



EPA LIBRARY NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS

INFO

Issue 1—January 1991



Access

Welcome to the 1991 EPA IMSD Conference

Welcome to the EPA Information Management and Services Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio! The theme of this year's conference is Federal Information Access, which complements EPA's goal to improve public access to environmental information. Conference sessions will discuss the role of the Federal government in information transfer, incorporating a variety of issues such as interagency information access, public access to information,

and technology for information sharing.

The agenda features speakers from EPA, other Federal agencies, and information professionals from the private sector. Several of the EPA librarians are also participating as speakers, panelists, or moderators in a variety of sessions. Naturally, the focus of all the sessions is environmental information.

The conference is a key communication mechanism for the EPA information management community. It is an event which facilitates networking and the sharing of information among the participants. It provides a unique opportunity to make personal and professional contacts, since many of the attendees are located at remote sites.

The conference is also a place to share problems, ideas, and triumphs. If one librarian has achieved some-

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INFOACCESS—An Information-sharing Tool for the Library Network

This is the first issue of INFOACCESS, a new bimonthly publication for EPA information resources management professionals. It has been created to encourage and develop the exchange of information

and experience on all matters relevant to the EPA Library Network.

This publication is intended to function as an outreach mechanism which will support and facilitate expanded communications among the

members of the EPA Library Network and throughout the EPA information management community.

INFOACCESS will provide a forum for the discussion and analysis of

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INFOACCESS *from page 1*

significant library and information issues. Readers are invited to share their professional experiences, ideas, and concerns with their colleagues through INFOACCESS. As R. Rajagopal states in the premiere issue of the publication *Environmental Professional*:

"We can realize our central purpose only through the active participation of our readers."

These are the primary goals of our publication:

- ▲ Facilitate communication among members of the EPA Library Network.
- ▲ Inform readers of information-

INFOACCESS is produced by the Information Access Branch of the Information Management and Services Division, Washington, DC.

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Using E-Mail Effectively

One of the best communication tools available to the Network, aside from the telephone, is electronic mail. Most of the librarians have access to E-mail either in the library or in an adjacent office. In addition to one-to-one communication, it is also possible to send messages to a cluster of boxes, for example, to the entire Library Network.

These two clusters can be used to send the same message to multiple people.

Use ALL.LIBRARIES to send a message to the entire Network, in-

cluding all Regional and Laboratory libraries.

Use REG.LIBRARIES to send messages to the libraries in Regions 1 through 10.

Remember that not all librarians have their own E-mail boxes. Be sure to use the heading ATTN: EPA LIBRARIANS when sending messages.

For a full listing of all Network Librarians, see page 8. ♦

—Mary Hoffman

related news and activities around the Network.

▲ Engage library managers and other information professionals who are interested in information access and technology issues.

▲ Provide technical information and assistance to the readers.

▲ Create paths for effective information sharing throughout the EPA information resources management community.

▲ Foster pride and enthusiasm for our role in supporting the Agency's mission.

The EPA Library Network depends on effective communication between and among its members. *The Information Exchange*, which was edited by Dick Fandel until the Spring of 1990, helped establish lines of communication throughout the network. INFOACCESS will build on that base and expand the communications links

to the boundaries of the EPA information resources management community.

It is appropriate that the inaugural issue of INFOACCESS focuses on Network communications, with features on the Information Management and Services Division Conference, electronic mail, information sharing, and information transfer.

INFOACCESS Editor

The editor of INFOACCESS is Mary Hoffman, the Network Coordinator. The Network Coordinator position will work to facilitate more effective communication within the EPA Library and Records Networks. She will work with the Networks to coordinate communication to the library and record center sites; to strengthen both networks; to develop a strong interactive network among the record centers; and to facilitate information sharing among the members of both

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The Center for Environmental Research Information (CERI)

EPA's Center for Environmental Research Information (CERI), located in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the A.W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center (AWBERC), is a key source of environmental information. CERI is the focal point for the exchange of scientific and technical environmental information produced by EPA. It supports the activities of EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), its laboratories, and associated programs nationwide.

CERI's technical information components are responsible for the production and distribution of scientific and technical reports, and for responding to requests for publications. CERI is an important referral source for the Library Network in response to requests from the public as well as from other Federal agencies.

Information professionals can obtain access to a computerized file of EPA reports through the ORD-Bulletin Board System (BBS), which is main-

tained by CERI. [Contact Dennis Lussier at 513-569-7354 for more information.] The ORD-BBS contains bibliographic information for all EPA reports produced since 1976. More recent reports are available from CERI, but the majority of the reports can be obtained for a fee from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), a unit of the Department of Commerce, located in Springfield, Virginia. ♦

—Mary Hoffman

An Interview with William Henderson on Information Sharing—An Issue for Today and Tomorrow

William Henderson, the Director of the Office of Administration and Resources Management at the Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center in Cincinnati, has worked with the Environmental Protection Agency for seven years. He served as the Deputy Comptroller and then as the Director of the Office of Human Resources Management in Washington before moving to his current position in 1988. Mary Hoffman conducted this interview with Mr. Henderson by telephone for INFOACCESS.

Q Mr. Henderson, what is the mission of the Office of Information Resources Management (OIRM) in

Cincinnati?

A To provide good administrative support to the Agency program office components at Cincinnati and elsewhere in the Agency. The OIRM supports components of the Office of General Counsel, Office of Civil Rights, Office of Research and Development, Office of Water and an Emergency Response Team. In addition, the OIRM provides procurement service for the Office of Water in Washington and all EPA Research Laboratories with the exception of Research Triangle Park. The OIRM also provides architectural and engineering services to the Agency.

Q What would you consider to be the most significant achievements

of the Environmental Research Center (ERC) during the last few years?

A The first would be an increased emphasis on human resource issues, at all levels. The OIRM has established a wellness center in Cincinnati for the employees, and has recently broken ground for a day care center at the same location. The OIRM in Cincinnati has become the secondary computing center for the Agency. It is now the backup disaster computer center for EPA. Third, there has been tremendous growth in all areas of environmental research, especially new and exciting fields, like pollution prevention and ecological biomarker research. Research is high on the list of Agency priorities.

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Meeting Highlights

▲ Each morning before sessions begin, a continental breakfast will be available for conference attendees.

▲ The IRM Chiefs will join the librarians for selected sessions throughout the conference.

▲ On Tuesday evening, the group will dine in the Taft Room at the Westin. Dinner will be served at 7:00 pm.

▲ Wednesday's lunch will be catered in the AWBERC Library by Petersen's, a local restaurant known for its salads, sandwiches, and great desserts.

▲ Plan to unwind after the second day of sessions at a hospitality reception from 6-8 pm in the McKinley Room at the Westin.

▲ AWBERC staff will prepare a daily bulletin for conference attendees on important activities.

▲ Look for a display of photographs of the network libraries prepared by the AWBERC staff.

William Henderson Interview, *from page 3*

Q What do you see as the major issues which need to be addressed by the OIRM during the next five years?

A People and facilities. Space is a major concern, especially for the research laboratories. The Agency must ask itself how it can provide space and appropriate laboratory facilities to meet the growing needs of the research staff. Recruiting is the other major concern: How do we recruit the best and brightest? The issue of diversity is also extremely important. How will we cope with an increasingly diverse workforce?

Q Where do you find the information you need to make decisions and function as the director of OIRM?

A I am in Washington about twice a week, so I get a considerable amount of information from Headquarters. In Cincinnati I get information from my counterparts at other agencies, from newsletters, and from the AWBERC Library and information center. We have an extremely good library system and I can obtain anything I need through the library. Jonda Byrd and the library staff can produce anything I need almost instantaneously. The system has a tremendous capacity for information transfer, and has been helpful. I also feel that it is extremely important to look outside the Agency for additional information.

Q How is information shared at the ERC?

A The ERC staff are leaning more toward the electronic transfer of in-

formation. I would not be surprised if electronic methods of information transfer replaced the use of hardbound books at EPA during the next 20 years. That is the challenge for the libraries and information centers: To find out the research and database needs of the Agency for the next 5-10 years and determine how to provide information to fulfill those needs. I also feel that individual employees will use more technology outside of work during the next 5-10 years.

Q What is your view of Federal information sharing?

A This is an extremely important issue that the Agency is beginning to focus on. When talking to my counterparts at other agencies, I realize that there is a need for us to do more. The Administrator is interested in this topic and the Agency recognizes the need for information sharing. I would say that we are headed in the right direction as an Agency, but we have a long way to go. The Agency needs to continue to share information, especially with agencies like the U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. It is important to recognize that the need to share information exists on all levels, from the education of children to the sharing of technical expertise between scientists. The information should flow outward, from the Federal agencies to the state and local agencies, to the universities, and outward from there. ♦

—Mary Hoffman

IMSD Conference, from page 1

thing important, the members of the network can also benefit from that achievement. If a significant problem has been solved by one member, the sharing of it greatly enhances its importance.

Conference sessions are designed to stimulate discussion among the

participants—not only during the sessions themselves but after the day's events have ended and, ideally, after the attendees have returned to their libraries and information centers. The conference planners hope to create an atmosphere where attendees can establish a rapport which will link them together and open lines of communi-

cation to bind the Network into a cohesive unit.♦

—Mary Hoffman

The Technical Information Unit (TIU)

The Technical Information Unit (TIU) was established in 1986 by the Environmental Criteria and Assessment Office (ECAO). TIU's mission is to provide technical support within the discipline of the information sciences to ECAO staff. The TIU is responsible for acquiring, processing, and maintaining a collection of documents, references, and court file materials relating to the risk assessment of environmental pollutants in human health. The files maintained by the TIU are used as the basis for established and pending EPA regulations. In addition, the TIU provides other special services and overseas special projects for the ECAO staff.

The TIU's collection includes over 900 ECAO reports and documents, and over 50,000 references used in ECAO's development of those reports and documents.

A significant portion of the collection consists of the background and documentation used to support the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) database, which was developed and is maintained by ECAO. There are currently over 900 chemical-specific IRIS hardcopy files.

Other special collections maintained by the TIU staff include ECAO's Selected Risk Assessment Publications and Methodology Collections (articles written by ECAO staff and the supporting references); ECAO's slide library; the Core Collection of commonly cited references; and over 300 National Toxicology Program (NTP) bioassays.

In addition to maintaining the documents and special collections, the TIU provides the following services for ECAO staff:

- ▲ Retrieval and circulation services, including interlibrary loan.
- ▲ Online database searches on TOXLINE, TOXLIT, MEDLINE, HSDB, and DIALOG databases.
- ▲ Customized current awareness related to ECAO research needs.
- ▲ Assistance with some of ECAO's graphic needs using the Macintosh Desktop Publishing System.

The TIU generally does not respond to requests from outside ECAO,

but it does distribute copies of ECAO's MIXTOX database—which contains summary information of toxicological interactions—and the Selected Risk Assessment Publications and Methodology Collections.

Reference citations to ECAO documents are indexed on REFEREE for timely, efficient subject-specific retrieval. The TIU provides records maintenance service for ECAO, including the maintenance of special storage for court files, with an index maintained in dBase. The contents of the IRIS hardcopy files are indexed in a dBase file in both a comprehensive, all-inclusive database and a quick-reference listing.

The TIU serves ECAO on a direct and specialized basis. It has become a customized source of information for ECAO to use in its mission of preparing human health-based risk assessment documents, risk assessment methods, and the development of research initiatives.♦

—Sue Arentsen

INFOACCESS, from page 2

networks. The Coordinator also hopes to enhance the information and computer literacy of the Network members by sharing the services and products developed by Network.

Future Issues

Future issues of INFOACCESS will be topic-oriented. This issue focuses on the Information Management and Services Division Conference and information resources at the A.W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center in Cincinnati. Some possible themes for future issues are International Environmental Information, Public Access to Information, Special Collections, Space Planning and Design, New Information Technology,

and CD-ROMs.

Also planned are features on various aspects of information access and technology; profiles and interviews of key information players; reviews of new information resources; and anything else that might be of interest to the readers. In addition, fact sheets on technical issues—such as database searching, acquisitions, information systems, and special reference services—will be included in later issues.

INFOACCESS will be a good forum for introducing new members of the Network, as well as reporting on the accomplishments and special tal-

ents of the existing members.

Anyone who is interested in contributing to INFOACCESS, or has a suggestion should contact the editor, Mary Hoffman, Network Coordinator, at FTS 382-5930; E-mail box M.HOFFMAN/EPA30360.♦

—Mary Hoffman

"I would not be surprised if electronic methods of information transfer replaced the use of hardbound books at EPA during the next 20 years. That is the challenge for the libraries and information centers: To find out the research and database needs of the Agency for the next 5-10 years and determine how to provide information to fulfill those needs." —William Henderson

All About AWBERC

The Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center is comprised of several components:

- ▲ Center for Environmental Research Information (CERI).
- ▲ Environmental Criteria and Assessment Office (ECAO).
- ▲ Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory (EMSL).
- ▲ Emergency Response Team (ERT).
- ▲ Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM).
- ▲ Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

▲ Office of the Senior Office of Research and Development (OSORD).

▲ Office of Water, Technical Support Division.

▲ Risk Reduction Engineering Laboratory.

The building that houses AWBERC—located at 26 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive—was designed and constructed as a laboratory. The entire complex, except for the second floor, is laboratory space. The second floor is office space. The building fea-

New Faces at the Conference

Since the January 1990 meeting in Atlanta, there have been a number of staff changes around the Network. New faces that you may see at the Cincinnati meeting include the following people.

Magi Malone, Region 2,
New York

Ann Johnson, Central Regional Lab, Annapolis

Lois Ramponi, OTS Library, Washington

Kevin Rosseel, Public Information Center, Washington

John Bankson, Environmental Research Lab, Duluth

Joyce Bergin, Kerr Lab, Ada

Barbara MacKinnon, Region 7, Kansas City

Barbara Wagner, Region 8, Denver

Finally, we will certainly miss Dick Fandel at the meeting this year, remembering especially his irreverent sense of humor and his invaluable contribution to the "network personality."

AWBERC, *continued*

tures modular segments which can be moved to expand or contract individual laboratories. It also has a 280-seat auditorium.

The AWBERC Library

The AWBERC Library, which serves all AWBERC components, houses the largest collection in the EPA Library Network. The collection contains more than 16,000 books, 1,000 journal subscriptions, 150 audiovisual items, and over 200,000 technical reports. The Library, with its collections and staff, supports the laboratories and research programs of the Center. In addition, the Library is open to the public for reference use.

Since the environment is a broad multi-disciplinary field of study, the

AWBERC library contains information spanning a variety of subject areas. Environmental topics covered in the collection include water pollution, water quality, hazardous waste, biotechnology, and the basic sciences. The Library also maintains a collection of books on management and career development.

Special collections in the library focus on the topics of hazardous waste, law, and risk.♦

—Mary Hoffman

The AWBERC Library houses the largest collection in the EPA Library Network...Environmental topics covered in the collection include water pollution, water quality, hazardous waste, biotechnology, and the basic sciences.

Directory of EPA Librarians, January 1991

LIBRARIAN	EMAIL NAME/NUMBER	TELEPHONE (FTS)
Annand, Suzanne, IAB, DC	S.Annand EPA3726	475-8671
Bankson, John, Duluth	ERL/Duluth EPA8451	780-5539
Bergin, Joyce, Ada	EPA/Ada EPA8441	743-2241
Biggs, Dorothy, NEIC, Denver	Library.NEIC EPA2339	776-5122
Byrd, Jonda, Cincinnati	J.Byrd EPA3141	684-7707
Gamache, Rose, Narragansett	ERL/Narragansett EPA8641	838-6025
Garrison, Linda, IAB, DC	L.Garrison EPA3546	382-6939
Hoadley, Dave, IAB, DC	D.Hoadley EPA3744	475-8672
Hoffman, Mary, DC	M.Hoffman EPA30360	382-5930
Johnson, Ann, Annapolis	Ann.Johnson EPA93078	266-9180
Knight, John, RTP, NC	J.Knight EPA3129	629-2784
Lane, Leticia, Dallas	R6.Library EPA9692	255-6444
MacKinnon, Barb, Kansas City	Library.Reg7 EPA9743	276-7241
Malone, Magi, NYC	Library.Reg2 EPA9258	264-2881
McCreary, Diane, Philadelphia	Library.Reg3 EPA9337	597-0580
McVeety, Renie, Corvallis	ERL/Corvallis EPA8421	420-4731
Morrison, Barbara, Law Lib, DC	Law.Library EPA2808	382-5919
Nelson, Peg, Boston	Library.Reg1 EPA9128	835-3300
OAQPS, RTP	Libby.Smith EPA3128	629-5514
Platten, Joan, Legislative, DC	J.Platten EPA1011	382-5425
Pinnell, Liz, Gulf Breeze	E.Pinnell EPA8478	686-9011
Poole-Kober, Evelyn, ASRL, RTP	MAD/ESRL EPA8491	629-4536
Pride, Priscilla, Atlanta	Library.Reg.IV EPA9415	257-4216
Ramponi, Lois, OTS, DC	Library.TSCA EPA7565	382-2321
Rapp, Brigid, IAB, DC	B.Rapp EPA3735	475-8710
Ross, Debbie, IAB, DC	D.Ross EPA3821	475-7705
Rosseel, Kevin, PIC, DC	K.Rosseel EPA3734	475-7751
Sears, Julianne, Seattle	Library.Reg.X EPA9085	399-1289
Sims, Janice, Athens	ERL/Athens EPA8431	250-3324
Sunnen, Linda, San Francisco	Library.Reg9 EPA9956	556-6597
Szefczyk, Dorothy, Edison	C.Equo EPA9299	340-6762
Talsma, Debbie, Ann Arbor	OMS/AMS EPA6476	374-8311
Thorn, Rosemary, RTP, NC	R.Thorn EPA3025	629-0094
Tilley, Lou, Chicago	Library.Reg5 EPA9559	353-2022
Wagner, Barbara, Denver	Library.Reg.VIII EPA9869	330-1444
Wickman, Doreen, Las Vegas	Library.LV EPA8239	545-2648
Young, Lisa, DC	L.Young EPA3729	382-3021

Remember:

Use E-mail box name "all.libraries" to send messages to all EPA libraries, including all regional and laboratory sites.

Use E-mail box name "reg.libraries" to send messages to all regional EPA libraries.

Please send any changes or corrections to Mary Hoffman at M. Hoffman/EPA30360 or call FTS 382-5930.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
AND RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT

MAR 15 1991

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: INFOACCESS Bulletin
FROM: *Daina Balkus*
Daina Balkus, Director
Information Management and Services Division
TO: Assistant Regional Administrators
Senior Information Resource Management Officials
Administrative Council Members
IRM Branch Chiefs

The Information Management and Services Division is pleased to present INFOACCESS, a new bulletin which has been created to improve communication among the members of the EPA Library and Records Networks and throughout the EPA information resources management community.

Attached for your information are the first two issues of INFOACCESS. Monthly issues will alternately focus on library and records topics such as imaging, space planning, training, and information sharing. INFOACCESS replaces Information Exchange, our bulletin previously oriented to only the Library community. The primary goals of INFOACCESS are the following:

- Create paths for effective information sharing throughout the EPA information resources management community.
- Engage information professionals interested in information access and technology issues.
- Provide technical information and current news about activities and projects of the Records and Library Networks.

INFOACCESS will provide a forum for the discussion and analysis of significant information issues. Readers will be asked to share their professional experiences, ideas and concerns with their colleagues.

I hope you will find INFOACCESS useful and informative. If you have any questions about INFOACCESS, please contact me at 8-382-5914 or Brigid Rapp, Chief, Information Access Branch, at 8-475-8710.

Attachments

cc: Al Pesachowitz
William Henderson
OIRM Division Directors
Information Delivery Order Project Officers
Docket Managers
Librarians
Records Contacts