
Information Science provided the instructional component of the conference. Dr. Osborne lectured on systems analysis methods, stressing the common sense character of systems analysis while emphasizing the dependence of good systems plans on more rigorous documentation than we are often in the habit of writing. Dr. Tenopir introduced the issues involved in selecting information retrieval software. She emphasized the difference between retrieval oriented software, which accommodates variable length, variable occurrence, and textual fields and supports full text and contextual retrieval, and off the shelf database management packages. Using this distinction, she directed attendees through a museum oriented needs analysis, attending to the characteristics of museum data that call for these software capabilities.

Bearman followed Tenopir with a talk on commercial software for museum applications from membership and development and point-of-sale registers, to events management and ticketing, collections management, and cataloging and information retrieval. He stressed the availability of acceptable commercial systems in these areas and urged participants to purchase them rather than to try to save money by acquiring "vanilla" database managers and designing their own solutions, a course which he predicted would prove more costly over the long term as well as much less likely to produce an acceptable result. In a final tutorial session of the conference, Bearman provided a basic introduction to optical media and discussed the kinds of applications that have been made of videodisc in museums.

CALENDAR

May 15-17 Ottawa, CANADA.
"Converging Disciplines in the Management of Recorded Information" [Winston Gomes, Symposium on Current Records, International Council on Archives, P.O.Box 3162 Station D, Ottawa K1P 6H7, CANADA]

May 15-18 Jerusalem, ISRAEL.
"Value of Research Data for Government and Business," IFDO/IASSIST 89 [Lucy Blaser, Social Sciences Data Archive, Hebrew University, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905 ISRAEL; fax 972-2-826249]

May 18-20 London, ENGLAND.
"IMAGE: An International Meeting on Museums and Art Galleries Image Databases" [University of London Audio-Visual Centre, North Wing Studios, Senate House, Malet St., London WC1E 7JZ UNITED KINGDOM]

May 21-24 San Diego, CA.
"The User Interface," 18th ASIS Mid-Year Conference, \$160-285 [ASIS, Ben Franklin Station, P.O.Box 554, Washington DC 20044-0554; fax 202-462-7494]

June 5-8 San Francisco, CA.
"Discover the Power of Imaging," 1989 Association for Information and Image Management Show and Conference [AIIM, c/o First American Bank, 740 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005, attn. Lock Box Dept.]

June 5-10 Toronto, CANADA.
"Dynamic Text Conference," Combined 16th International ALLC Conference & 9th International Conference on Computers and the Humanities, together with software fair "Tools for Humanists" [Registration Officer, Dynamic Text Conference, 158 St. George St., Toronto M5S 2V8 CANADA; fax 416-978-5673; CAN \$225-295 depending on category and date of registration]

June 17 New Orleans, LA.
"Workshop on Planning for Museum Automation," \$125 [Museum Computer Network, Information Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse NY 13244-2340]

June 18-22 New Orleans, LA.
American Association of Museums Annual Conference [Maureen McCarthy, AAM, 1225 Eye St., NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20005]

July 13-15 Austin, TX.
"Microcomputer Applications in Visual
Resource Collections" \$325, [Fine Arts
Continuing Education, Fine Arts Building
2.4, University of Texas, Austin TX 78712]

July 26-29 Seattle, WA.
National Association of Government
Archivists and Records Administrators [Jeff
Jagnow, Council of State Governments, Iron
Works Pike, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, KY
40578; 606-252-2291]

September 6-9 Seattle, WA.
American Association for State and Local
History [AASLH, 172 Second Ave. North,
Nashville, TN 37201]

September 15-18 York, ENGLAND.
Annual Conference of the Museum
Documentation Association [1989
Conference, MDA, Building O, 347 Cherry
Hinton Rd., Cambridge CB1 4DH
ENGLAND]

October 2-5 New Orleans, LA.
"Building Bridges of Professionalism" 34th
Annual Conference of the Association of
Records Managers and Administrators,
\$465-585 [Conference Dept. ARMA
International, 4200 Somerset, Suite 215,
Prairie Village, KS 66208]

October 12-14 Chicago, IL.
Museum Computer Network Annual
Conference [Deirdre Stam, MCN,
Information Studies, Syracuse University,
Syracuse NY 13244-2340]

October 23-28 St. Louis, MO.
Society of American Archivists Annual
Meeting [Conference, SAA, 600 S. Federal
St., Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605]

October 30 - November 2 Washington, DC.
American Society for Information Science
Annual Conference [ASIS, Ben Franklin
Station, P.O. Box 554, Washington, DC
20044-0554; fax 202-462-7494]

INBOX

REPORTS

Application Portability, PSC-ARC003-1 IA
report prepared for the National Archives of
Canada. Ottawa, Ontario: Protocol
Standards and Communication, Inc., 28
December 1988, 40p. + append.

Archivists are becoming aware that their ability to manage electronic records archivally may translate directly into their ability to move applications from one computing environment to another with minimal changes. The objective of application portability is also important to business and government computer users who need to preserve investments in systems over shorter time periods. This report, which defines the concepts and examines the state of standards and approaches that support application portability, will be of great interest to managers of active and inactive records. In my opinion, the strategy it suggests for archivists is the only possible one.

Durance, Cynthia J. "Strategic Planning Framework Study for the Disposition of Government Records." Ottawa: National Archives of Canada, January 30, 1989, 48p. + append.

Cynthia Durance, Assistant Director General of the Government Records Branch, National Archives of Canada, makes a bold proposal for active, delegated, disposition authorization, intended to make it possible for the National Archives of Canada to carry out its records disposition mission within its present resources. The proposed departure from current practice begins with the honest recognition that the Archives "is losing vast quantities of records now because it cannot cope with the current workload using current procedures." The failure of previous strategies was particularly evident in the context of the automation and growing departmental autonomy of the Canadian federal government, a context for which the