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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR NASIG NEWSLETTER EDITOR / Jean Callaghan

At the request of the NASIG Executive Board, the Chair of the Newsletter Committee is seeking applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief of the NASIG Newsletter. Applications are welcome from librarians, publishers, vendors and other interested members who are willing to serve as Editor-in-Chief for a two year term, beginning in the summer of 1992. Individuals with editorial experience, access to a computer, and expertise in standard word processing programs are invited to apply. Access to electronic mail and a fax machine is desirable.

Please send letter of application, vita, and supporting documentation to: Jean Callaghan, Serials Librarian, Wheaton College, Norton, MA 02766. Phone: 508-285-7722 x530. FAX: 508-285-6329. Bitnet: jcall@wheatnma. Other members of the Selection Committee are Teresa Malinowski and Ann Okerson. Applications will be reviewed at the NASIG Executive Board meeting at ALA Midwinter in San Antonio. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JANUARY 20, 1992.

The NASIG Newsletter (ISSN: 0892-1733) is published 5 times a year for the members of the North American Serials Interest Group, Inc. It is available only through personal membership in the organization. Members of the Editorial Board of the Newsletter are:

Editor-in-Chief:
Jean Callaghan
Wheaton College (MA)

Production Editor:
Kathy Wodrich Schmidt
Indiana University School of Medicine

Submissions Editor:
Daphne C. Hsueh
Ohio State University

NASIG Executive Board Liaison:
Teresa Malinowski
California State University, Fullerton

Distribution Editor:
Daphne C. Miller
Wright State University School of Medicine

Publisher Liaison:
Isabel Czech
Institute for Scientific Information

The Newsletter is published in February, April, June, September, and December. The NASIG Membership Directory will be mailed with the April issue. Submission deadlines are 4 weeks prior to the publication date (January 1, March 1, May 1, August 1, & November 1). The submission date for the next issue is January 1. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Send all submissions and Calendar of Events items to:
Daphne C. Hsueh, Retrospective Conversion Specialist, Cataloging Dept. University Libraries, Ohio State University, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, OH 43210-1286.
614-292-8114 x44131
FAX: 614-292-7859
Bitnet: DAPHNE@OHSTMVSA

Send all inquiries concerning the NASIG organization and membership, and change of address information to:
Lisa Peterson, NASIG Secretary, 420 Effey Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.
408-427-3090
FAX: 408-459-0895

Send all claims for unreceived issues of the Newsletter to:
Daphne Miller, Serials Library Media Assistant, Wright State University School of Medicine, Fordham Health Sciences Library, P.O. Box 927, Dayton, OH 45401-0927.
513-873-3574
FAX: 513-879-2675
PRESIDENT’S CORNER / Ann Okerson

Looking Forward, to the 1992 NASIG Conference

The governance of NASIG is complex and detailed. Some 14 committees and two task forces transact the regular business of the organization, and the Board meets three time per year for the greater part of a day: ALA Midwinter, before the NASIG annual conference, and the first Saturday of November in Washington, DC. The Board recently completed its fall meeting, in which it reviewed all the ongoing activities and structures. Several of the agenda items especially merit the notice of NASIG members, including 1992 conference plans, developing space. NASIG is also pleased to be sponsoring the printing and sale of the Directory of Back Issue Dealers, prepared by Beth Holley at the University of Alabama; and to support early actions towards a NASIG strategic plan. The direction for that plan will come from members who respond to the survey being developed by John Tagler and a Strategic Planning Task Force and your participation in the spring will be greatly encouraged and welcomed.

But this is the time to devote most of the column to the 1992 conference, about which the Board and all committees (Program and Local Arrangements) are very excited. The 1992 conference will -- as many of you know -- be different in two respects: it will leave the bucolic setting for the urban but intimate University of Illinois/Chicago campus, and one day of the conference will be held jointly with the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP). Indeed, both NASIG and SSP activities will begin around the 17th and 18th of June and NASIG will be concluding on Sunday the 21st, just as the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) begins its annual conference in Chicago. All three groups are discussing some interconnected activities and the possibility that some members may want to occasionally attend meetings of the other organizations.

This promises varied and rich opportunities at what should be the “hottest” conference of the early 90s. The NASIG activities “formally” begin about a half day earlier than usual, as we schedule meetings of the various committees early on the arrival afternoon, Thursday, followed by another new feature, two or more workshops/pre-conferences aimed at all members. Some of the plans under discussion for pre-conferences are the popular suggestion for How to Run a Successful Workshop; and How to get the Most Out of Your Electronic Mail System. This latter session intends to build on the recent NASIG survey of members e-mail capabilities which suggests that perhaps half the membership has e-mail access and many would like to, or would like to learn more about that capability.

NASIG plans, as usual, to offer close to the 18 workshops of the past couple of years, each repeated and each member having the chance to attend four. The joint SSP day, Saturday, will feature two major plenary sessions with nationally known speakers plus 6 - 8 parallel or breakout sessions on topics which have not yet been firmly decided but may include: the impacts of networking; standards and cataloguing of new formats; serials cancellations, how, when and why; emerging document delivery services; electronic publishing and serials.

In order to accommodate such richness of workshops and joint sessions, NASIG will trim approximately a morning’s worth of its own plenary sessions, reducing major papers from about 10 or 11, to about 5 or 6. But have no fears: there will be enough papers to suit even the staunchest attendee, with smaller sessions for those who prefer them. It is fair to say this is the first year we have attempted anything so diverse and ambitious for our membership. It is an experiment, as for 1993 we return to our more conventional format. But success, as determined by the members, could lead to more occasional collaborations with other sister organizations.

Another difference is in the range of social events: one evening will be devoted to a joint reception with SSP and another is projected to allow NASIGers on the town for the 7th annual NASIG meeting. The Board will give final approval to the Program Committee at its ALA Midwinter meeting and members...
will (we hope) receive programs in early March. Meanwhile, when we have further information, we will post it, as we did last year, to the appropriate electronic forums. By then, we hope to have NASIG-LIST in operation and that will be a way to reach large segments of the membership -- and a service we hope will capture everyone in time.

See you first at ALA, and then at NASIG, with lots of updates in between.

GREETINGS FROM CHICAGO / Jim Mouw

We will meet for NASIG's Seventh Annual Conference June 18-21, 1992, on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The 1992 Conference will include a one day joint session with the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP). This offers a unique opportunity for discussion of scholarly information in the twentieth century.

The Local Arrangements Committee is chaired by Jim Mouw (University of Chicago). The Committee members are: Cheryl Bernero (EBSCO), Mary Bonhomme (Chicago Public Library), Gary Brown (FAXON), Linda Jayes (University of Chicago), Ken Kirkland (DePaul University), Ann Okerson (ARL), Elaine Rast (Northern Illinois University), Virginia Reed (Northeastern Illinois University), Christine Stamison (University of Chicago), and Helen Truck0 (University of Illinois at Chicago).

We look forward to welcoming you to NASIG's first "big city" conference and to sharing with you the cultural diversity, entertainment, and excitement that makes Chicago unique.

We welcome your suggestions for the conference.

Watch for program details and registration information in the coming months.

NASIG DUES REMINDER

1992 NASIG membership renewal forms were included in the last issue of the Newsletter. DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

MINUTES OF BY-LAWS COMMITTEE MEETING / Joyce Tenney, Secretary

June 15, 1991, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX
Present: Gordon (Chair), Rast, Tenney, Winchester

The Committee met in open session and was called to order at 5:15 p.m. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of June 3 or 4, 1990.

1. Ms. Rast will step down from the Committee at the close of the 6th Annual Conference. She will continue to serve as an advisor as needed. The Committee thanked her for her many contributions to its activities, and passed a motion expressing its appreciation for her endeavors to be forwarded to the President.

2. The Committee welcomed Ms. E. Gaele Gillespie (University of Kansas) who will begin the first year of her first term as a By-Laws Committee appointee at the close of the Sixth Annual Conference.

3. The Executive Board's sense that unless any substantively critical matter arose, all proposed By-Laws amendments should be batched and acted upon by the membership once a year, as close to the beginning of each Annual Conference as possible yet allowing for sufficient time for review and balloting.

4. A motion was made and approved to send a current copy of the By-Laws to each member once a year (probably as an addenda to the NASIG Newsletter).

5. The new ballot style was discussed and it was observed that it has been received favorably by the membership.

6. Mr. Gordon announced that, for the sake of transition, he will be stepping down as Chair at the close of the 7th Annual Conference. He will make a recommendation to the President for her consideration regarding the appointment of a new Chair. He will continue to serve during 1992/93 as a Committee member.

7. The Chair called for and heard no proposed revisions/amendments to the By-Laws as fulfillment of the announcement during the 6/15/91 Business Meeting that such proposals, as permitted under Article XII. Section 1. of the By-Laws, be entertained at that time.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.
NASIG ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT / Birdie MacLennan

Committee Members, 1991-1992:

Birdie MacLennan, Chair (University of Vermont) bmacleann@uvvmv or bmacleann@uvvmv.umn.edu; Ann Okerson, Ex-Officio (ARL) okerson@umdc or okerson@e-math.ams.com; Genevieve J. Clay (Eastern Kentucky University) libclay@eku; Ann Ercelawn (Vanderbilt University) ercelaa@vucrvaex; David James (Johns Hopkins University) james_dw@jhuv; Cecilia Leathem (University of Miami) cleathem@umiami; Janice Lindquist (U. of Missouri-Kansas City) jindquist@umkcvaex; Kathryn Loafman (University of North Texas) kloafma@untvax; Shiela Osheroff (Oregon State University) osheroff@ccmail.orst.edu; Juliann Rankin (California State U.-Chico) juliann_rankin@msmailg.csuchico.edu; Laurie Sutherland (University of Washington) suther@milton.u.washington.edu; Sarah Tusa (Lamar University) tusa@lub001.lamar.edu; and Marcia Tuttle (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) tuttle@unc.

The Electronic Communications Committee (formerly referred to as the Electronic Publications Committee) was formed as a standing committee of NASIG at the annual June conference in San Antonio. The committee evolved from the work of the Electronic Mail Task Force, which was formed in the spring of 1991 by Ann Okerson, our project organizer and liaison to the Board. Our continuing mission, carried over from the task force, is: (1) to investigate electronic mail, or networking capabilities; (2) to develop a vision of what is desirable, appropriate and realistically possible for NASIG; (3) to make recommendations on how to implement the possibilities. To this end, the committee has continued from where the task force left off. The task force report recommended that NASIG take advantage of an offer from the American Mathematical Society for a cooperative venture that would give NASIG access to a mainframe, or "host site" on their Internet node, as well as including resources for systems development and support for our own NASIG inter-organizational electronic network. With systems backing in place, the committee's first order has been to begin planning for implementation.

SURVEY OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Our first project has been to survey the membership for the purpose of getting information about each member's electronic mail capability, while gathering as much feedback/information as possible via membership perspectives and opinions on the project. In July, Ann Okerson drafted the preliminary survey and cover letter. Committee members reviewed the drafts and gave substantive input for revisions. Final drafts were sent out to the entire membership in early August. David James (Johns Hopkins University) graciously agreed to receive and tabulate the responses. A copy of his preliminary report is included (see Appendix A).

Preliminary survey results indicate a number of things to be addressed by the committee. First, and foremost, is that 336 responses constitute only about one third of the membership. As this number does not represent a majority, the committee has been concerned with getting additional feedback from members. To precipitate a "second wave" of survey responses, we expedited a follow-up mailing to non-respondents (a.k.a. "the renewed plea"). The mailing included a follow-up letter from the Chair, accompanied by a copy of the same survey (for those who lost or misplaced the original). It was sent out during the third week of October and, at this point in time, we are hoping for a renewal of activity in our information gathering efforts and a broader perspective on membership needs, wants, and concerns as we continue to plan for implementation.

COMMERCIAL ACCESS

Another result of the survey is that 72 respondents have no access to electronic mail capabilities. The comments summary indicates a concern about members who do not have access to the networks. Furthermore, only 86/89 members surveyed have indicated that they have access to Telnet/FTP capabilities (Telnet is an Internet function that allows login to a remote computer for the purpose of interactive use of a service, such as searching a library catalog or a database; FTP, or File Transfer Protocol, is a function that allows login to a remote computer for the purpose of file transfer, obtaining documents, software, etc. over the Internet).

While both of these options are being considered, preliminary survey results indicate that less than 10% of the membership would be able to take advantage of them. The obvious question is: How can we get people connected, first, to a simple e-mail function, then, if we decide it's worth our while to implement them in our setup, the Telnet/FTP options? The answer to this dilemma appears to be in the form of commercial vendor access and/or Public Access Unix sites, or local bulletin
boards. Their use requires a personal computer, telecommunications software, a modem, and varying amounts of money for commercial service fees.

The Chair of the committee is currently compiling a list of available commercial services that provide Internet access, i.e., who they are, what services they provide, how much they cost. Sheila Osheroff (Oregon State) has agreed to assist in contacting the vendors and investigating their services. This work is just beginning to get underway. Preliminary investigations show that it will be difficult to find the Telnet/FTP options commercially, although one site has been identified as a possibility. We would anticipate that NASIG will eventually need to address the cost factor of these services and who will pay for them in instances where they are not covered by an institutional or corporate affiliation.

**EDUCATING THE MEMBERSHIP**

Ann Oke has indicated, and preliminary survey results support, that there is significant interest on the topic of developing educational materials/guidelines, workshops, and opportunities for instructing and training the membership about networking and electronic communications skills. The committee is taking this into consideration. A file of instructional information and documentation that would be useful for educational purposes is being compiled. Preliminary plans include (at the very least) disseminating an instructional packet for educating the membership in regard to the use of the NASIG electronic network that we are creating, as well as the possibility of presenting a workshop at the 1992 annual conference.

**Appendix A**

Preliminary Survey Summary
November 1, 1991
compiled by David James

3. I have access to electronic mail.
   Yes - 294, No - 72

4. I could get access to electronic mail by asking.
   Yes - 39, No - 21

5. I could get access to electronic mail by asking, provided I can specify a good reason for such a capability. A letter from NASIG would help me obtain an electronic mail address.
   Yes - 9, No - 21, Maybe - 3

6. I could not get access to e-mail at my institution but would welcome information about other means (i.e., commercial networks) of obtaining an electronic mail address.
   Yes - 21, No - 10

7. I am not interested in electronic mail capabilities at this time.
   Correct - 10, Don't know/tell me more - 21

8. I have electronic mail.
   Private - 258, Shared - 37

9. Networks/services that NASIG members use for electronic communications:
   Bitnet and Internet - 95
   Bitnet - 92
   Internet - 95
   CompuServe - 3
   Envoy - 3
   Alane - 2
   Easylink - 2
   Local - 2
   Unidentifiable - 1

10. Who has Telnet/FTP capabilities, who doesn't, and who couldn't find out:
    Telnet     Yes - 86, No - 12
    FTP       Yes - 89, No - 13
    Couldn't find out - 22

11. If your current account does not allow Telnet or FTP functions, could you get an internet account that would give you these capabilities?
    Could - 24, Couldn't - 12, Couldn't find out - 10

12. Does your institution charge you for e-mail services?
    Doesn't charge - 271, Does charge - 27, Funny money - 42

13. Interested in:
    NASIG BB's & electronic lists - 214
    Conference workshops - 198
    Other - 38
### NASIG 1991 TRINITY CONFERENCE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#### Income

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<td>Souvenirs</td>
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<td>Proceedings - sales</td>
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#### Expenses

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**Balance**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$96,217.47</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,143.53</strong></td>
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### NASIG LIBRARY SCIENCE STUDENT GRANT COMMITTEE / Lisa A. Macklin

The NASIG Library Science Student Grant Committee is conducting a survey of all previous grant recipients. We would appreciate your help! If you are one of the following grant recipients, or if you know one of the grant recipients, please contact Lisa A. Macklin at University of North Texas Libraries, Box 5188, Denton, TX 76203 or on Bitnet at LMACKLIN@UNTVA.

The following are the grant recipients, the library school they attended and the year they received the Library Science Student Grant:

- Thomas Champagne (Northern Illinois University 1988)
- Tschera Connell (University of Illinois 1988)
- Bettie George Frye (University of South Carolina 1989)
- Martha Hill (Florida State University 1990)
- Susan Huff (Clarion University of Pennsylvania 1988)
- Juedi Kleindienst (North Carolina Central Univ. 1989)
- Melanie Lightbody (University of Washington 1989)
- Robin Lindsay (University of South Carolina 1988)
- Christopher McConnell (Simmons College 1988)
- David O'Connor (Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 1990)
- Geraldine Pionessa (University of Arizona 1989)
- William Ted Rogers (Louisiana State University 1990)
- Adriana Rossini (University of Toronto 1989)
- Anita Schuneman (Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 1989)
- Joanne Scott (University of Alabama 1990)
- Sarah D. Tusa (University of Texas at Austin 1990)
- David Ward (Louisiana State University 1989)
- Nancy Wolf (University of Western Ontario 1990)

Thanks for your help. I look forward to hearing from you!

### CAPACITY CROWD AT NASIG SERIALS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP / Buzzy Basch

Nearly 100 attendees participated in a NASIG Serials Management Workshop in Washington, D.C. on November 1, 1991. The workshop was coordinated through the office of Dean Deanna Marcum at the School of Library and Information Science at Catholic University of America. The American Society for Information Science provided accommodation for the meeting at the Washington Hilton.

Barbara Meyers (Meyers Consulting), Jerry Curtis (Springer Verlag), and John Tagler (Elsevier) presented the perspective of journal and Society publishers; Bill Willmering (National Library of Medicine), Ann Dodson (OCLC), and Corrie Marsh (George Washington University) discussed serials management in research, corporate, and academic library environments. Buzzy Basch (Basch Associates), presented the vendor's viewpoint, focusing on subscription agency services.

Each presentation was followed by questions. A coffee break, sponsored by Information on Demand, gave attendees the opportunity to talk with each other, members of the panel, and serial vendors in the audience. The session ended with an open discussion, and requests and suggestions for future workshops.
LIBRARY SCIENCE STUDENT GRANT
PROGRAM: APPLICATIONS / Harriet Kersey, Chair

The NASIG Library Science Student Grant Program provides library science students interested in serials and/or technical services work an opportunity to attend a NASIG conference with all expenses paid. If you know of any library school students "who have expressed an interest in serials and/or technical services work," please encourage them to apply.

SCOPE OF AWARD: Recipients are expected to attend the entire conference and submit a brief written report to NASIG. Expenses for travel, registration, meals and lodging will be paid by NASIG. A one year student membership also will be included.

ELIGIBILITY: Students currently enrolled in any ALA accredited library school program and who have expressed an interest in serials and/or technical services work are eligible. Applicants must be full or part-time students at the time of application. In order to accept an award, a recipient must not be employed in a position requiring an ALA accredited degree at the time of acceptance of the grant award. Equal consideration will be given to all qualified applicants.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Application forms will be available after February 1, 1992, in ALA accredited library schools and from Harriet Kersey, Chair, Head, Serials Cataloging, Library & Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30322. Phone: 404-894-4523.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 10, 1992. Applications postmarked or faxed after this date will not be considered.

AWARD NOTIFICATION: Award recipients will be notified by April 15, 1992. A maximum of six grants may be awarded for 1992.

The NASIG Library Science Student Grant Committee members for 1991-92 are: Harriet Kersey, Chair (Georgia Institute of Technology); Eleanor Cook (Appalachian State University); Ken Kirkland (DePaul University); Janice Lange (Sam Houston State University); Lisa Macklin (University of North Texas); and Ann Vidor, Executive Board Liaison (Emory University).

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL IDENTIFIER APPROVED

Major Publishers Agree To Print Bar Coded Version On Journals

(New York, NY July 1991) The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Board of Standards Review approved the Serial Item and Contribution Identifier (SICI) on July 15, 1991. Kluwer Academic Publishers was printing the SISAC Symbol, a bar coded version of the item identifier section of this Standard, on all of their journals for several years. B.H. Blackwell Periodicals Division, Elsevier Scientific Publishing, Pergamon Press (even before its acquisition by Elsevier) and John Wiley & Sons have all agreed that they will print the bar code symbol on ALL of their journals within six months of approval of the standard.

Approval of this standard, identified as ANSI/NISO Z39.56-1991, culminates an almost 10 year effort begun in 1982 with the founding of the Serials Industry Systems Advisory Committee (SISAC) of the Book Industry Study Group, Inc. At its inception, SISAC set out to develop methods for improving communication of business transactions for the serial industry using current technology. The first need they isolated was a standard method to uniquely identify specific issues of serial publications, so that orders and claims could be processed electronically. They agreed to create such an identification standard down to the article level for use in document delivery.

Working as both a SISAC Subcommittee and a National Information Standards Organization (NISO) Standards Committee, a group of knowledgeable volunteers was established to develop a national standard that was compatible with the International Standard for Bibliographic Identification of Contributions in Serials And Books (ISO 9115), under development in 1982 and approved in 1987.

SISAC was also determined to find a standard method for representing the issue-level identifier in bar coding on the cover of professional, scientific and technical journals, to allow for their automatic check-in at America's many automated libraries. After much debate, SISAC selected bar code 128 as the symbology to be used to encode the SICI, since it is the most compact code which can handle the alphabetic and numeric characters and punctuation found in the SICI. Starting in May, 1986, 56 publications of 22 publishers began
carrying the serial issue identifier in bar code and eye-readable form on the front or back cover of each issue. At that time, systems vendors began programming interfaces to their systems that would allow their library customers to scan the code to record receipt and, possibly, for tracking serials circulated to patrons. The test concluded in November 1986, confirmed the speed with which journals carrying this "SISAC Symbol" can be identified, supporting the belief that scanning of journals at check-in will significantly reduce claims for missing issues.

In addition to Kluwer journals, the SISAC Symbol now appears on one Springer and several Academic Press journals, on SCAN Newsletter, SISAC News, Against the Grain, and will, with the next issue, on Scholarly Publishing.

The method of converting the SIC1 to Code 128 is explained in Serial Issue Identification: Code and Symbol Guidelines. This publication is available for $7.50 from the Book Industry Study Group, 160 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010, Phone: 212-929-1393, FAX: 212-989-7542. The Serial Item and Contribution Identifier Standard will be published in late 1991, by Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Advance orders are being accepted; contact Transaction at Phone: 908-932-2280 or FAX: 908-932-3138

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 91ST ANNUAL MEETING / Bobbie Carlson

The 91st Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, held in San Francisco, May 31-June 6, 1991, offered thought-provoking papers on immediate issues in and future directions for the biomedical serial world. The John P. McGovern Award Lecture was presented in the first plenary session by two distinguished journal editors, George D. Lundberg II, M.D., editor of JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association), and Stephen P. Lock, M.D., former editor of BMJ (British Medical Journal). Their topic, the future of biomedical literature, addressed the increasingly voluminous production of this literature, the responsibility of editors and reviewers to assess the quality of the literature, the checks on the inherent conflicts of interest within the review process, and the future forms for the dissemination of such information.

Lundberg told the 2300 attendees that the print journal will prevail as the preferred primary form for physicians, but that alternate forms, particularly CD-ROM, will supplement the print format. However, the content, not the package, remains the paramount concern.

Proclaiming that the journal editor is "the keeper of the conscience of a profession," Lundberg conveyed how the peer review process is the mechanism that guards against fraud in scientific publication and checks conflicts of interest in the process. He raised a moan from the audience when he suggested that JAMA undergo a name change to JPBC, the Journal of Physician Behavior Change.

Lock spoke of measuring the quality of journals and suggested that there is no greater information explosion now than there was in the past. The fragmentation of disciplines has generated new titles and created more depth in the tier structure of journal literature.

Following both papers, a panel of MLA members questioned the speakers and commented on the role of editors, librarians, citation error rates, structural abstracts, and the grey literature. Noteworthy was the fact that JAMA will run a journal review column in which librarians will be the reviewers, furthering collaboration between librarians and editors.

Section-sponsored and juried contributed papers and posters dealt with journal topics. Evaluating a journal collection was addressed in two papers sponsored by the Technical Services Section. Esther Carrigan and Naomi Fackler, both of the Medical Sciences Library at Texas A&M, devised a weighted formula to calculate a cost/benefit ratio for each journal title in an attempt to measure each title's relative worth to the library. Journal cancellation decisions at the Washington University School of Medicine Library were discussed by Loretta Stucki, who collected information on indexing, usage, cost, accessibility, and subject discipline from the library's integrated system.

The reasons, trends, and impact of title changes in biomedical journal titles were sorted out by Paul Wynn of the New York University School of Medicine. This research project surveyed libraries to determine the impact of title changes, analyzed title changes for two years, and offered a recommended set of standard practices for the serials industry.

In a repeat of an earlier NASIG workshop by Bill Willmering and Kevin McShane, both of the National Library of Medicine, Dianne McCutcheon provided in
depth information about SERLINE, NLM's database of over 75,000 records. An example of libraries working as partners with a commercial vendor to create and use journal collection management data was presented by Lynn Fortney, EBSCO Subscription Services, and Victor Basile, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark. The Index Medicus Price Study applies subject analysis to pricing trends in biomedical journal publishing, enabling health science libraries to track inflationary trends by discipline. An explanation of the creation and application of this helpful tool provided a background for its future users.

In describing another joint library-vendor project, two speakers provided current information on the implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in a library environment. Joe Santosusso, Faxon, spoke of putting EDI to an empirical test in pilot projects at two medical libraries, explained the essence of EDI, and the results of the experiment. Karen Butter, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins, then provided the test site and library's perspective, holding that EDI has great potential and that the major problems of implementation were more organizational than technical. Leonard Rhine, Health Science Center Library, University of Florida, Gainesville, introduced electronic mail claiming for bibliographic information and multiple databases in identifying local ownership of cited journals, proved problematic for the Medical Center Library at Vanderbilt. Judith Rieke spoke of a project to verify ISSN and the inherent problems in using this standard as an electronic bridge between information. The use of accurate ISSN information is the responsibility of publishers, libraries, and database vendors; confidence in this standard as a connector depends on cooperation among these parties.

Scientific fraud and misconduct was the main focus of several papers. Journal retraction policies were examined by Susan Selig, the Health Sciences Library, University of Tennessee, Memphis. A survey of 163 clinical journals determined each journal's current policy for conveying to its readership the fraudulent nature of previously published papers. It was reported that few journals have written policies for dealing with retracted papers.

A few posters provided visuals of projects relating to serials. Kathleen Rainey, Davis Medical Center Library, University of California, Sacramento, provided information on the success of getting physicians to sponsor journals for the library in the form of donated funds for journal titles of their choice. Journal cancellation decisions used information collected from interlibrary loan transactions at Washington University School of Medicine Library by Kathryn Ray and Candace Thayer. Unique title holdings and loan requests within a networked group became factors in cooperative deselection decisions. The problem of inaccessibility of journal literature while at the bindery was the basis of a research project at the Medical University of South Carolina. Barbara Carlson and Robert Poyer tracked the timing of use and indexing for all issues received for 25 biochemical and molecular biology journals over six months from each issue's receipt. Determining timing pattern correlations on these and other variables may help determine an appropriate time for binding, reduce user frustration and have implications for future automated systems designs.

As a postconference to this Annual Meeting, the American Medical Informatics Association held its second meeting that drew 350 attendees, and had as its primary theme the unified medical language system (UMLS).

Bobbie Carlson is Head, Serials Management, Medical University of South Carolina.

1992 UKSG CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SCOTLAND

The United Kingdom Serials Group will hold its 1992 Conference at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, from March 30 to April 2. Over 300 delegates (including librarians, subscription agents, publishers and system suppliers) regularly attend the UKSG Conference, which is accompanied by a large exhibition.

The Conference's keynote address will be given by John Maddox, editor of the journal Nature. Altogether there will be 14 conference papers, spanning a wide range of serials-related topics such as: networking databases, alternative access to serials information, and newspapers on CD-ROM.

The program will include: a selection of 11 workshops, a panel of experts, a major exhibition, conference dinner, civic reception, UKSG AGM, reception for "first-time"
delegates, sponsored places, Scottish dancing, and choice of visits (e.g. The Royal Botanic Garden, the Scotsman newspaper, and Riley Dunn & Wilson, binders).

Costs:
- Full residential member: 140 pounds
- Full residential non-member: 165 pounds
- Day visitor (Tuesday): 50 pounds
- Day visitor (Wednesday or Thursday): 35 pounds

For further information about the UKSG 1992 Conference please contact:

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LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS: PRACTICE & THEORY RESEARCH AWARD

The Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory (LAPT) Research Award provides an annual prize of $1,000 for research in the broad areas of acquisitions, serials, publishing, and collection management. The award will be given for one proposal and administered in two parts: $500 when the proposal is selected to fund the research effort and $500 when the completed manuscript is submitted to Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory. The award will be granted to the individual, not the institution, and may be used to cover expenses incurred in conducting the research outlined in the winning proposal, including travel, postage, staff support, supplies, and other items.

The winning proposal will identify a critical issue in acquisitions, serials or collection management and outline a rigorous approach to testing or solving the issue raised. Proposals will be judged on their significance, clarity and originality. The proposal should be a brief description (no more than 250 words) of the project. A budget proposal and a one page vita of the author must be attached. Awards will not be limited to experienced researchers.

The deadline for submitting proposals is March 15, 1992. Proposals will be reviewed by a panel consisting of the editor-in-chief, the assistant editors, and three members of the editorial board. The winning proposal will be announced at the annual American Library Association Conference (in San Francisco in 1992) and in the third issue of LAPT for the year. Research for the winning proposal must be completed within one year of the date when the award is announced.

Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory reserves the right of first refusal of the completed manuscript. Proposals and questions concerning this award should be addressed to:

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WORST SERIAL TITLE CHANGE OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE

Are you fed up with serials that change their titles unnecessarily? Take positive action; nominate them for the "Worst Serial Title Change of the Year" awards, sponsored by the Serials Section of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), a division of ALA. The awards, to be presented at ALA's annual conference in June, are for title changes which have occurred since January 1991.

Award criteria include: a frivolous title change for no apparent reason and producing no advantage; the unnecessary change of an old, respected title; repeated changes, the latest being no better than any earlier ones; and the "Snake in the Grass" or "Et tu, Brute?" category for library publications.

Please supply complete citations for the change, including title, number and/or date of last issue with old title; title, number and/or date of first issue with the new title; and the publisher's name and address. Photocopies of relevant pages or cataloging printouts are useful as verification.

Nominations should be sent to: Phoebe Timberlake, Chair, Worst Serial Title Change of the Year Committee, Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
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<td>January 25-30, 1992</td>
<td>ALA Midwinter Meeting</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30-April 2, 1992</td>
<td>UKSG Conference</td>
<td>Edinburgh, Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12-14, 1992</td>
<td>ACRL National Conference</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, UT</td>
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<td>June 6-11, 1992</td>
<td>Special Libraries Association Annual Meeting</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>June 11-14, 1992</td>
<td>Canadian Library Association Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Winnipeg, Manitoba</td>
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<td>June 18-21, 1992</td>
<td>NASIG 7th Annual Conference</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 18-20, 1992</td>
<td>Society for Scholarly Publishing 14th Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27-July 2, 1992</td>
<td>ALA Annual Conference</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 1992</td>
<td>IFLA Annual Conference</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
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<td>Sept. 13-17, 1992</td>
<td>LITA National Conference</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<tbody>
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