

# ASIDIC newsletter

No. 30, Fall 1977

ASSOCIATION OF INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION CENTERS

## TOMBERG, WILK, LUSIGNAN KEYNOTE FALL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE: TRANSNATIONAL DATA FLOWS, PRIVACY, POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES PRESENT CHALLENGES FOR DATA BASE SUPPLIERS AND USERS

The Fall 1977 ASIDIC Meeting was held October 9-11 at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn in San Francisco, California. Three keynote speakers developed differing views of the international nature of data base usage and data communications. Following the speeches the meeting participants engaged in discussions on the general theme of the meeting, "international Information Exchange."

Leading off the morning session, Alex Tomberg, Vice-Chairman for Networking of EUSIDIC, the European counterpart of ASIDIC, gave an overview of data base activities in Europe.

According to Tomber, data base usage is growing rapidly all over Europe. EUSIDIC has experienced marked growth during the last three years. "People are interested in all aspects of data base and data bank development and usage throughout Europe." Data Bases, by Tomberg's definition are bibliographic while data banks are numerical.

The greatest growth in the number of data bases and data data banks in the next five years will come from new, small, mission oriented data base/bank projects. He noted the activities in the Scandinavian countries as examples. The Association of Data Base Producers now extends outside England where it originated. Including some for-profit and some U.S. based companies, this association is beginning to have a strong influence in Europe. In Europe about two-thirds of all data base activity is government

### CONTENTS

ASIDIC Fall Meeting Reports.....	1-3
New ASIDIC President.....	4
Spring '78 ASIDIC Meeting.....	4
Conference Report Available.....	4
Institute for Online Teaching....	5
EuroNet Guidelines.....	5
NFAIS Annual Conference.....	5

(Continued from page 1)

sponsored; in the U.S. about two-thirds of all data base activity is outside the government. There is, nevertheless, much more common ground for cooperation than has ever existed.

"EURONET is the largest non-existent data base network in Europe." Tomberg said. "They've gone wrong, and the original concept of EURONET has never been achieved." Showing the planned communications nodes of EURONET compared with some current systems, most notable the G.E. Mark III network, Tomberg emphasized that EURONET plans would not get data base usage disbursed widely enough to have the best effect and access throughout Europe.

ASIDIC and EUSIDIC have much in common. Two outstanding points of joint interest between the two groups are: 1. Fact finding on the relationships among data base suppliers, host systems, and users; and, 2. Lobbying an information dissemination to governments and organizations that influence the access to and usage of data bases and data banks in all countries in Europe and North America. One great obstacle, according to Tomberg, is the current spread of networks and data bases in an unorganized manner. It will be increasingly difficult to bring order throughout Europe if the separate countries establish networks and put up data bases without planning for sharing and inter-connection.

Tomberg reviewed the PTT (Postal Authorities) problems that are presently hindering European users of online data base and data bank networks and indicated that the factor of protectionism against U.S. systems and services has been overplayed. "The greatest problem is the fear of loss of freedom all over Europe." Tomberg stated that this fear is directed at other European countries as well as at the U.S.

## U.S. TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY NOT CLEARCUT ISSUE - CHARLES K. WILK

According to Charles K. Wilk of the Office of Telecommunications, U. S. Department of Commerce, there are many interrelated

issues governing U. S. telecommunications policy. Two of the greatest are "Trans-border Data Flows" and "Rights to Personal Privacy."

Mr. Wilk outlined in detail some of the problems that the U.S. government and U.S. based firms face in dealing with issues of international telecommunications. The effects of over 300 separate pieces of legislation with the United States often are at conflict with the international needs and trends of usage and legislation. Multilateral treaties and complicated relationships of security and ownership as well as the issue of personal privacy make dealing with international data communications and transmission very complex.

Wilk reviewed the data protection trends in Sweden, Denmark, Canada, the U.K., West Germany, France, the U.S. and the countries of the Nordic Convention as well as the Council of Europe Draft Resolution. He pointed out that the September, 1977 OECD Symposium on trans-border data flows might bring some interesting finding to light but that it was too early to have the results. A joint State Department-Department of Commerce Conference on Transborder Data Flows will be held in March, 1978.

Wilk underscored the possible role that ASIDIC and other organizations that deal with data transmission topics can play in communicating our problems and views to the U.S. government, especially to the State Department. Wilk said, "Perhaps the most important message is that our information is less than complete...So, I would like to leave you with a straight-forward request. Let the Federal government know the impact on U.S. businesses, as you see it. Associations such as ASIDIC...can be very effective in gathering your insights. The Federal Government would be pleased to know your assessment, especially at the State Department."

(Continued on next page)

## LUSIGNAN SAYS NEAR EARTH SATELLITES SHOW FAVORABLE COMMUNICATIONS COSTS TRENDS

Bruce Lusignan, of the Stanford University Department of Engineering, gave a fast-paced and informative presentation on the role and economics of satellite telecommunications for data base applications during the afternoon keynote session on Monday.

Without going into technical explanations beyond the grasp of meeting participants, Lusignan related the differences between far and near-earth orbiting satellites and how both worked for communications purposes. Because of the great cost savings being realized by using near-earth satellites for voice, television and data transmission projects, he spent most of the time discussing how these systems will impact the data base industry in the near future.

Citing the examples of the Alaskan and the new Iranian systems, Mr. Lusignan related how the cost of satellite ground stations had been cut from over one million dollars to about twenty-five thousand dollars per installation. This cost range makes satellite communication systems practical on a far broader range than thought possible a few years ago.

The basic conclusions that Mr. Lusignan made were that satellite communications were practical and affordable for many applications now and will become increasingly a part of the way we do business in the near future. Subjects such as data privacy, transmission reliability and technological obsolescence were discussed by Lusignan with meeting participants during a short open session following his presentation.

## DISCUSSION GROUPS REPORT INTEREST GREAT IN ALL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE

In the reports of the three discussion groups, all discussion leaders concurred that the topic created wide interest and concern for their participants. Rita Lerner

reported that her group felt that a greater opening of communications between U.S. data base suppliers and European users was necessary right away. The work of INTUG (International Telecommunications Users Group) in the development of guidelines or points on education, pricing policy, technical standards and the need to separate telecommunications from national postal services in Europe was recommended as a possible model for ASIDIC to follow. Bill Burgess of SDC, said that his discussion group agreed with the need for a greater education and communication link between the U.S. and Europe. Greg Payne, leader of the third group, said that his group wanted to ask the ASIDIC Executive Committee to pursue the role of ASIDIC in the international telecommunications issues. (A special committee has been established by the ASIDIC Executive Committee for that purpose)

- - - -

## PERUVIAN, MEXICAN PROGRAMS FOR INDUSTRY INFORMATION SERVICES ACTIVE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS REALITY OVERCOME BY BATCH PROCESSING OR NATIONAL TELECOM NODES

Under the direction of Carole Ganz of NSF, the programs for providing information services to industry in Peru and Mexico were outlined for attendees at the ASIDIC Fall Meeting in San Francisco.

Jorge Fitzgerald, of ITINTEC in Lima, Peru, told how his organization is aiding the development of technology and industrial productivity government and private firms in Peru. Fitzgerald showed a movie that ITINTEC produced to tell potential users about the benefits their services could bring. Outlining retrospective searching and document retrieval activities of differing types, Fitzgerald showed how his group are "spreading the word, much like missionaries of information," in Peru. Acceptance has grown significantly over the last three years and Fitzgerald believes that his country and all of South America

(Continued from page 3)

will become substantial users of information services within the next ten years.

Arturo Garcia, representing INFOTEC-CONACYT in Mexico City, echoed Fitzgerald's idea about the role that their organizations are filling as missionaries of information within their countries. Garcia, however, has a Tymnet node in Mexico City and has access to several online systems.

Both Fitzgerald and Garcia emphasized that all of Latin America represents an important potential market and reminded data base suppliers not to overlook their region in the development of products or educational materials.

-----

### J. RON SMITH ASIDIC PRESIDENT FOR 1977-78 HERB NOBLES, KAY DURKIN NAMED DIRECTORS

J. Ron Smith was elected President of ASIDIC for 1977-78 at the Fall Meeting of ASIDIC in San Francisco in October. Joining the Executive Committee as Members at Large are Herbert A. Nobles and Kay Durkin. The complete roster of ASIDIC Officers for 1977-78 includes:

President : J. Ron Smith

Scty/Treas: Daniel W. Wilde

Past Pres : Martha Williams

Members at Large  
(Full) : Arnold P. Lurie

Herbert A. Nobles

Kay Durkin

(Associate) Toni Bearman

-----

### SPRING '78 ASIDIC MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEW ORLEANS

The Spring 1978 ASIDIC Meeting will be held April 23-25 at the Monteleone Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. The ASIDIC Secretariat, under the direction of Jim Carmon, will act as the host for the meeting. Full program details and registration information will be included in the next issue of the ASIDIC Newsletter that will be sent the second week in February.

The program for the Spring '78 meeting is under the direction of Rita Lerner. Further details can be obtained from the ASIDIC secretariat in Athens.

-----

### SPECIAL FALL '78 ASIDIC/EUSIDIC JOINT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR ICELAND SEPT. 4, '78

The first joint ASIDIC/EUSIDIC meeting will take place in Reykjavik, Iceland, the week of September 4, 1978. This unique meeting (and location) were decided upon in a meeting of officers and directors of both organizations in London during the First Annual International Online Conference in December 1977. Further details of this meeting will be included in the February newsletter.

-----

### JUNE '77 JOINT CONFERENCE REPORT AVAILABLE

The Conference Report on the ASIDIC/EUSIDIC/ICSU/AB/NFAIS Meeting on Bibliographic Data Bases held June 26-29, 1977 in England is available at no charge from the ASIDIC Secretariat. Contact Julia Harris for further information or to order a copy of the report.

-----

## INSTITUTE FOR ONLINE TEACHING TECHNIQUES SLATED FOR U. OF WASHINGTON MARCH 1978

The University of Washington, School of Librarianship, has been awarded a grant of \$34,000 by the Office of Education to conduct a five-day Training in Librarianship institute. The institute, "New Techniques in the Teaching of Online Searching: An Institute for Library Educators" will be held March 20-24, 1978 at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The Institute is designed for library educators involved with teaching the professional skills associated with online literature searching and reference services. The objectives are: (1) to familiarize participants with specialized pedagogical methods for teaching advanced literature searching skills, (2) to demonstrate effective procedures for the organization, technical support and budgeting of online facilities in the context of prevailing curricular patterns; (3) to establish criteria for basic standards for professional training in the use of online data base systems.

At the conclusion of the Institute the participants will have an enlarged repertory of practical teaching methods, deeper understanding of the professional competencies associated with online literature searching, an awareness of the experience and problems of library educators in working with these resources, and a sharpened view of the state of the art in this area of library service.

Twenty faculty members of U.S. Library Schools offering professional Master's degree programs will be selected to participate. Applicants should have qualifications and experience in the teaching of reference and literature searching service and should have search experience using the Lockheed DIALOG search service. Completed application forms are due by December 29, 1977. For further information or to obtain forms, please contact: Edmond Mignon, Assistant Professor, School of Librarianship, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 Telephone: 206/543-1794.

## EURONET GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN DATA BASE SUPPLIERS AND HOST ORGANIZATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH ASIDIC SECRETARIAT

A copy of the guidelines developed by the ICSU Abstracting Board for Euronet is available from the ASIDIC Secretariat free of charge. This short brochure sets forth the guidelines that data base suppliers and host organizations of Euronet are to follow. Underscored in the document is the fact that the rules of the Treaty of Rome will guide the activities of both data base suppliers and host online organizations. Besides an introduction the guidelines include sections on; Definition of Data Base, Derivable Services, Data Base Suppliers' Support to Host, Conditions of Use, Host Responsibilities, and Charges.

- - - -

## NFAIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEATURES KEY SESSIONS: BEN WEIL TO DELIVER MILES CONRAD LECTURE

The 20th Annual Conference of NFAIS (National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services) will be held March 7-8 at the University Holiday Inn in Philadelphia. Special sessions on International Aspects, Document Access and the New Copyright Law, Resources Sharing, and the Impact of New Technology are scheduled for participants. On Wednesday evening Ben H. Weil, Exxon Research and Engineering Company, will deliver the Miles Conrad Memorial Lecture, highlight of each NFAIS annual conference. For further details, contact NFAIS at 3401 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, (205) 349-8495.

- - - -