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Emerging Responses to the Science Journal Crisis

Webster, Duane.

Abstract
The continuing problem of the high cost of accessing scientific, technical and medical (STM) literature haunts both developed and developing economies. Maintaining access to significant research and scholarship at a time when both the volume and price of information have increased nearly three-fold in the last decade requires fresh strategies and new creative efforts. This article comments on the array of coping mechanisms adopted by US libraries including canceling lesser used titles, moving from ownership to access, resource sharing, and consortial purchasing. The article will then look at the recently developed strategic responses aimed at addressing some of the root causes of the STM crisis: an imperfect marketplace, growing presence of commercial publishers, consolidation of STM publishers, and proliferation of titles. As a result of this economic analysis and legislative developments, the academic community needs to consider dramatically different strategies for responding to the crisis. Some of the emerging strategies are noted in the article.

Collecting Science Materials from Developing Regions: Universal Dilemma, Collaborative Solutions

Wolf, Milton T.

Abstract
In the rush to keep up with the production of scientific knowledge and the costs associated with it, the point has been reached where very few institutions have the financial resources to store and preserve the vast amounts of information that the (scientific, technical and medical) STM field is currently generating. In some areas of science the developing nations are the only ones addressing certain scientific issues. The author describes a plan developed to make accessible and to preserve the scientific and technical materials of the developing nations. Building on its already extensive holdings in these areas, the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), USA, brought together science libraries from various scientific disciplines to form a working group charged with examining CRL's present STM holdings and to rationalize its collecting policies both to promote a cooperative collection of these materials

at the national/international level, and to establish a list of STM titles recommended for immediate preservation.

The Economic Crisis and other Challenges in Accessing to Science and Technological Information in Asia

Stueart, Robert D.

Abstract
Growth in information services is a significant factor underlying the economic well-being of countries, and is therefore a major indicator of success or failure of the economies of developing countries. Just at the point when many Asian countries were moving into the third phase of development, establishing technological infrastructures with strong economies and an opportunity to become knowledge-rich, they were faced with new challenges because of the economic downturn. Many institutions are now concentrating on coordinating information strategies at both the local organizational level and the national level. This greater emphasis upon cooperation and coordination of resources and services, particularly in the scientific and technical areas, presents librarians and information managers with new challenges in providing information. In addition to the economic situation other challenges are presented. These include an uneven distribution of wealth in the area; cultural issues; lack of organized access; lack of technological sophistication; copyright; and a critical lack of professionals.

LIBECON2000 and the Future of International Library Statistics

Fuegi, David.

Abstract
LIBECON2000, is a project funded by DG13 of the European Commission within the Telematics Applications Programme and will run for three years (until late 2000). The project collects and publishes library statistics of 29 European countries on its Web site, <www.libecon2000.org> which is the only easily accessible source of statistical data on most of these countries. This article gives an account of the project's progress and speculates about the future of the collection and publication of library statistics at the international level, including consideration of the roles of UNESCO and ISO.

Collecting Data Sensibly in Information Settings

Gorman, G. E.

Abstract
Libraries and information agencies depend heavily on statistics to describe their services, evaluate their activities and measure their performance. In the data gathering on which statistical analysis depends, there are always assumptions and uncontrolled variables that interfere with the purity and objectivity of the data, and therefore contaminate the analysis and interpretation of that data. This article highlights some of these variables in an attempt to alert information managers to the pitfalls of data collection and to encourage them to develop means of controlling data so that they can use statistics more effectively.

Information Literacy in the Electronic Arts Library: Strategies for the Hybrid Professional

Halverson, Aniko L. and Joye Volker.

Abstract
The turn-of-the-millennium library calls for information literacy to be applied in a world of vast formats, including traditional print sources, digital media, and online information. Two academic arts libraries, the Institute of Arts at the Australian National University, and the California Institute of Arts in the USA, have implemented plans for applying the framework of information literacy in the library as a bridge to the curriculum. Strategies from the following areas of opportunity are addressed: the help desk, formerly the traditional reference desk; a formal, for-credit course in information literacy; and the concept of the information laboratory. Both Institutes have identified the necessary skills for a librarian to manage such facilities. These include the development and delivery of courses which cover library resources; the use of a variety of software packages; innovative approaches to communicate ideas to staff, faculty, and students; and working independently and in teams.

Prison Librarians Needed: A Challenging Career for Those with the Right Professional and Human Skills

Lehmann, Vibeke.

Abstract
The author examines the background and roles of prison libraries in North America and Europe. The similarities and differences between public libraries and prison libraries are described. The information needs and reading interests of inmates are highlighted, and reference is made to international and national prison library standards and guidelines. The author also looks at the educational and human qualifications needed to be a successful prison librarian and explains the difficulties and rewards inherent in this still non-traditional career choice.

Librarians and E-Commerce: Making E-Commerce Work for You

Harris, Lesley Ellen.

Abstract
Institutions and organizations such as libraries and other non-profit organizations are beginning to use electronic commerce to do a variety of activities ranging from collecting fees to distributing materials to patrons. The article explains what e-commerce is and how libraries can successfully use e-commerce to achieve their goals. Covered are electronic financial transactions; paying online for a service or product which is delivered offline to the customer; marketing online while delivery or payment of the service or product is made offline; and online promotion encouraging visits to the institution or making voluntary contributions.