

LCSH and free text. In making their presentation, the authors focused on the expanding role of library classification in a network information environment. As evidenced by the titles the Workshop covered a very broad spectrum of research on the use of classification and particularly on possibilities for its future roles in the online environment.

SIG Co-Sponsored Programmes

There were three SIG co-sponsored programmes in which SIG/CR was involved. The first was a session which addressed the question "Browsing Online and in the Stacks: What is it and how can it be facilitated?" Four presentations were made. "Dimensions Characterizing Browsing" discussed the nature of browsing in a variety of contexts. While browsing is viewed differently in different disciplines, literature on browsing suggests there are underlying commonalities which could provide a basis for a multi-dimensional framework to facilitate a better understanding of browsing. Exploratory empirical studies had been carried out and those studies used to support a set of parameters for describing browsing activities. "Tending Our Pastures: A Decade's Worth of Research on Browsing Fiction Collections" looked at the browsing behaviour of public library patrons and suggested strategies that librarians might use to refine and improve access for browsers. "A File Definition of Browsing" considered browsing in the context of file structure and described it as "a file movement not knowing either a route to desired records or not having a destination of an access field". The fourth presentation, "Browsing: Not Lazy Searching" approached browsing as a form of information seeking and identified and described several browsing strategies including scanning, observing, navigating, monitoring and exploring. Browsing was viewed as being under-supported in today's information systems and suggestions were made for systems design that would better support the process.

A second co-sponsored programme looked at "Social Impacts of Digital Libraries" and drew on the key trends and issues that emerged from the National Science Foundation sponsored UCLA Workshop on this subject held in February 1996. An introduction was provided to set the context for the programme with a focus on the understanding that digital libraries represent a set of significant societal problems that require human and technological resources to solve. Two definitions of digital libraries were identified – digital libraries as "a set of resources and associated technical capabilities for creating, searching and utilizing information" and digital libraries as "virtual communities in which individuals are groups interacting with data". Following the model set by the original

workshop, the remainder of the programme dealt with a general model of the life cycle of information and three themes of research issues – human-centred, artifact-centred and technology-centred research issues. The third co-sponsored programme considered "Icons and the Web: Communicating Classification Structure Through Graphics." Three presenters addressed the design of graphic Web browsers from different perspectives: "The Design of Ecological Interfaces for Web Browsers" or how to provide all kinds of users with the support of a virtual ecology in icon-based interfaces for searching the web; "A Framework for Image Indexing Based on Free Description", or how to create a framework for coupling between text and pictures on the Web, via identification of higher level attribute classes for images; and "Communicating Concepts and Classificatory Structures Through Graphics on the Web" – in other words, how to create a graphic vocabulary that can reveal the classificatory structure of document collections to a Web User.

The Indexing and Abstracting Session during the main ASIS Meeting included three papers. **Timothy Craven**, University of Western Ontario, described "An Experiment in the Use of Tools for Computer-Assisted Abstracting". Experimental abstracts were written using TEXNET abstracting assistance software. The 35 abstractors were given full text plus keywords or phrases extracted automatically from the text. Times for abstracting were recorded automatically and additional information collected by oral questionnaire. 37% of the abstractors found the keywords or phrases "quite" or "very" useful in writing the abstracts. Data were also collected on the correlation between experience and originality of wording, approximation to the previously created author abstracts and degree of conciseness. Results also suggested the need for modifications to the software. **Corinne Jorgensen** presented a paper on "Indexing Images: Testing an Image Description". Building on previous research she tested a template for image description to be used by naive image searchers in recording their descriptions of images. The classes of attributes used in the model were derived from her earlier research. The results showed that searchers may need more guidance than that provided by the template and that it might be more useful to indexers in making decisions on what to index. In the third paper, **James Turner**, Université de Montréal, described the preliminary results of his research on "Cross-Language Transfer of Indexing Concepts for Storage and Retrieval of Moving Images". This research has its origins in a research project which used data in English. A French language version of the project was prepared using the same images as were used in the English version and data were collected in French.

The results of the two studies were then compared "in order to determine the rate of correspondence between potential indexing terms in each language". The ultimate goal of the research is to determine whether useful indexes to moving images can be automatically produced by filtering the indexing terms in one language through a controlled vocabulary to derive the appropriate terms in another language.

Centre for Informetric Studies

In July 1996, the Royal School of Librarianship, Copenhagen, Denmark, founded a Centre for Informetric Studies. The Centre arises from a long-established involvement of the School in bibliometric research and more recent research generated in subject areas such as information retrieval, theories and methodologies, research evaluation, trend analysis, and business and social intelligence. It has been planned as an interdisciplinary unit of the School where scholars from different disciplines can do co-operative research using quantitative and scientometric methods. Among the planned activities of the Centre are: research and consultancy, the development of educational programmes for graduate MA and PhD students, and the establishment of links with relevant national and international professional organizations and networks. Head of the Centre is **Irene Wormell**, Head of the School's Department of Design and Implementation of Specialised Information Services and former chair of FID/ET.