



Engineering Libraries

Division Newsletter

September 1998

Message from the Chair

I hope your summer has been productive, enjoyable, and relaxing, or at least two out of the three! I spent a much anticipated week after the Annual Conference for R&R, visiting friends and relatives in the Northwest. I hope your own travels or vacation activities were pleasant and rewarding and that now, fully refreshed, you are *charging into the new semester's* wealth of activities with renewed vigor.

The 1998 Annual Conference was a resounding success, and the Seattle area a definite hit as a location. My own memories of the conference are positive, although a bit blurred around the edges. Thanks to ALL of you who contributed to the success of the conference. Our "content providers", a.k.a. speakers and presenters, gave the attendees much to discuss and reflect on in the ever-challenging realm of information provision for the engineering disciplines. Thank you to Division members **Fred O'Bryant, Jill Powell, Gulcin Cribb, Amy Kindschi, Leslie Reynolds, Tom Volkening, Kelly Jordan, Paige Gibbs, Eileen Dorschner, Andy Shimp, Nestor Osorio, Katherine Thomes, Helen**

Shuster, Karen Andrews, Mona Mosier, Christy Hightower, and Robert Schwarzwald for their contributions.

A big thank you also to my "right-hand persons", the moderators: **Deborah Kegel, Locke Morrissey, Catherine Soehner, Marilyn Von Seggern, Larry Thompson, Nancy Schiller, Mel DeSart, Chris Byrne, Pam Zilius-Careaga, Ron Rodrigues, and Tom DePetro.** The small gifts and award certificates given at the Annual Banquet were a very small token of my very large appreciation for your efforts on behalf of the Division's programs this year. Thanks also goes to **Charlotte Erdmann**, for her sage advice as Chair/ past- Program Chair, and **Sheila Curl**, for her help in all things financial. It really does take a multitude of persons to pull off the conference planning and program!

Most important of all, thank you to all the attendees who engaged the speakers and the other participants with intelligent questions and discussions, and interacted with one another in a myriad of ways, providing the synergy for which the Annual Conference is known. ELD had over 70 attendees, over 10 of whom were first-time attendees--a record attendance in both categories! It's never too early to consider attending next year's conference, to be held in Charlotte, NC, June 20-23, with the theme "Engineering: Education to Serve the World". **Sheila Curl** is in the midst of planning ELD

programs for that conference, and is identifying her "right-hand persons"... it's sure to be another winner of a conference. Your participation is vital!

I also extend my sincere thanks, on behalf of myself and the members of ELD, to the organizations and corporations whose financial support enabled many of the events, programs and awards at the 1998 Conference. Once again, **Engineering Information, Inc.** and the **Institute for Scientific Information** sponsored the reception before the ELD Annual Banquet; **INSPEC**, in their first sponsorship of ELD activities, sponsored some of the speaker expenses in the Building Digital Libraries session, and phone line access in the Information Technology Update session; and **Ford Motor Company** continued it's sponsorship of the Ford Motor Company Digital Librarian Award. Each organization's help and support of activities within the Division is highly valued and appreciated.

Among all of the many events of note at the conference, two exemplify in my mind the synergy available to ELD members. Pricing of information products is near and dear to our hearts, and INSPEC and Dialog had both made decisions which affect many librarians and information professionals. These two topics had surfaced on ELDNET-L, our first line of communication, and were then discussed in greater detail at the conference.

Members of the INSPEC staff joined the Wednesday Professional Issues Discussion session, moderated by Ron Rodrigues, to discuss with members the organization's recent policy decision which removed INSPEC from FirstSearch. Although my other duties precluded my attending that forum, from all reports it was a lively interchange and hopefully beneficial to all parties.

In response to the Dialog pricing changes, ELD members decided to send a letter of protest to Dialog from the Division. Patricia Johnston of Georgia Tech graciously provided the outline of the letter, which was revised during the Business Meeting and the Professional Issues Discussion. Thanks goes to Tom Volkening, the newly elected ELD Director, for his help in the revisions. Members of the Extended Executive Committee made final comments on the letter

after the conference, and as Chair, I sent the letter to Mr. Dan Wagner of Dialog on July 24. The text of that letter is reproduced in this newsletter, with a report of the response. If there are additional responses, I will report back to you in future newsletters.

ELDNET-L has proved once again to be an excellent forum for raising and discussing issues; the conference has once again provided an excellent gathering place for discussion and action on a united front. Let's keep our collaborative energy and our individual contributions going...they are the essence of our Division.

I look forward to the upcoming year as your Chair. If you have any comments or questions about the Division, please contact me. And may each of you have an enjoyable and successful year.

Beth Brin
Division Chair
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Boise, ID 83725
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A Letter to Dialog

Dialog Pricing, Letters, Responses....

Reproduced below is a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Daniel Wagner of Dialog from myself on behalf of the ELD membership, as mentioned in the "Message from the Chair". Since Mr. Wagner was out of the country, Ms. Anne M. DelVillano, Senior Vice-President Client Services, responded. She stated that in response to feedback from customers like ourselves, Dialog would modify the application of DialUnits by eliminating rounding to the nearest whole DialUnit, and that certain administrative commands would not incur DialUnit charges. These changes took place on September 1st. This response from Ms. DelVillano came the same week as the August 11 Dialog press release

which is appended below the letter, and to which she referred me.

I'd be interested in ELD members' responses to this change, and its impact on your searching. I can always send a follow-up letter or E-mail, if there is a consensus of opinion!

Beth Brin, ELD Chair

July 24, 1998

Mr. Daniel Wagner
Chief Executive
The Dialog Corporation
US Headquarters
2440 W. El Camino Real
Mountain View, CA 94040-1400

Dear Mr. Wagner,

The librarians of the Engineering Libraries Division of the American Society for Engineering Education, representing 116* institutions in 6* countries, deplore the precipitous price increase and complex pricing structure for Dialog searching as of June 1. We serve the information needs of students, faculty and industry researchers. Many of us bill back Dialog search expenses, and we cannot provide adequate economic justification or explanation of the significant price increases to our clients which in some cases have resulted in 20% to 32% increases when compared to similar searches done before June 1, 1998.

Dialog has always been customer-service oriented. We strongly urge you to reconsider your new pricing structure so that we may continue our partnership with Dialog in serving our engineering clients' research needs. In light of your new pricing structure we feel obligated to encourage our respective institutions to use alternative vendors such as STN and to encourage database producers to consider moving their products to other aggregators.

Sincerely,

Beth Brin
Chair
Engineering Libraries Division
American Society for Engineering Education
ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition 1998
July 1, 1998
Seattle, WA

Email: bbrin@bsu.idbsu.edu
Phone: (208) 385-3136

*Based on the institutions listed in the Geographical Index of the March 1998 ELD Directory of Members. This number includes government labs and agencies but not corporations.

XC: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, BIOSIS, Chemical Abstracts Service, Engineering Information Inc., American Geological Institute, INSPEC, Institute for Scientific Information, National Technical Information Service

MEDIA ADVISORY from THE DIALOG CORPORATION (August 11, 1998)

Effective September 1, 1998, The Dialog Corporation will implement major reductions to its DialUnit pricing plan. The first key adjustment will be the elimination of the rounding of DialUnits (Dialog Interactive Language Units), which represent the usage of systems resources necessary to execute search commands. Dialog and DialogWeb customers will pay only for the precise amount of DialUnits that they consume during their searches. The second pricing modification will be the termination of DialUnit charging for administrative commands on Dialog, such as "HELP" and "SET."

These modifications go into effect September 1, 1998, and will affect all searches from that point forward. The key impact of these changes will be a dramatic reduction in the cost of quick and simple Dialog searches, which tended to have a higher cost under the pricing plan introduced in June. In addition, the cancellation of DialUnit charges for administrative commands will encourage the use of such commands to facilitate basic maintenance functions in searches when appropriate, regardless of which database is being used at the time.

Most Dialog file prices will remain unaffected by the DialUnit changes. However, some selected files will have minor DialUnit adjustments to reflect these changes. Customers working with predetermined budgets and wanting more pricing predictability are encouraged to take advantage of the customized flat-fee pricing packages from The Dialog Corporation. Please visit our web site (<http://www.dialog.com>) for

more details, including a complete list of administrative commands affected by DialUnit pricing adjustments.

The Dialog Corporation remains committed in its efforts to offer customers the most competitive and simplified pricing plan possible. Dialog is grateful for the feedback it has received on its new pricing plan from customers. The decision to implement these pricing changes was brought about by the company's recognition of the need to refine the DialUnit pricing structure to ensure the most cost-effective searching on Dialog.

Contact:

Vibeka San Sisodiya
(650) 254-8339
or (800) 334-2564
vibeka_sisodiya@dialog.com

*Publications Committee-
Literature Guides Subcommittee*

The Literature Guides Subcommittee is seeking compilers and ideas for new guides. If you are interested in producing a guide, or have an idea for a new one, please contact Kelly Jordan (kxj@psulias.psu.edu) or Ann Ward (aeward@csupomona.edu).

Union List Subcommittee

It is time to start thinking about the 4th edition of the Union List of Technical Reports, Standards and Patents in Engineering Libraries. If you would like to assist in gathering data for the new edition, please contact:

Mary C. Schlembach,
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign,
154 Grainger Engineering Library,
Urbana, IL 61801
217.333.3158
schlemba@uiuc.edu.

People and Places

Mel DeSart is now coordinator of Science and Engineering Resources and Services at the University of Kansas Libraries. As of August 10, **Vicki Coleman** succeeded Mel as Engineering Librarian at KSU.

Tom De Petro at Wichita State University in Kansas wrote a response to an article in the ASEE Prism. His letter appeared in the April '98 issue on page 7. It was in reference to "Enhancing Student Success" in the November '97 issue on p.30.

*New Member Bio- Meet Vicki
Coleman*

Vicki Coleman has just joined the University of Kansas as Head of the Spahr Engineering Library. Prior to coming to the University of Kansas, she worked as a mechanical engineer with the Ford Motor Company and Corning Glass, Inc. Vicki has a B.S. in mechanical engineering from North Carolina A&T University and a MILS from the University of Michigan. She is very interested in becoming an active ELD member.

Welcome Vicki!

Publications

Hightower, Christy, Jennifer Reisswig, and Susan S. Berteaux. "Introducing Database Advisor: A New Service That Will Make Your Research Easier" C&RL News 59(6) (June 1998): 409-412.

Wallace, David R. and Suzanne T. Weiner, "How Might Classroom Time Be Used Given WWW-Based Lectures?" Journal of Engineering Education 87 (July 1998): 237-248.

*Members Address Changes and
Updates*

Please correct your copy of the Directory to reflect the following changes and additions. Additional changes and corrections are announced in each issue of the Division's quarterly Newsletter.

JAY BHATT (new member)
Engineering Librarian
Hagerty Library
Drexel University
32nd and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-895-1873
FAX: 215-895-2070
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BETH BRIN has new telephone numbers:
208-426-3136 (phone)
208-426-1394 (fax)

ROBERT CHANG has a new phone number
520-621-6375

MEL DESART has changed address
Coordinator of Science and Engineering
Resources and Services
Anschutz Library
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045
785-864-3854

GORDON DUTRISAC has changed ZIP code
Tempe, AZ 85287-1506

CHARLOTTE ERDMANN has a new address
Fellowship Librarian
Patent and Trademark Depository
Library Program
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2231 Crystal Drive, CPK3, Suite 461
Arlington, VA 22202
703-306-2646
E-Mail: Charlotte.Erdmann@uspto.gov

NAJWA HANEL has changed E-Mail address
NHANEL@USC.EDU

MICHAELYN HASLAM (new member)
University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Collection Development
1405 Vegas Valley Drive #160
Las Vegas NV 89109
702-895-1899
FAX: 702-895-1571

E-mail: haslamm@nevada.edu

GODLIND JOHNSON entry should read
Head, Engineering Library
Melville Library, Room 1101
State University of New York at Stony
Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3301

PATRICIA JOHNSTON changes
Librarian, Reference/Documents
Department
Library and Information Center
FAX: 404-894-3005

ISLA JORDAN has phone number changes
613-520-2600, Ext. 8182
FAX: 613-520-2780

AMY KINDSCHI has new title
Head of Services

JANARDAN KULKARNI
has new phone numbers
502-852-7645
FAX: 502-852-0020

LINDA MARTINEZ has change to WWW URL
<http://www.lib.duke.edu/egr>

JOHN C. MATYLONEK (new member)
Engineering and Geology Librarian
Valley Library
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FAX: 541-737-1328
E-Mail:
JOHN.MATYLONEK@ORST.EDU

NESTOR OSORIO has new E-Mail address
NOSORIO@NIU.EDU

JAMES OTTAVIANI has changed WWW URL
<http://www.ummu.umich.edu/library/PEOPLE/JIMO/jimO.html>

CAROL S. RESCO (new member)
Director of Library Services
Samuel L. Diack Library
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and Technology
P.O. Box 9100
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503-690-1060
FAX: 503-690-1029

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LESLIE REYNOLDS

has new FAX number and E-mail
FAX: 765-496-3572
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SHARON SHAFER (new member)

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MARK E. SHELTON (new member)

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FAX: 402-472-0663
E-Mail: MARKS@UNLLIB.UNL.EDU

CATHERINE SOEHNER has new title

Head, Science Library (and omit
McHenry Library from entry)

LOUISA TOOT has changed phone numbers

626-395-3408
FAX: 626-431-2861

SUZANNE TARA WEINER has new address

Head, Textiles Library
NCSU Libraries
Box 8301
Raleigh, NC 27695
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FAX: 919-515-3926

E-Mail:

STWEINER@UNITY.NCSU.EDU

JOHN R. WHELAN (new member)

Engineering Librarian
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615-661-9183
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E-Mail: WHELAN@LIBRARY.
VANDERBILT.EDU

MICHAEL J. WHITE has a new address

Information Technology Resource
Provider
Technology Center 3700
Crystal Plaza 4, 3C05
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231
703-308-0781
FAX: 703-305-3463
E-Mail:
MICHAEL.WHITE@USPTO.GOV

ELD 1998/1999 Officers

Divison Chair
Beth Brin

Chair-Elect/Program Chair
Sheila Curl

Immediate Past-Chair
Charlotte Erdmann

Secretary-Treasurer
Linda Musser

Director, 1997-1998
Mel DeSart

Director, 1998-2000
Tom Volkening

Accreditation and Standards Committee Chair
Karen Andrews

Archivist
Don Richardson

Awards Committee Chair
Suzanne Weiner

Membership Committee Chair
Glee Willis

Membership Directory Editor
Fred O'Bryant

Nominating Committee Chair
Charlotte Erdmann

Listserv Editor/Moderator
Mel DeSart

Publication Committee Chair
Godlind Johnson

Duplicates Exchange Subcommittee Chair
Orion Pozo

ELD WWW Home Page
Jill Powell

Literature Guides Subcommittee Co-chairs
Kelly Jordan and Ann Ward

ELD Newsletter Editors
Tom Conkling and Kelly Jordan

Union List Chair
Mary Schlembach

Newsletter Distribution Changes

At the ELD Annual Business Meeting last June, a decision was made to distribute the Newsletter electronically. In preparation for this, Mel DeSart is building a closed subscription list (ELD-L) for ELD members only. This list will be used to distribute future versions of the Newsletter as an email attachment as well as other communications meant for ELD members only.

All ELD members for whom e-mail addresses are available (via the membership directory) will be subscribed to ELD-L by Mel. Once the new list is ready for use, a note will be sent to the new list. Approximately a day later, a note will be sent to ELDNET-L as well. If you see the ELDNET-L note but do NOT see the ELD-L note, it may mean that you were inadvertently left off the ELD-L subscriber list. Please contact Mel at DeSart@ukans.edu and he will correct that oversight. ELD members who do not have email capability must complete and return the bottom portion of this page to remain on the mailing list for printed copies of the newsletter.

Please return this form if you wish to remain on the mailing list for paper copies of future Newsletters.
Mail the form to:

Tom Conkling
Kelly Jordan
Penn State University
325 Hammond Building
University Park, PA 16802

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____