A^{S}IDIC newsletter

No. 87, Spring 2004

ASSOCIATION OF INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION CENTERS

Spring Meeting Considers Public–Private Partnerships
Cast Your Vote Now For the Spring Meeting Site

Amid welcome signs of spring, ASIDIC held its spring 2004 meeting on March 21-23 in Alexandria, VA. It was very successful; about 70 attendees assembled to hear an excellent program on the opportunities and challenges of public-private partnerships. Program co-chairs were **Ed Johnson** (USPTO), **Miriam Drake** (Information Management & Planning), and **Wally Finch** (NTIS). A summary of the technical program follows in this Newsletter. Local hosts were **Matt Dunie** and **Terry Owen** (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts), who were joined by their very able assistant, **Cindy Ramsey**. On Monday evening, attendees enjoyed a dinner served Colonial-style at Gadsby's Tavern, a local historic spot that has been in business since the American Revolution.

Committee Reports

*T*reasurer: ASIDIC Treasurer **Mike Walker** (NewsBank) reported that ASIDIC's financial decline of a few years ago has been reversed, and the present financial condition is stable, thanks to the dues increase enacted last year and also better attendance at meetings.

*E*xecutive: The Executive Committee accepted the new Procedure Manual as revised. Copies are available on request to any ASIDIC Member.

*S*ponsorship: NewsBank was a sponsor for the spring meeting; ASIDIC thanks them for their generosity.

*F*inance: **Jay ven Eman** (Access Innovations) reported that ASIDIC's finances are headed in the right direction because of good attendance at the last two meetings.

*P*ublications: Newsletter Editor **Don Hawkins** (Information Today and EBSCO) reported that thanks to a generous offer from **Iris Hanney** (TechBooks), the entire collection of back issues of the ASIDIC Newsletter has been digitized and converted to XML and PDF format. After some final editorial changes, the collection will be available to Members on the ASIDIC Web site. ASIDIC thanks TechBooks for their work in preserving this collection.

*S*tandards: A Listserv for standards relevant to ASIDIC Members has been proposed by **Marjorie Hlava** (Access Innovations); anyone wishing to subscribe should contact her.

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Fall Meeting

ASIDIC's fall 2004 meeting will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Phoenix, AZ on September 19-21. Local host will be **Rick Noble** (Thomson Healthcare), and Program Chair will be **Erica Mobley** (Inspec, Inc.). The topic will be the open access movement—putting peer-reviewed scientific and scholarly literature on the Internet. The theme will reflect removing the barriers to serious research focusing on linking, link resolving, and Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). The Monday night event will be held at the Challenger Space Center (http://www. azchallenger.org). Open access is currently an extremely important topic—do not miss this meeting!

Future Meetings

You are encouraged to cast your vote for the venue of the Spring 2005 meeting. Please go to http://www.asidic.org and cast your vote for either Ft. Myers, FL, or New Orleans, LA.

A western site will be selected for the fall 2005 meeting; Salt Lake City or San Francisco are under consideration.

President's Column
By Kevin Bouley

Hi All,

March Madness…the name conjures up many images. Spring 2004 proved to be an exciting one, and I'm not just referring to collegiate basketball!

The ASIDIC Spring Meeting was hosted in Old Towne Alexandria by Matt Dunie and Terry Owen from CSA. No disrespect intended, but the real credit belongs to their assistant, Cindy Ramsey, who did a great job with the local venue and hosting arrangements.

The program was the combined work and efforts of Miriam Drake, Immediate Past President, Wally Finch, NTIS and Ed Johnson, USPTO, who deserve special thanks for putting together a well represented and powerful program geared towards information activities within several US governmental bodies.

For those that question, as all of us do from time to time, the necessity to attend yet another conference—and attendance at an ASIDIC meeting is no exception—the value proposition remains strong. For those seeking to better understand or develop relationships with the US government information community, this meeting served up plenty of opportunities. Better still, OSTI and GPO have decided to become members, which will undoubtedly lead to improvements in both communication and levels of understanding throughout the membership.

And the timing could not have been better…again, no reference here to Uconn's great second half comeback against Duke in the Final Four. I was in fact referring to the announcement by GPO in the weeks following the meeting that it was seeking comments on Documents relating to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and GPO Sales Program.

Please visit www.asidic.org and cast your vote for the Spring 2005 meeting venue between Ft. Meyers, FL or New Orleans, LA. Polls will close June 30th and the votes will be tallied shortly

thereafter.

The Fall 2004 ASIDIC meeting is scheduled for September 19–21 in Phoenix. Rick Noble from Thomson Healthcare has somehow managed to get us a deal at the Ritz and a special tour of the Challenger Space Center. I met with our program chair, Erica Mobley from Inspec last week regarding the meeting and am very excited about the program. ASIDIC again promises to deliver on a developing topic area of interest to us all…linking and link resolving. Easy to reach and certain to please, this is one meeting you will not want to miss. I look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Kevin

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New Members

ASIDIC welcomes the following new members:

Dept. of Energy
Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI)
1 Science.gov Way
Oak Ridge, TN 37831
Representative: Karen J. Spence
Phone: (865)-547-0295
E-mail: `spencek@osti.gov`

Ingenta, Inc.
111R Chestnut St.
Providence, RI 02903
Representative: Anne L. Orens
Phone: (401)-331-2014, ext. 102
E-mail: `anne.orens@ingenta.com`

U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)
701 N. Capitol St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20401
Representative: Judith L. Russell
Phone: (202)-512 0571
E-mail: `jrussell@gpo.gov`

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TECHNICAL PROGRAM SUMMARY

Introduction

The United States Government is the world's largest publisher. As the volume of government information continues to grow exponentially and information gathering, analysis, and dissemination increase, the Government will be looking to the private sector for help in making information activities more effective and more efficient. There are opportunities for public/private partnerships and business with many Federal agencies.

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Bruce James
Public Printer of the United States
U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)

The GPO is alive and well! Its mission is to disseminate the publications of the US government. It was established in 1813 to guard against the government hiding information, so all its documents are available to the public. In 1861, the GPO started doing the printing for Congress, and by 1895, it was doing all the government's printing. In 1941, it began outsourcing printing to the private sector, resulting in cost savings. Last year, about 98% of the printing was done by the private sector; only the printing of the *Federal Register* and printing for Congress or the White House are done in-house. As a result, employment at the GPO has declined from 10,000 to approximately 2,500 today. The GPO began using phototype-setting technology in 1961 and began

putting its output online in 1993.

The Federal Depository Library (FDL) program was established to help fulfill the GPO's mission; 1,300 FDLs are now partnering with the government. The government owns the information and sends it to the libraries. There are 53 regional FDLs that receive everything the GPO collection; the rest receive parts of the collection.

The GPO's job is to keep a record of the government and preserve, so we need to think what future historians will be interested in. The present print system needs to be rebuilt because future "documents" will incorporate sound and video. The government is changing how it produces information; over 60% is now only in electronic form, so print sales have declined from over $100M annually to about $30M now. The GPO has large warehouses of printed material, which are becoming redundant.

Products disseminated via the Internet are given away because it would cost too much to collect the revenue from them. The GPO is studying how to rebuild its services to meet the needs of its customers and how to get revenue from its Internet products. It would like to partner with the private sector and is therefore looking for ideas and ways to use technologies. Historical data in various conditions must be digitized and put into a database. Each agency has a different format, so a uniform government format must be developed.

We need to find ways of publishing government information without competing with the private sector. The GAO is currently conducting a planning study; it should be finished by the end of the year.

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GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PRODUCERS

The Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC): Brokering and Facilitating Knowledge Sharing
Kurt Molholm, Administrator, DTIC

DTIC is principally a scientific and technical information activity operated by the Department of Defense (DoD) for its contractors and agencies. DTIC is now nearly 60 years old and, although changing, the primary media for reporting is still paper. DTIC disseminates both on-demand and through subscriptions. Until the advent of the World-Wide Web, DTIC did not provide documents to the general public. Instead NTIS was used as the outlet. Since about half of the Technical Reports handled by DTIC are cleared for public availability, DTIC has been, for many years, one of the top contributors to NTIS. It remains so, but it now has a public website which includes full-text reports.

DTIC operates the DoD Certification and Registration Service and has an extensive user registration and information release program to assure that documents are released in accordance with the directions of contributors. DTIC is one of the few information content management organizations in the DoD. This function, plus the fact that DTIC was an early implementer of the Web has re-sulted in DTIC becoming the primary provider of DoD Web Services. It operates over 100 sites for other components of the department.

DTIC participates in a number of organizations to help further its mission. It is a member of CENDI, an interagency group of senior STI managers. CENDI's vision is to provide a cooperative forum for its member agencies where capabilities can be shared and challenges faced together. DTIC was also one of the founding organizations of NFAIS, and it continues to actively participate in NFAIS activities, in ICSTI, and in the NATO committee addressing STI matters.

Themis, the Greek goddess of justice, was said to be blindfolded to objectively evaluate the evidence placed before her. DTIC has the same responsibility in assessing the value of information. Agencies are continually confronted with the challenge of balancing the public's right to know against the government's obligations to protect proprietary, privacy, and national security information. DoD has an extensive process for the release of technical information. The process provides for interagency sharing of government technical information as well as sharing with government contractors. It also provides for providing information to the public at large. Information-originating organizations process their documents through a security clearance procedure.

Information overload is counterproductive and may lead to less effectiveness and efficiency. The power of information only exists when it can be put into the mind of a person so that it can be used. Merely delivering a container of

information (e.g. a monograph, a journal) in itself has little value. Placing information in a context where it can be more readily absorbed enhances its value. In 1991, DTIC established a Scientific and Technical Information Network (STINET) Division to make DTIC information available on the Internet. STINET is available to the general public, free of charge. It provides access to citations to unclassified unlimited documents that have been entered into DTIC's Technical Reports Collection since December 1974, as well as the electronic full text of many of these documents. STINET also provides access to the Air University Library Index to Military Periodicals, Staff College Automated Military Periodical Index, DoD Index to Specifications and Standards, and Research and Development Descriptive Summaries.

For all its web sites, DTIC handles about eight million HTML page downloads a week. It now has nearly 250,000 full-text technical reports on line. Over half of these are publicly available. Since the average size of DTIC-held technical report is over 100 pages many requests are still made for print copies. Print requests from non-DTC registered users are referred to NTIS.

DTIC is reacting to these changes by upgrading or completely revising its older systems. It is transforming its information delivery activities from a central repository mindset to seeing itself as an information gateway.

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Accessing U.S. Census Bureau Data
John Kavaliunas, U.S. Census Bureau

The US Census Bureau is known for its constitutionally mandated activity of conducting a decennial count of the US population. But it conducts many other data gathering activities as well. The major purposes of the Federal census are to apportion the House of Representatives, redistrict local election areas, and allocate Federal funds. Besides familiar basic questions, the 2000 Census collected information on income, education, language, journey to work, occupation, mortgage and other housing costs, automobiles, and kitchen facilities. A new question considered the growing trend of grandparents as caregivers. For the first time in 2000, respondents could identify themselves as members of more than one race.

The American Community Survey is conducted throughout the decade. Three million households are surveyed annually; information on demographic and housing characteristics is collected and reported as rolling averages. The Survey will be implemented nationally in 2004. The Current Population Survey is conducted monthly on a group of households and obtains data on population characteristics, consumer income and poverty, and other household economic indicators. The American Housing Survey is conducted annually in 41 major metropolitan areas, with the entire nation being covered every two years. It contains data on financial and structural characteristics, amenities, neighborhood perceptions, and reasons for moving.

A variety of international and economic studies are also conducted by the Bureau

of the Census. Every five years, an economic census collects data on the number of business establishments, employment, payroll, and output, as well as industry specific data. The Census of Governments, also conducted every five years has information on government employment, finances, and Federal expenditures. Foreign trade indexes have data on monthly imports and exports by country and commodity, state export data, and profiles of U.S exporting companies.

All of the Census Bureau's data is available on its extremely rich Web site. The data can also be obtained through depository libraries, state data centers, and private sector resellers. The table on page 16 presents a list of the data sets mentioned above as well as some others that are available.

US Patent Information
Kay Melvin, US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

The USPTO grants patents, registers trademarks, and disseminates information. It has recently established a new Customer Information Service to provide a stronger focus on its services. The PTO's major functions include:

- The Office of Public Records, which obtains copies of documents and certifies them,
- The Office of Public Information Services, which provides search services and public search rooms and also functions as a single entry point into the PTO, and
- The Office of Electronic Information Products, which sells information from some of the PTO's internal systems and interacts with resellers.

The PTO's guiding principles include free public access to intellectual property information, which is delivered electronically with basic functionality. More public/private partnerships are being investigated, as are methods of strengthening the relationship with customers.

In 2004, the PTO headquarters will move to Alexandria, VA. A new public search room with over 300 workstations will open, and this will greatly enhance the services to the public. Other Web-based services are also under development.

ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Government Information from a Citizen-Centric Perspective
Beverly Godwin, Director, FirstGov, General Services Administration

FirstGov is the major entry portal to US Government information. It was started three years ago and became available only 89 days after the start of development. FirstGov provides links to over 24 million Government web sites. It is an official site, so the main focus of its linking is official Government information. A Spanish language version is now available. FirstGov serves all US citizens as well as businesses and the 18 million US Government workers.

The most popular topics on FirstGov are benefits and grants, jobs in the Federal government, how to buy things from the Government, international travel (passports and immunizations), and naturalization and immigration. Other topics of

high interest include agency contact information, address changes, and how to comment on legislation to Congress or the White House.

A major challenge for FirstGov is to determine what sites should be included. Feedback from users, and input from call centers, agencies, market research, and focus group studies is heavily used. FirstGov's policy is to link to official government-owned or supported sites and official government information or services that complements existing information and services, and is accessible and applicable to a wide audience, relevant and useful for customers, accurate and current, consistent with privacy and security policies, and is user-friendly. The site provides a wide variety of search and browsing capabilities. It has been extremely successful; the number of visitors is up from 33 million in 2002 to 63 million in 2003, with a corresponding increase in page views from 91 million to 176 million. Over 129,000 sites now link to FirstGov, and there are over 45,000 subscriptions to its e-mail newsletter. FirstGov is an excellent starting point for navigating through the maze of government Web sites and searching for government information.

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GPO Access
Judith Russell, Superintendent of
  Documents, Government Printing
  Office

All the information on GPO's web site (http://www.GPOAccess.gov) is free, so sales have significantly declined recently. Many agencies have cut down on the number of printed copies of documents produced, in favor of completely electronic access. The GPO's

web site has been very successful; over 1 million pages per month are downloaded from it, with the result that the sales program for many publications has been devastated. Only 2,700 subscriptions to the *Federal Register* are now being sold, for example. The GPO is therefore redesigning its sales program and seeking more public/private partnerships that will help it develop new revenue streams.

Many businesses have been built on inefficiencies in disseminating government information, but this is risky because the government is becoming more efficient. For example, "collections of last resort" are now being established by the GPO so that not all Federal Depository Libraries need to acquire and store copies of documents, and digitization and print on demand services are under development. One way to reconstruct the GPO's sales plan is to implement print on demand technology, which will eliminate the need to fill warehouses with printed documents.

Many large libraries have huge collections of legacy documents from GPO (some of them are over 2 million documents). Managing these collections is long overdue, so the GPO is working on establishing "collections of last resort" to ensure public access. A "National Digitization Plan" has been developed for these legacy collections in the public domain.

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Government Information Activities
Patrice McDermott, American Library
  Association, Washington Office

Although the volume of information is growing exponentially, dissemi-

nation has noticeably decreased. Some of this is due to post-9/11 caution or orders to restrict information. Other causes are ideological considerations. For example, the closing of PubScience was mandated by the DoE, even though many people wanted it to continue. There is concern regarding a proposal to preclude states from entering into e-commerce in areas where public companies have products, thus eliminating state government competition with the private sector. The Data Quality Act challenges the quality of information, but it received little comment because it was attached to an appropriations bill and hidden. Public/private partnerships are a great benefit. The government is owned by the people, so it should not charge for its electronic information.

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

Public Library of Science (PLoS): Committed to Making the World's Scientific and Medical Literature A Public Resource
Helen Doyle, Director of Development and Strategic Alliances, PLoS

Scientific, technology, and medical publishing is a $9 billion business. Some 6,000 STM journal titles publish 740 articles per day, 270,000 per year. STM publishing has been the fastest growing sub-sector of the media industry for the past 15 years. With over 1,300 journals, Reed Elsevier controls 25% of the STM market and enjoys a 30+% profit margin.

The traditional subscription-based publishing program is based on information flow via "tolls" levied by publishers. Money flows to publishers from researchers, libraries, agents, and readers. This model does not serve researchers in science and medicine well: Most potential audiences have no access to primary literature, the economics are based on an old print and paper system, connectivity and searchability are limited, and copyright restrictions limit uses and dissemination. Science and medicine will advance more quickly if information is freely available. The Internet provides an answer to these problems because it provides global distribution at a reasonable price. One copy can serve all, and searching is readily available. The open access movement began as a grass-roots movement by scientists to provide a means of publishing their information outside the traditional publication channels. Open access provides free and unrestricted access to research results. Papers are deposited in a public database; users may download, print, copy, redistribute, and use them freely. Authors retain the right to be acknowledged. The system is funded by a one-time "processing charge" paid by the author (most likely, the author's organization) to the publisher. This is a major shift in the traditional publishing model.

PLoS was formed as a non-profit corporation, and it launched its first journal, *PLoS Biology*, in October 2003. The journal is available online or in print. It is an example of increased accessibility and usability in the future STM publishing environment. Open access will become the preferred mode of publishing, with multiple open access publishing models thriving in a competitive market. Innovative new tools and resources will be created to take full advantage of open access literature, and the full potential of scientific creativity and productivity will be unleashed. The public will therefore

gain full access to research discoveries supported by public (and other) funds.

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PubMedCentral
Edwin Sequeira, National Library of Medicine

PubMedCentral (PMC) is a digital archive of journals covering life sciences, health policy, bioinformatics and other fields. Participation in PMC is limited to journals covered by a major abstracting/indexing service, or having three editorial board members with current grants from major non-profit funding agencies. The journals deposit an authoritative electronic copy of their articles. Articles are in XML format and must meet PMC's data quality standards. Copyright to the journals is retained by publisher or author.

Although PMC provides free access to full-text articles and supporting data, this is not necessarily open access. Under open access, there are no restrictions on uses of the material. Under the PMC model, usage restrictions may be imposed, and free access may be delayed or embargoed.

Issues relating to digital archiving include ensuring the quality of the sources materials, effective preservation, and physical security of the material. PMC provides its users with links to related data and other tools, taxonomies, genome sequences, and online book texts. It provides full text searching of all articles, and citations to the articles are included in PubMed. For further progress, the following are needed:

- XML-based authoring and editing products designed for scientific articles,
- Straightforward, universal standard for defining access rights, similar to copyright indication,
- Other operational, free archives that can form a collaborative archiving network.

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Access to Government-Funded Information
Miriam Drake, Information Management and Planning

The Public Access to Science Act, HR 2613, is commonly called the "Sabo Bill" because it was introduced by Rep. Martin Sabo (D-MN) on June 26, 2003. Sabo estimated that the Federal government spends $45 billion annually on scientific and medical research. However, much of this research cannot be freely disseminated because it is protected by copyright. Sabo's bill would prohibit copyright on any work resulting from projects substantially funded by the Federal government. The bill has been criticized because it is vague: it does not define "substantially funded", and it does not address research jointly funded by government and the private sector.

Convenient accessibility of information leads to increased use. Sabo's bill is not the first attempt to legislate intellectual property policies for government-funded research. The March 16, 2004 "Washington DC Principles for Free Access to Science", was authored by representatives from 48 non-profit organizations; it supports free access to research results and states that "important scientific and medical research articles" should be readily available. This declaration is ambiguous and does not define "important". It is also unclear what "free access" means—no cost to the user, or un-

restricted access.

Easy access to STM information is an important component of the STM information infrastructure. The Sabo Bill and Washington Declaration are important initial steps. Although Sabo's bill is unlikely to pass in the current Congressional session, it and the Washington declaration show that moves toward free and open access to the literature are gaining ground. Information users recognize that cheap distribution greatly helps the advancement of science.

RESELLERS OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Thomson Scientific: Providing Solutions to Advance Innovation

Doina Nanu, Manager, Data Acquisition, Thomson Derwent

Thomson Scientific is a global company, part of the international Thomson Corporation. It has over 1,500 employees, with offices in Europe, the US, and Japan. Revenues in 2003 were over $300 million. It provides information products in a variety of areas, including patents, biological science, and pharmaceuticals. The Derwent World Patent Index was started in 1951 and now contains patent data on more than 11 million separate inventions covered by patents issued by 40 patent issuing authorities. In compiling the WPI database, Derwent's technical experts remove legal jargon, abstract the key information in English, add subject indexing, assign patentee codes, and select the key drawing or chemical structure.

Derwent's key competencies are in:

- Data Capture: processing large volumes patent data in many formats.
- Standardization: adding value to international patent data
- Translation of key information into English
- Creation of detailed Derwent Title, Abstract, and Patent Family data
- Indexing: coding chemical substructures and gene sequences

Recently, Derwent launched the "First View" database, which contains basic information on the patent before the detailed indexing is completed. This allows rapid announcement of patents. After being obtained from patent issuing authorities, a search is made to determine whether the patent is a new basic patent or an equivalent. Basic patents are processed through Derwent's system; classification codes applied, and a new title and abstract are written. Deep indexing is done for chemical and polymer patents.

Major challenges include timeliness, data accuracy and integrity, and the growing volume of information. Data formats are also changing; some patents are being produced in XML. Thomson Scientific will be successful if processes can be re-engineered to deliver consistency in timeliness and quality of information, information delivery can be integrated into a coherent delivery process, thus ensuring increased value services.

Dialog
Charles White, VP Global Alliances,
  Thomson Dialog

Dialog continues to be a worldwide leader in providing online-based information services to organizations seeking competitive advantages in such fields as business, science, engineering, finance and law. It leverages expert knowledge of content and technology to build products that offer organizations the tools they need to consume external content via pre-configured interfaces. In 2004, Dialog is leveraging its content and technology expertise to build flexible offerings that will allow clients to integrate Dialog's content into the workflow and task-based applications critical to their business.

One of Dialog's latest offerings is the World News Connection (WNC). WNC is an extensive collection of translated and English-language news and information. The content includes full text and summaries from a range of sources, including newspaper articles; conference proceedings; television and radio broadcasts; periodicals; unclassified technical reports; and Web sites. The Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), a U.S. government agency, monitors and collects news and information for WNC from thousands of non-U.S. media sources. In cooperation with FBIS, the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) makes this information available commercially.

Dialog entered into a joint venture with NTIS rather than a partnership so that each organization could focus on what it does best. NTIS was able to focus on the content without needing to worry about the distribution issues, which are handled by Dialog. Each organization provided dedicated resources and shared the risks of the venture. In the future, WNC will be continually upgraded, and Dialog's sales force will be support by the joint venture. WNC will be included in Dialog's next generation desktop applications. It has already been announced to all of Dialog's customers through a front-page article in Dialog's *Chronolog* newsletter.

The launch of WNC was very successful; over 70% of Dialog's previous users of international news converted to WNC, and 15% of them upgraded to a higher service level or moved to an annual commitment. Over 400 new leads were pursued, resulting in new WNC customers every month.

CEO PANEL

Things That Keep Me Up At Night
Linda Beebe, Head, Electronic Products,
  American Psychological Association

PsycINFO is the electronic publishing arm of American Psychological Association. It employs about 95 people as well as outsourcers and generates over $20 million in revenues. PsycINFO's products include:
- PsycINFO—A&I database with nearly 2 million records
- PsycARTICLES—53 journals, about 35,000 articles, 1987 to present right now
- PsycEXTRA—2004 gray literature, A&I with full text for large percentage of records
- PsycBOOKS—2004, about 600 books
- Contemporary Psychology—Fall, book reviews

- Print and electronic subsets

These are sold mainly to academic institutions and individuals. Institutional sales are generally through site licenses, were historically made mainly to academic libraries. However, hospitals, government agencies, community colleges, K-12, some public libraries, corporations, clinics have recently begun purchasing the product. Individuals buy the products through packages for APA members or transactional sales.

Science is being politicized by the Sabo Bill, which would require publication of findings from all government- funded research to be freely available without copyright protection. The bill raises several questions: What about joint government-private funded research? What percentage of funding would trigger the Sabo requirements? What about authors not funded? The bill is very US-centric—what about international authors? What is its benefit?

The open access publishing model may eventually work. But a major worry is loss of copyright, loss of choice, and imposition of government control over distribution of scientific works. Is public access really helpful to everyone? Many research articles are unintelligible to the average person. Some people feel that it would cost more to pay page charges than to buy journal subscriptions. In psychology, there is no tradition of page charges, so grants are less likely to fund publication, and costs are likely to be higher than estimated.

Other signs of politicization of science are Office of Foreign Assets Control using its power to restrict or edit journals from countries such as Iran, Libya, and Cuba. A 2003 Proposed Bulletin on Peer Review and Information Quality raises concerns about excluding reviewers and discouraging candor in the reviews.

In the area of education, state budgets are being squeezed for "essentials" like prisons, law enforcement, and health. Even when university budgets increased, libraries are losing.

Every year fewer companies engaged in scholarly publishing and distribution, which gives rise to a greatly distorted level of influence and power. The practical results of this include difficulties in tracking who owns the journals we cover in our A&I services, increasing problems with permissions, and fewer entities to support professional organizations.

Electronic publishing costs more than any of us ever dreamed. It has led to increased costs for all—publishers, vendor partners, customers—and has become like the home handyman who needs a new tool for every phase of every project. Many infrastructure issues must be addressed: Upgraded skill sets, more training, 24/7 support, different levels of customer service, and the need for tracking systems. Equipment and software must be frequently upgraded, and although storage is cheap, lots of it is needed. Electronic publishing is very complex. Standards get higher every year. Everyone's technical resources stretched to breaking point, and there is no margin for error.

Despite these concerns, enormous opportunities exist: A wealth of options provides for more linking, more customization, new products and features, and partnerships, which are an absolute

requirement for collaboration. Benefits to science include more accurate citation lists, better connections between texts and reference lists, more access to the data, and more opportunities to build on the work of others. It is truly an exciting time to be in the publishing industry.

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Public-Private Partnerships
Matt Dunie, President, Cambridge
    Scientific Abstracts (CSA)

CSA began about 40 years ago as an A&I publisher producing reference works for researchers. Now it has about 2 dozen public-private partnerships, which are guided by a coordination committee. For example, CSA began working with the UN Food & Agriculture Organization in 1973 to produce *Aquatic Science & Fisheries Abstracts*. CSA contributed 2/3 of the content and produced the database at no charge to the UN, which paid a royalty on sales. It is also working with the USGS-National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) and has provided content for them to distribute on their web site. NBII pays CSA for its services, and CSA can use the content in its other products.

CSA has found that it is important to treat public-private partnerships as regular business relationships that are important to the company. According to a definition from the International Monetary Fund, "Public-private Partnerships combine the deployment of private sector capital and, sometimes, public sector capital to improve public services of the management of public sector assets. By focusing on public service outputs, they offer a more sophisticated and cost-effective approach to the management of

risk by the public sector than is generally achieved by traditional input-based public sector procurement."

The Value of Information
David Brown, Head, Publisher
    Relations, The British Library

The British Library (BL) is one of the largest research libraries in the world. It has been collecting for over 250 years and now has 87 million items, a $27 million acquisitions budget, and a $200 million annual operating budget. It operates the largest document supply service in the world (3 million requests annually) and has recently moved into a new building in London that can accommodate over 1,200 simultaneous readers.

Change has become a key feature at the BL. A new management team is now in place, new production procedures have been implemented, and new services are being provided. The BL has long been the legal depository for all British publications; now electronic publications have been added to its mandate. New forms of information mean that aggregation is now essential.

Recently, a study was undertaken to determine what should be the BL's role and what directions it should move in. Part of this study involved measuring the value of the BL to its users and to the country. Questions asked were:
- o How much value in monetary terms does the Library add to the nation as a whole?
- o What benefit does the Library bring relative to the funding it receives?
- o What would be the economic impact if the Library ceased to

exist?

Over 2,000 people were interviewed, both users and the general public. The main result was that the BL generates value around 4.4 times its level of funding. If public funding of the Library were to end, the UK would lose $500 million annually. The BL provides services for 82% of the top 50 UK companies, corporations which generate $310 billion in revenues, $52 billion in profits and employ 2.8 million people in the UK.

The study concluded that as a public-funded institution, the BL needs to ensure that its role is valid and understood. It is also necessary to fund the public service accordingly. To guarantee ongoing support for the BL, it helps to demonstrate that intrinsic and tangible value is given.

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Fenestra Technologies
Jane Smith, VP, Fenestra Technologies
 Corporation

Fenestra works with the Bureau of the Census and is now in the business of designing surveys and collecting information. It digitizes the Census processes and produces the results of its surveys. For the Economic Census, Fenestra produced 650 survey forms, each 10-12 pages long, and sent them out to respondents. It also developed general survey instruments and validated the data that was collected. XML is used to capture and interchange the data.

Fenestra has developed its business because of information technology failures in the government. Strategic planning must be undertaken, and forms must be designed by non-information technology users. It is important to use what works. By uncovering real problems, perceived ones can also be addressed. Many commercial products will require much customization, so it is often easier and better to design your own from the start.

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Some US Census Bureau Web Sites

Collection	Type of Data	URL
American Factfinder	2000 Census data	http://factfinder.census.gov/
American Community Survey	3 million households annually	http://www.census.gov/acs/www/
Population data	Estimates	http://eire.census.gov/popest/ estimates.php
	Projections	http://www.census.gov/population/ www/projections/popproj.html
Current population survey	Monthly households	http://www.census.gov/prod/www/ abs/popula.html
American Housing Survey	Annual rotating survey of 41 metro areas	http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/ ahs.html
International Programs	International Database	http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/ idbsum.html
	Population Pyramids	http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/ idbpyr.html
	HIV/AIDS Surveillance Database	http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/ hivaidsn.html
	Reports	http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/ publist.html
	Links to other National Statistical Agencies	http://www.census.gov/main/www/ stat_int.html
Economic Census of Governments	Gov't employment, finances, expenditures (Every 5 years)	http://www.census.gov/govs/www/ index.html
Economic programs	County Business Patterns	http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/ view/cbpview.html
	Annual Survey of Manufacturers	http://www.census.gov/econ/ overview/ma0300.html
	Current Industrial Reports	http://www.census.gov/cir/www/ index.html
Foreign Trade		http://www.census.gov/ foreign-trade/www/index.html
Geographic programs	TIGER System	http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ tiger/index.html
	Maps	http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ maps/
	Other	http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ census2k.html
Census Bureau Catalog		http://www.census.gov/mp/www/ Tempcat/Catalog.html
Private Sector Resellers		http://www.census.gov/main/www/ stat_fed.html

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