megabytes. The size of database you can handle is limited by the room on your hard drive, you can never ask for too much.

—A good color monitor. Super VGA isn't necessary for the work you'll do, but don't skimp on a decent monitor. A few hours staring at a fuzzy screen is guaranteed to make you hate computers. You want a fairly flat, square screen with a "dot pitch" of at least .28 millimeters. Dot pitch is the most important factor in determining the sharpness of the display.

—A mouse. Very useful on software packages designed with mice in mind.

—Cost for the equipment described above: \$4,000-6,000



Software:

—Utilities are the software packages that conduct house-keeping and speed up the machine. PC Tools or The Norton Utilities are recommended. Also, NineTrack Express is a fairly easy-to-use software that works with most tape drives and greatly simplifies the process of getting your data onto your PC in a form your database software will recognize. PkZip compresses data

for storage.

—Database managers search, sort and group the data you have. Selecting one(s) using Structured Query Language (SQL) makes life easier as the commands are the same from database to database. Several brands are available but the one most recommended is FoxPro, available from Fox Software in Perrysburg, Ohio.

—A third type of PC software is Geographic Infor-

mation Systems (GIS) that allows mapping of any data with a geographic component, from real estate records to census counts. A good GIS can plot anything that has a street address. One GIS that is highly recommended is Atlas*GIS from Strategic Mapping Inc. in San Jose, California.

Who does what with this stuff?

The practical side of implementing a computer-assisted reporting program was detailed by several of the panelists. Communication and coordination of efforts within your organization is critical.

Steve Doig coordinates computer-assisted reporting at the *Miami Herald* and has for some time. Yet he was able to relate the story of recently walking past a reporter's desk and seeing her hopelessly flipping the pages of a huge printout. She wanted information from a government agency; asked for a printout; got it for free; and couldn't do a thing with it. That reporter learned the advantage of spending a little money for computer data vs. hard copy and is a good example of how easy it is to lose the connections between your computer-assisted reporting program and the reporters who can most benefit from it.

Pat Stith shared four key decisions made at the *News & Observer* that helped them avoid some of the communications pitfalls in their computer-assisted reporting development.

First, no one at *The N&O* had to "prove" that this technology worked. That decision was critical and allowed them to look at the long haul and how to get everybody up to speed, with the right equipment, the right tools, and the necessary equipment.

Second, access to computers, and the knowledge to use them, was not reserved to one or two reporters or to some "team". It was made available to

Continuing Education course named for David Rhydwen

The Awards Committee, acting on a motion made at last year's business meeting, recommended that David Rhydwen's memory be honored by naming the annual continuing education course after him. The committee felt the high visibility of the continuing education course was a fitting remembrance of Rhydwen, whose career was devoted to educating and encouraging the professional development of News Division members. Carol Lindsay presented a motion to accept the recommendation, Gay Nemeti seconded and it passed unanimously. ■

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everyone who wanted to learn.

Third, computer analysis of databases was not limited to "investigative" stories, or even major projects. Their intent was to benefit from economy of scale. Databases would be used to create or improve everyday front page and second front stories. One example he gave was taking a look at tickets issued by state troopers to find out how fast you really can go without getting a speeding ticket. The troopers will tell you speeding is speeding; the numbers told them speeding isn't really speeding until you are ten miles over the limit.

Finally, they would not fight over turf. The newsroom and News Research Department worked together and with the company's computer technicians. They outlined the specific and separate functions of the reporters and of the News Research staff.

So, what's the story?

Each speaker emphasized that *thinking* has not been replaced in the story development process. Computers are information processors that analyze the numbers, the numbers are not the story. Other points made were that computer-assisted stories don't have to be blockbusters, daily stories are routinely enhanced by the use of computers.

Mary Kate Leming detailed several computer-assisted applications at the *Palm Beach Post* that they were able to do and are doing without the benefit of a "formal" program. The library works closely with the newsroom and maintains the data that are brought in. Property transfer records for one story provide invaluable research assistance on a second, third

— you get the idea.

Steve Doig and Dwight Morris shared their experiences in using computer analysis for story development and execution. They both emphasized starting with an idea. Define the issues and *then* look for data. They outlined the pitfalls in expecting the data to make the story. Some ideas will pan out but, often as not, the data will show that there is no story or the story is very different from your original concept.

Also, be prepared to verify everything. Very little, if any, government data will come to you "clean." The numbers should be the beginning of your research, not the end.

Barbara Quint finished the CE with an energetic roundup of the online sources available and how to best use them to augment the data found with PC analysis. She also offered a glimpse into the future for information services ranging from interactive systems that offer the reader as editor to a natural partnership of phone companies and news organizations as future information providers. ■

CE speakers:

Jim Brown

902 West New York St.
ES 4104 School of Journalism IUPUI
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317)274-5931

Steve Doig

Miami Herald
1 Herald Plaza
Miami, FL 33132
(305)376-3476

George Landau

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
900 North Tucker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314)340-8296

Mary Kate Leming

Palm Beach Post
P.O. Box 247000
West Palm Beach, FL 33416
(407)820-4495

Dwight Morris

Los Angeles Times
8915 Cromwell Dr.
Springfield, VA 22151
(202)293-4650

Barbara Quint

Quint & Associates
932 11th St. Suite 9
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(213)451-0252

Pat Stith

The News & Observer
215 S. McDowell St.
Raleigh, N.C. 27602
(919)829-4537

For more information

Debbie Wolfe

News Researcher, St. Petersburg Times
(813)893-8847

Has compiled a four-page bibliography for computer-assisted research that covers books, guides to online databases, software/hardware information sources, topical periodicals, specific articles and associations or groups.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
1430 Broadway / New York, NY 10018
(212)354-3300

Serves as a clearinghouse for nationally coordinated voluntary standards for information technology.

IRE Journal

Investigative Reporters and Editors
100 Neff Hall / Columbia, MO 65211

Cost: \$30/year, includes IRE membership

National Institute for Advanced Reporting
Indiana University School of Journalism
902 West New York Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5154
(317)274-5931

The Newsletter

John Ullmann
5622 Wood Lane
St. Louis Park, MN 55436
Cost: Free so far

Uplink

Missouri Institute for Computer Assisted Reporting
120 Neff Hall
University of Missouri School of Journalism
Columbia, MO 65211
Cost: \$15/year

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. Monday, June 8, 1992

Annual Business Meeting was held in Room 300, Convention Centre, San Francisco, California.

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Margaret Neu at 2:10 p.m.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Neu reviewed the accomplishments and goals of the News Division. She acknowledged the improved involvement of broadcast librarians and the increased involvement of vendors in the News Division. She acknowledged the increase in the Student Stipend Award through the generosity of UMI and she thanked all committee members for their efforts.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR-ELECT

John Cronin indicated that 167 News Division members had pre-registered for the conference in San Francisco. He promised that the Division suite would be available for members during the entire conference next year. He also promised to restore suite fees to offset costs. Cronin acknowledged Information Access, Predicasts, DataTimes, NewsBank, Mead Data Central, VU/TEXT, Dialog and Congressional Quarterly for their contributions to the conference.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (CINCINNATI)

Cary Kenney presented a motion that SLA look into day care services for the Cincinnati conference next year. Mona Hatfield seconded. Passed unanimously.

Donna Scheeder gave a report on program suggestions and ideas and asked for volunteers to help with the Cincinnati program. She reported that Teresa Leonard would be organizing the CE course for next year. Fee-based services and entrepreneurship in the library, update on information services & technology, imaging, researching transcripts online & benefits, networking CD-ROMS in the news library, image of news librarians, researching & reporting on international trade were mentioned by Scheeder as possible CE program ideas. CQ has committed to hosting a luncheon next year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Ann Skinner gave the treasurer's report. Closing balance of account as of December 31, 1991 was \$11,617.46. As of June 8, 1992, the balance was \$10,279.13. Neu added that funding for special projects was available from the operating fund. She suggested that John Cronin be contacted for application for this project fund.

AWARDS REPORT

Lany McDonald acknowledged the efforts of all her

Awards committee members. She named the award recipients, Shirley Mooney Aabjerg, M.J. Crowley, Margaret Neu, Teresa Prince and DataTimes who received a Certificate of Appreciation.

McDonald reported that the Awards Committee had recommended that David Rhydwen's memory be honored by naming the annual Continuing Education course after him. Carol Lindsay presented a motion that the CE course be named after David Rhydwen. Gay Nemeti seconded. Passed unanimously.

Neu pointed out that the nomination form for next year's awards would be published in the post-conference NLN. 52 people pre-registered in this year's CE course.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Neu reported that the Executive Board passed a resolution to recognize and honor Elizabeth Whisnant for her tremendous work and leadership as Editor of NLN. She also mentioned the board's resolution to recognize Charles Campo for his leadership as Director of Publications.

Neu introduced Mona Hatfield, the new editor of NLN.

ARCHIVES REPORT

M.J. Crowley reported that there was no new information on VU/TEXT's maintenance of NLN archives but that she would continue speak-

ing with VU/TEXT on this issue.

AUTOMATION-TECHNOLOGY REPORT

John Jansson reported that the automation committee met in Washington last fall to discuss electronic photo archiving. It was agreed to advise all system vendors and wire services on the point of view of news librarians and to recommend a photo archiving system for AP. Discussion at this meeting also revolved around constructing a standard list of indexing terms. The committee is co-ordinating efforts with ANPA Wire Service Task Force to set wire transmission standards.

BYLAWS REPORT

Donna Scheeder, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, presented five amendments to the News Division bylaws which were published in NLN, Winter 1992 issue. The committee recommended to the Executive Board that the proposed amendments be put to a vote to the News Division membership. Bob Isaacs so moved and Barbara Shapiro seconded. Passed unanimously.

STUDENT STIPEND WINNER

Gail Bulfin introduced this year's Student Stipend Award winner, Teresa Prince from the University of Michigan.

MEMBERSHIP

Neu pointed out that the News Division has approximately 760 members. Neu mentioned that the next issue of NLN would contain an update on News Division membership.

PUBLICITY-PUBLIC RELATIONS

Nora Paul acknowledged the contribution of Pete Basofin to J-Forum on CompuServe. She stressed that there was potential to use electronic bulletin boards as a means of communication but that the potential had not been realized. Barbara Shapiro moved that an attempt be made to locate an effective communications source for an electronic bulletin board that would not incur extra costs. George Schlukbier seconded the motion. Discussion followed revolving around the usefulness and practicality of an electronic bulletin board for News Division members. The motion was defeated.

Cary Kenney put forth the motion that a committee be formed to assist Nora Paul in creating a brochure that would publicize an electronic bulletin board for the News Division members. Seconded by Andrew Ippolito. Elyse Eisner proposed an amendment to this motion that other online communication sources be investigated. This amendment was seconded by Carol Lindsay. The motion was defeated.

Discussion continued with the amount and type of activity on J-Forum on CompuServe.

Teresa Leonard moved that the Publicity Committee be assigned the task of exploring options for electronic communications for the membership and bring back recommendations. Seconded by Mary Ann Skinner. Motion carried.

ELECTIONS REPORT

Neu apologized for the delay of election results this year. She indicated that 249 ballots were returned before the deadline. Neu introduced the new officers of the Executive Board: Donna Scheeder, Chair-Elect; Bridget Janus, Director-Publications and Dargan Richards, Secretary and turned the gavel/mallet over to the new Chair and Master Mechanic, John Cronin. Cronin thanked all Program Chairs and their assistants as well as the outgoing & incoming Executive Board. Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully
Submitted, Julie Kirsh,
Secretary.

Investigative Reporters and Editors Conference: These folks "Just Do It"

By Margot Williams

News librarians got a wakeup call at the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) annual conference in Portland this past June. About 12 of us were there to hear it — almost five times the number attending previous conferences, according to Bill Dedman, organizer of the one-day seminar on computer-assisted journalism that opened the event.

Computer-assisted journalism is no longer the realm of the lone newsroom hacker, nor is it limited to long-term, high-profile investigative projects at the largest papers.

Cheaper and more powerful PCs, off-the-shelf software, availability of public data files in a variety of computer-readable formats have combined with more widespread computer literacy to create a new group of journalists eager to use this technology as an everyday reporting and research tool. Prize-winning panelists at the seminar included beat and bureau reporters from medium and small papers who learned these skills at seminars or who taught themselves.

Pioneer computer-assisted journalist and teacher Elliot Jaspin defined and detailed the requirements for using this technology in the newsroom. *Sacramento Bee* library director/newsroom computer coordinator George Schlukbier described the ups and downs of a news project produced on a Mac. Pat Stith, reporter at the *Raleigh News and Observer*, detailed the partnership between reporters and the News Research Department in his discussion of *The N&O's* in-house training program and in his handout.

Poynter Institute library director Nora Paul moderated a panel on computer-assisted research with emphasis on bulletin boards and resources available to reporters through news libraries. Mary Kate Leming (*Palm Beach Post*) described equipment requirements for online research, Mona Hatfield (*The Advocate*, Baton Rouge) offered tips on getting equipment requirements into the newsroom budget and reporter Neil Reisner (*Bergen Record*) showed how to get wired into CompuServe for communicating and research.

The first words I (over)heard at the seminar were from three California reporters seated behind me joking about their papers' librarians. The trio continued to snicker whenever a speaker recommended the use of news library resources and services. I didn't get a chance to catch up with them after they had heard the panelists above describe the participation of news research centers in computer-assisted research and reporting.

While some of us are still just talking about it, these folks are *doing* it. "The time has come

"The time has come today" was the message. News librarians can't wait to be invited; we need to define our goals and get the skills by any means necessary.

today" was the message. News librarians can't wait to be invited; we need to define our goals and get the skills by any means necessary. At some papers, the news research department is responsible for managing and maintaining equipment, software and databases. Other librarians are involved in loading and analyzing data. Organizing, storing and providing access to database documentation, data tapes and training manuals are additional opportunities for news research involvement.

Tim Rice, *Seattle Times* research coordinator, spoke about online database searching on the "Following Paper Trails" panel. Yes, documents in that old paper format were discussed, too. And speakers at various panels noted that clips and (database searches) are the first steps in getting started on an investigative story.

More than 50 panels were offered on topics in both print and television investigative reporting; valuable research tips, handouts and story ideas were shared. Throughout the conference computer demonstrations and hands-on practice in working with public records, building databases and going online were provided by expert volunteers. ■

RESOURCES FOR COMPUTER-ASSISTED JOURNALISM

Investigative Reporters and Editors
100 Neff Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211
(314) 882-2042, contact Shawn Presley.

They offer regional seminars (the next is scheduled for Cleveland in November) as well as their annual conference in June (New York City, 1993).

Missouri Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting
120 Neff Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211
(314) 882-0684

MICAR holds several week-long seminars a year on accessing and analyzing government databases.

School of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of North Carolina
CB# 3365 Howell Hall
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365
(919)962-4085

Philip Meyer, author of *The New Precision Journalism* (1991, Indiana University Press), will teach a week-long session on computer-assisted reporting and statistical techniques, summer 1993.

National Institute for Advanced Reporting
902 W. New York St.
Indiana University School of Journalism
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5154
(317) 274-2776

Annual conference on computer-assisted reporting in March (12-14, 1993; 11-13, 1994).

A News Librarian's Perspective on ANPA/TEC

Continued from page 1

Leaf picture desk is released "later this year." They also tend to ignore or downplay the role of the library in the archiving process. Though AP actively seeks beta sites, it is sure to be a while before the glitches are worked out.

The AXS Optical Technology Resource image archiving system was demonstrated at the 1991 SLA conference in San Antonio. I am impressed with the refinements they have added to the news media application since then.

Like the AP system, News Photo Access looks easy to learn and use, but AXS seems more open to the library's role in the process.

There are different search levels; all are menu or template-based. The AXS demo database was small like AP's and the searches they performed were extremely broad. I once again requested Magic Johnson, and it stumped them, too.

AXS does not offer as many user-defined fields as AP (12 vs. 18). The system can handle multiple, simultaneous users. They are able to accept local non-wire photos but the ability to accept graphics is still in development, with no timeline given.

AXS claims its open architecture as an advantage over AP. They can run on any Macintosh II, IBM 386 or 486 or their equivalents provided they have 8 mb RAM. AXS' main selling

point is that their system is available now, with several sites in operation. Systems can be leased, leased-to-purchase, or outright purchased.

The AXS software was evident in several exhibits at ANPA/TEC. Both VU/TEXT and DataTimes demonstrated their inhouse text library systems with an interface to a News Photo Access archive. This allows one to search the text database and call up the accompanying photos, or vice versa.

Kodak, PressLink, Agence France-Presse, and Apple also demonstrated systems using variations of AXS software. Obviously, this company is popular. AP has some major catching up to do.

Some issues and concerns to consider in your review of these systems:

- Learn the technology and its vocabulary. This is the best way to protect your interests and not be buffaloes into something that's wrong for your site. I know I have lots to learn, so I just keep asking questions.

- How many simultaneous users can be accommodated on the system, and what does it take and cost to network these users?

- Know how you want the library involved in the system before equipment decisions are made.

Who will be doing the work? If the library staff will do the indexing, don't let the vendor present the system with the photo editors indexing.

Once System 8 is in, the transmission and caption information will automatically go to the appropriate IPTC-ANPA headers, so the vendors may even call it a "self-indexing" system. Decision makers at your paper need to know this isn't completely true. Don't let them leave the library out of the system configuration.

It could be that the IPTC headers are all the indexing your site wants in the beginning, or perhaps for always. I believe, however, that just as with text, most papers will want more extensive indexing of each image and that the task will ultimately fall to the library.

Not including you from the beginning could cause a hard-to-justify budget variance later.

IF YOU GO—

ANPA/TEC (now called NAA/TEC) is very different from a SLA conference and requires some mental adjustment before you attend.

For one thing, it's larger. Much larger. It is also very white, very male, both in attendees and exhibitors, and very unused to seeing library folk. Promotional gimmicks on the convention floor slanted toward the white/male perspective may, at times, strike you as odd, if not offensive.

Take plenty of business cards as literature is not handed out and appointments are recommended for demonstrations, especially at the larger or more popular exhibits. Access to SIP's exhibit area was monitored by an attendant who admitted only those with an appointment.

While size and time limitations justify requiring appointments, there is no excuse for the rudeness I encountered over and over again. The vendors at ANPA/TEC are more aggressive about sales and the booth staffs are consequently very conscientious about the title and gender of an attendee. Having my title (Library Manager) on my badge was a mistake. I often was greeted with "What's a librarian doing here?", and then ignored. At two booths I was told they always talk to So-and-So at my paper, so they didn't need to talk to me. Even acquaintances at the VU/TEXT and DataTimes booths were surprised to see me.

The first day of this treatment left me angry and frustrated. The second day I was pushier, and made some headway. By the third and last day, I had learned to say that I was collecting information for our systems editor who couldn't be there, which was not untruthful. That got me into the booth, where I could hopefully get my questions answered.

In fairness, not all the vendors were insensitive. I often had the most interesting and useful conversations with the smaller companies.

I have no regrets about attending ANPA/TEC instead of SLA, or another national library conference. It was the best way to get hands-on experience on the archiving systems, and to listen in on how they presented their systems to other potential customers. I learned a lot by eavesdropping. The conference gave me an opportunity to see who's doing what with information services.

To be honest, it was a refreshing change from the all-too-familiar environment of a library conference. At ANPA/TEC, I knew my paper used much of what I saw, but I sometimes didn't know what it was. It was a great learning experience. Get to NAA/TEC if you can in the next year or two. It will be in New Orleans in 1993. It will expand your horizons and make our library role more visible. Those vendors have a lot to offer us and they need to see more of us to understand what we have to offer them. ■

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— Look carefully at the search protocol of the systems. Right now it is all menu and template-based and obviously designed for (and perhaps by?) users who do not normally do a lot of information retrieval.

Going online with text has taught us that having information available electronically in the newsroom does not mean the library will never again do a search. I am positive the library staff at my papers will continue to do a large portion of image retrieval and I found the searching on AP and AXS simplistic, time-consuming, limited, and frustrating. Remember my Magic Johnson search? I wasn't sure if it was system limitations that stumped the vendors or if it was the whole idea of a specific search. Guess they've never been at the photo files at deadline—

There are other image archiving systems out there, and I don't mean to intentionally slight or ignore them. PhotoView is offered by Tribune Publishing in Idaho, producer of the NewsView text archiving system. PhotoView is not as sophisticated as AP or AXS, but it is still an impressive product from an enthusiastic and creative group. I did not visit the Stauffer Media Systems booth, but they were also demonstrating a photo and graphics archiving system. Less expensive than AP or AXS, PhotoView and Stauffer could fill a niche currently left empty by the two main vendors.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

— I asked AP about its proposed national database of wire photos that will allow dial-up searching. AP hopes to have it operational by 1993. Last year AP said it would be operational in 1992. In other words, don't hold your breath.

— I looked at what was new in audiotex features of electronic information service and at fax information services.

I was disappointed to see that most of the audiotex vendors were stuck on weather, stocks, horoscopes, and personals. The advantages of many advertising applications were presented and should be explored. There was not much creativity, however, in evidence for specific newsroom or fee-based service applications.

There were two exceptions. The first was "AUDIOtechs", part of Digital's fascinating "Intelligent Newspaper" exhibit. Although pri-

marily designed as an audiotex system, it includes the ability to distribute faxed information as part of the total concept. A second interesting product was ISSI's "Fax/News", a Windows-based software that combined page design and distribution and provided separate databases for advertisers and subscribers. The system automatically paginates a fax page with targeted advertising and news subjects, and automatically transmits the page(s) to the customized subscriber base. It was refreshing to talk with sales representatives who refused to set boundaries on the electronic information services newspapers could offer.

— Those boundaries were firmly in place at the "Bright Idea Breakfast." I sat with one of the groups that was to discuss new revenue ideas, which would then be presented to all the breakfast attendees. It was frustrating that all the so-called bright and new ideas focused exclusively on getting more advertisers in the print product. Suggestions for alternate forms of revenue enhancements were met with blank stares. OK, there was one suggestion I liked: Pet Obituaries. It's shameless, tacky and probably lucrative.

— Thaumaturgy Software Inc. demonstrated their Electronic Document Delivery and Retrieval System (EDDARS). The software captures, indexes and stores Post Script-based documents, including fully formatted text, tables, graphics and images (b/w and color). Retrieval is through full-text and context-sensitive searching of single or multiple documents. This means that one can store and retrieve a document (or an entire news page) exactly as it looked in print.

The software is designed to require no operator intervention for processing or indexing. This operates on the theory that journalists don't want or need or maybe cannot afford the extensive indexing normally done by library staff. Despite that arrow to the heart, this company's product definitely bears watching for future developments. They are very interested in working with the news library market and would rather have exhibited at SLA but the booth costs were prohibitive.

— Abdex was in the Atex booth demonstrating its speech recognition workstation, using Dragon Systems software for voice-driven editing and communications. They currently have a

connection to Atex systems and are tackling the other major publishing systems.

If you have never seen a demonstration of speech-recognition systems, try to get to one. The technology has a definite "oohah" factor with a number of applications, such as RSI prevention, streamlining repetitive keyboard processes and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance adaptations.

— Is carpal tunnel syndrome decimating your library or newsroom? Foxbay Industries and North Coast Medical exhibited RSI preventive equipment such as wrist rests, foot rests, ergonomically designed tools and special exercise devices that can be used at the workstation to strengthen hands, fingers, wrists and forearms. They also produce a combination wrist rest/mouse pad that could benefit your mouse users. ■

VENDORS MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE

Abdex

617-933-7553

Associated Press Archiving

1-800-845-8450, ext. 1596

AXS Optical Technology Resource

510-540-5232, U.S.

(1)40.70.11.23, Europe

DataTimes

405-751-6400

Digital Equipment Corp.

603-884-5407

Fox Bay Industries Inc.

1-800-874-8527

Integrated Software Systems, Inc.

407-242-0063

North Coast Medical, WorkMod

Products

408-283-1900

NewsView/PhotoView

1-800-745-9411

Stauffer Media Systems

417-782-0280

Thaumaturgy Software Inc.

206-885-4059

VU/TEXT Information Services

1-800-323-2940

Poynter Seminar Welcomes "The Other Guys"

Continued from page 9

per. Seven newspapers took the bait and sent an editor and librarian for a week of, well, nobody knew exactly what. Although the seminar was described as not being for "dysfunctional families, necessarily," I had hoped it would be a cathartic and invigorating opportunity to confront some of the real issues and problems that most news libraries experience.

I had visions of librarians lunging across the table at insensitive editors and editors shaking accusing fingers at librarians. And I expected to have to break up several fights when the topics turned to their problems in internal communications. Instead, there was politeness, careful listening, and no conflict. I was depressed.

I should have suspected this when I read the case study assignments. I asked everyone to send in an example of a problem they have with the newsroom or library. Several of the editors said they couldn't think of any problems. I thought then they were lying or the library was so invisible to them they didn't see the problems. After a day and a half of polite discussion, the interaction was so distant they were acting like the proper strangers they are.

On Tuesday afternoon we did some role-playing that focused on the newsroom's perception of the news library as slow, unresponsive, and not particularly pro-active. While we were talking, one of the editors turned to me and said, "I can't believe we're having to talk about this. Is this still a problem in some papers?" Then I realized that their attendance at the seminar indicated their newspapers were probably more supportive of the library than the norm.

We talked for a while about what helped these libraries have such a good relationship with their newsrooms. The main factor was a take-charge, in-your-face kind of library manager who didn't wait politely to be asked to come

into the news process, but who inserted herself into it.

We also discussed some of the problems librarians faced in finding their place in the newsroom process. All agreed part of the problem was the title "librarian." All other news-

changes, some of the editors were clearly against librarians on the final decision-making team. The librarians made a strong case that system decisions would not only affect every aspect of the library's work, but would determine the development of future information products and services that might provide new revenue streams. Since the librarian would be the key player in those systems, they should be key players in the decision-making.

The real shift in perception came on Thursday night when there was a heated, often bitter, discussion ranging from male / female roles in the newsroom, to coverage of rape cases, to how we should have covered the Gulf War. Editors and librarians finally came together, even in their differences of opinion, and realized that we are all in a business that we love, think about, and care about. Editors began to see the strength librarians can bring to the mix. The librarian's view is necessarily broader than the individual desk editor's more narrow focus. A sharing of viewpoint and expertise would bring a richness that couldn't be accomplished individually.

By Friday morning's wrap-up it was clear that there had been a breakthrough in communication. As Kathleen Hansen, a journalism professor and librarian from the University of Minnesota, put it, "Remember the TV show 'Get Smart?' When Maxwell and the Chief wanted to talk privately, they would bring down the 'cone of silence'?" This week, I think you've helped lift the "cone of

silence" that has separated you."

In the discussion of next steps, the terms "co-conspirators" and "team members" were often used. And the consensus of the group was that next year it should be a triumvirate: librarian and editor and reporter. Next year the correct answer to the multiple choice question will be E. The Three Musketeers. ■

TIPS TO TAKE HOME:

Some of the tips that the seminar participants came up with for increasing the visibility of the news research role in the newsroom:

ATTEND THE RIGHT MEETINGS: Many librarians attend the afternoon news meetings, but this is often too late in the process. Be sure to have the library represented at news planning meetings and on every project team.

MAKE THE LIBRARY CENTRAL: The information desk at Grand Central Station is right in the middle, not tucked off by the Red Caps' lounge. Do that in your newsroom. Even if you can't do a major remodeling, you can get a library outpost in the newsroom. A librarian sitting in the midst is better able to help during the whole story development.

CHANGE THE NAME: Consider different names for the news library that are more descriptive of the function. News Research Department, Information Services, Editorial Information Center, all sound more active than library.

CREATE ALLIANCES: Co-conspirators must create opportunities to conspire. Don't go to lunch with the same people all the time, go sit at a different table with a different group.

DEVELOP A RESEARCH BUDGET: Just as there is a story budget that tracks what is being worked on, keep a running list of research projects that the newsroom can check.

LIBRARY BULLETIN BOARD: A "Catch of the Day" or "Resource Du Jour" notice in a prominent place in the newsroom can keep the library's contributions and materials prominent. Be sure, too, to regularly add items to your newsroom newsletter.

JOB EXCHANGE: Work out a way to have all new reporters / editors spend a day (or even better) a week in the library. This will give them a chance to see the resources and the researchers in action.

GET CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE: If your paper isn't doing it yet, make sure they start giving research credit when the effort went beyond mere fact checking. ■

room positions clearly describe their contribution: editors edit, reporters report, photographers photograph. Do librarians library?

By Wednesday, some of the perceptual differences about the role and power of the librarian in the newsroom hierarchy came out. During a discussion about who should be on the planning team for major newsroom systems

NEWS DIVISION CALENDAR

Please keep the following dates in mind as you offer contributions and suggestions to committee chairs, board members and *NLN* staff.

September 15: Student stipend brochure mailed Preliminary 1993 conference program reported to SLA

October 1: Nominations committee proposes slate of officers *NLN* copy & ad deadline for Vol 15 No 1, Fall issue

November 15: *NLN* fall issue to be mailed

January 5: *NLN* copy & ad deadline for Vol 15 No 2, Winter issue

January 15: Election ballots to be mailed; due back February 15

Awards nominations due to chair of awards committee

Stipend entries due to stipend committee chair

Final conference program reported to SLA

January 27-29: SLA midwinter meeting, Los Angeles

February 15: All award winners reported to board & *NLN* editor

Election ballots returned

NLN winter issue to be mailed

March 1: Elections committee reports results to board & *NLN*

Treasurer's annual report due for *NLN*

NLN copy & ad deadline for Vol 15 No 3, conference issue

April 1: *NLN* copy & ad deadline for Vol 15 No 4, spring issue

April 15: *NLN* conference special to be mailed first-class

April 20: Chair's annual report due to SLA Division Cabinet Chair

May 15: *NLN* spring issue to be mailed

June 5-10: Annual conference, Cincinnati

July 1: *NLN* copy & ad deadline for Vol 15 No 5, summer issue; conference coverage

New Officers elected

News Division members elected three new officers this spring. Congratulations to these outstanding individuals.



Donna Scheeder
Chair Elect



Bridget Janus
Director of
Publications



Dargan Richards
Secretary

Officer Nominations

Have you ever thought, "Gee, I bet so-and-so would be great at...?"

Well, it's time to name your favorite "so-and-so". Keep it short and keep it clean, but don't keep it to yourself.

We are seeking candidate for Chair-Elect, Treasurer, and Director of Education for the 1993 election.

All nominations will, of course, be kept confidential. Lend a hand to the nomination committee. Contact Charlie Campo with your nomination.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS OCTOBER 1, 1992. ■

CompuServe Journalism Forum

SLA/ND Online Member Database

Join your Special Libraries Association/News Division colleagues online in JForum —CompuServe's Journalism Forum— for lively discussions about research issues, archiving technologies, breaking news, investigative projects and SLA business.

Accessible through CompuServe (GO JFORUM) The Journalism Forum hosts more than 10,000 member journalists worldwide for discussions on ethics, education, jobs, newsroom computers, photography, graphics, design, newspapers and magazines.

For More Information

Contact SLA/ND Sysop Nora Paul
(CSIS ID # 76216,1006)

or at The Poynter Institute (813-821-9494)

For a FREE CompuServe IntroPak call
1-800-848-8199 and ask for Operator 327

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE & CHANGES OF ADDRESS

New software at SLA has delayed complete membership information details for us so we will report on new members and total membership in the next issue of *NLN*.

Please remember that our Division Membership Directory is compiled from the official business address you have on file with SLA.

Use the form below to make changes to your address and indicate to them if you are changing your preferred mailing address or your business address

For directory corrections and changes of address, please complete this card and mail to SLA, 1700 Eighteenth Street NW, Washington, DC, 20009

NAME _____

TITLE _____

COMPANY _____

DEPARTMENT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

FAX _____

SLA's Self-Study Program

"Grace Under Pressure"

Writing with Clarity, Conciseness and Impact

This self-study program is available in both workbook and floppy disk formats.

For further information contact: Special Libraries Association Professional Development Section,
202/234-4700.

Call For Awards Nominations

Help the Awards committee identify and honor those who have made outstanding contributions to our profession and/or our division. You may nominate in as few or as many award categories as you wish.

BE SURE TO SEND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION WITH EACH NAME SUBMITTED AND ATTACH WITH THIS FORM.

Joseph F. Kwapil Memorial Award

This award is the highest recognition of the News Division. It is given for major achievement in the field of news librarianship and for outstanding service to the News Division to a member who has actively participated in the division's programs and projects for a continuous period of ten years or more.

Name of nominee

Agnes Henebry Roll of Honor Award

This award is given to a member of former member for service to the division and for participation in division programs and projects.

Name of nominee

Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition

This certificate is given periodically to an individual or institution for outstanding contributions in the field of information science and/or new librarianship.

Name of nominee

Please mail this form with supporting documentation to Margaret Neu, News Division/SLA Awards Committee, Corpus Christi Caller Times, P.O. Box 9136, Corpus Christi, TX 78469.

J-FORUM QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPT SURVEY

By Nora Paul

It has been almost six months since the News Division joined the Journalism Forum on CompuServe as a "sub-forum" area. [See *NLN*, Vol. 14, No. 1] The full potential for the use of the bulletin board has not been realized with low numbers of News Division members posting messages or uploading documents. To some extent this is because few news librarians have time to get on and schmooze during their busy

workdays. But another reason is that it has not been clear the most valuable kind of bulletin board use for the Division.

The publicity-public relations committee has been asked to look into ways the bulletin board could help members. Our first step is the following survey. We'd like to determine the News Division members' access to and interest in the Journalism Forum and other types of bbs access.

Please fill out the following survey and mail it in. This survey is intended for individuals as well as libraries. We'd like a full picture of the potential users of the boards (some on staff may have more interest in bbs than others and be willing to access from home computers). We encourage responses from non-News Division members who might be interested.

Name _____

Company: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail address (if any): _____

EQUIPMENT:

I have a pc with a modem: (circle one)

- 1. at work
- 2. at home
- 3. both
- 4. neither
- 5. neither, but I plan to soon

SERVICES:

I have an account with: (circle all that apply)

- 1. CompuServe
- 2. Presslink
- 3. Internet
- 4. PC Pursuit

USES OF BULLETIN BOARDS

A. Please rank the following possible uses of bulletin boards

1 to 11 (1 = most interesting; 11 = least interesting)

- Send messages to others in the news division - social use
- Canvass librarians about your library concerns - advice
- Opportunity to read what reporters, editors, photographers & other newsroom people are talking about
- Read news division publications, like News Library News
- Read handouts from conferences, bibliographies and other information, news division publications (ie. NLN)
- Get job postings, want ads
- Get expert advice on equipment or software
- Participate in online conferences on library topics
- Participate in online conferences on journalism topics
- Use for doing News Division Committee work (ie. post proposed list of keywords for comment and additions)
- Hot topics files - research of the week hints, tips

B. Are you most interested in talking with: (rank one to five)

- Other librarians outside of the News Division
- Other division members
- Other journalists
- Techies
- Academicians

C. How often would you log on to a board: (circle one answer)

- 1. Daily
- 2. 2-3 times a week
- 3. Once a week
- 4. Once every two weeks
- 5. Once a month
- 6. Never

D. What time of day/day of week would you be likely to use it? (circle one)

- 1. morning
- 2. afternoon
- 3. evening
- 4. weekends

E. Given that there will be a cost, what would be most easily absorbed? (circle one)

- 1. billed to telephone bill
- 2. separate billing by the service
- 3. credit card charge
- 4. no preference

F. Barriers to use of the boards: (circle all that are applicable)

- 1. no time
- 2. no budget
- 3. no equipment
- 4. no instruction, knowledge on how to use them
- 5. no interest
- 6. other: _____

If you have any questions, please contact Nora Paul (813)821-9494 or E-Mail on CompuServe 76216,1006. Mailing address for survey:

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