

EPA INFO ACCESS



Library Network Communications

Why Do We Need a Library Strategy?

by Jonda Byrd, IMSD

Happy New Year! Traditionally this is the time of the year when we take a look at the status quo and make resolutions about how we will improve the way we do things. Just as we do this for our personal affairs, it is also a good time to evaluate the status of our professional affairs and think about how to improve the way our library and library network does things.

So let's look at the network... The EPA Library Network was established over 20 years ago. During that time we have seen times of growth and expansion, and times of budget reductions and downsizing. We have survived as a network because we have an important mission - one that is integral to the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency. We have also survived because the network consists of

Efficient and cost-effective access to information and data about the environment and related scientific, technical, management and policy information is critical to the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out its mission.

*Chapter 12 - Library Services,
IRM Policy Manual*

a group of professionals that are dedicated to providing quality service to their clients.

We can be certain the network will continue because each library in the network is supported by all the libraries. Individual libraries

may be suffering during one fiscal cycle or the next because of a lack of resources but they can still function because of the support of the network. During difficult times librarians can still share their expertise and resources. They can use the opportunity to plan, change, improve for the future. It may be difficult to look beyond current problems and draft long-range plans, but that is the type of activity that sustains us as a network.

To that end it is time that we look again at the library network strategy. The library network first developed a strategy in 1987, and it has been updated periodically since that year, the latest update coming in 1990. The focus of the strategy has shifted over the years, but the mission of the network remains the same:

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to effectively utilize library resources to support the Agency's mission. Some adjustments have been made to help the libraries adapt to a changing budgetary climate, but most have been made to accommodate developments in information technology.

The network strategy is an important tool in our continuing effort to make the library network integral to EPA and to change perceptions about what libraries are all about. Strategies help managers and librarians prioritize needs, justify resource requests, and gain management support. The network strategy, comprised of a mission statement, goals, objectives, and action items, is intended as a model - a starting point for each of the individual libraries. From that starting point each library can take pertinent elements and develop its own plan with realistic goals and objectives.

Some libraries have already started to develop their own strategies, for example, the Region VII Library in Kansas City and the EMSL-Las Vegas Library. See the article on page 6 that describes their plans.

A strategy for a network such as the EPA Library Network is most effective if it reflects the ideas and needs of its members. I have worked with a few network members to produce a revised draft strategy, and will be asking the network to review it. I will be sending out copies of the draft strategy for their comments and input. This is your opportunity to help us plan for the future, and I appreciate your assistance. ☼

INFOACCESS

INFOACCESS, a forum to provide information and report on progress in information management across the Agency, is produced by the Information Access Branch (IAB) of the Information Management and Services Division (IMSD), Washington, DC, under the direction of Jonda Byrd, National Library Network Program Manager. Please send comments and suggestions to: Mary Hoffman (contractor), Network Coordinator, PM-211B, EPA Headquarters Library, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Telephone: (202) 260-7762. Electronic mail: Hoffman. Mary.

ACCESS EPA Online!

The database version of *ACCESS EPA* is up and running as part of the Online Library System (OLS). **ACCESS EPA Online** contains information from the printed *ACCESS EPA*, a directory of U.S. EPA and other public sector information sources, which is maintained by the Office of Information Resources Management. The information in the database was taken from the completely revised 1992 edition of *ACCESS EPA*.

There are about 300 records in the database, all providing contact information, brief descriptions, and, where appropriate, ordering information. The items are grouped into ten chapters. These chapters may be used to conduct a general search by information medium, such as hotline, database, model, clearinghouse, etc. An online overview outlines the type of information contained in each chapter.

Subject searching may be conducted in each of twelve fields, and the KEYWORD field can be used to locate information in the subject, description, means of access and products/outreach fields in one combined search. Users can also search the subject, title, public contact, description, sponsoring office, means of access, products/outreach, and address fields separately.

Jonda Byrd, Suzanne Annand, and Ann Dugan (contractor), IMSD, worked with computer support staff in Research Triangle Park to modify search options and improve ease of access to the information. They also developed a system overview and Help screens to assist novice and occasional users. After a few modifications, the database became available through the public access menus in late December.

Supplemental information from the printed volume of *ACCESS EPA*, such as that on EPA's background and organization, a list of Federal depository libraries, non-library state contacts, and a list of acronyms is included in the online version. Most of this information can be found in the title field.

For additional information on *ACCESS EPA* products and services contact Suzanne Annand, Information Management and Services Division, at (202) 260-8298, or Ann Dugan (contractor), Public Access Librarian, at (202) 260-2049. ☼

Delivering Information Electronically !!

As more sophisticated technology becomes available to information providers they will have to learn how how to apply it. For example, as the number and use of local area networks (LANs) and wide area networks (WANs) multiply, the sophistication of the users will increase proportionately. Information providers will have to develop ways to effectively use new systems such as LANs to make information available to their clients. We have discovered that a number of EPA libraries are providing information to Agency clients electronically and thought you'd like to know more about it. We have selected four examples of this type of electronic dissemination: the Transition Service from the Headquarters Library, the Mid-Morning Newsbreak from the OPPT Library, and Federal Register Updates from the Region 1 and CRL-Annapolis libraries.

The Headquarters Library's Transition

Service by Lois Ramponi (contractor), Head Librarian, HQ Library

At the request of the Information Management and Services Division, Headquarters Library staff developed an electronic current awareness service containing materials relating to the presidential transition. The alert service is sent out daily via All-in-One and is intended to continue until the presidential inauguration on January 20, 1993.



A reference librarian conducts an online search in DIALOG to locate articles in the *Washington Post* and the wire services and then downloads the full text. Knowing how busy our clients are, the librarian extracts the most interesting or relevant portions of lengthy articles for inclusion. The librarian also scans the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* daily for relevant articles. Excerpts from these articles are then added to the service.

We have also added items from Congressional Quarterly's *Weekly Report*, BNA's *Daily Executive Report* and Inside EPA's *Environmental Policy Alert*. The final version of the news service is uploaded into All-in-One and sent out over that system to individuals on the distribution list.

The original distribution list included Assistant and Deputy Assistant Administrators, Regional and Assistant Regional Administrators, SIRMOS, and Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM) Office and Division Directors. At the request of Christian Holmes, AA, OARM, the EPA transition team was included in the distribution list. The service has also been distributed to the EPA Library Network, for other libraries to share with their clients. We've maintained an "open door" policy, adding any EPA employee who requests to have their name added. In addition, paper copies of the daily alerts and the full text of relevant news articles are posted on a bulletin board in the Headquarters Library, for library browsers to peruse.

The response to the service has been overwhelmingly positive. Agency staff are eager to receive this information, and appear to enjoy having it delivered to their desktop. If the number of people asking to be added to the distribution list is an indicator, this service is a hit!

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More on *Delivering Information Electronically*

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OPPT Library's *Mid-Morning*

Newsbreak by Randy Brinkhuis (contractor),
Librarian, OPPT Library with Mary Hoffman
(contractor), Network Coordinator

The OPPT Library in Washington developed an electronic current awareness service called MID-MORNING NEWSBREAK. It provides relevant information to people on a timely basis, and promotes the library and its resources. Much of the news featured in NEWSBREAK is late-breaking, non-technical, and time-sensitive. In other words, a perfect product for distributing to agency staff at the speed of light.

NEWSBREAK is one way the library tells you what is happening "out there." It is also one way of alerting you to what's "down here," that is, in the basement of the Northeast Mall (401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC) where the OPPT Library is located. NEWSBREAK provides a "window" to the library which is physically separated from its principal clients in the East Tower and other distant points in the Waterside Mall complex. Without leaving their office or cubicle EPA staff are linked electronically to the library and its resources. Hence the library's motto,

***Closer to you than
you might imagine.***

MID-MORNING NEWSBREAK is one of several current awareness tools provided by the staff of the OPPT Library. Each weekday morning, a library employee scans the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*, as well as other newspapers and periodicals for information related to the mission of EPA and the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. Staff select news items and provide quotes or abstracts to produce a concise, easy-to-read summary of the news-of-the-day about toxics, pollution prevention, and the chemical industry. NEWSBREAK is then transmitted from the library to its readers via All-in-1.

The aim of the staff is to keep NEWSBREAK to a maximum of two pages. The staff monitor and include news about toxic chemicals from a human health and ecological perspective; risk assessment and communication; pollution prevention; the chemical manufacturing industry; biotechnology; EPA science policy as well as some general environmental information. Articles on government action about specific chemicals are highlighted. Articles on Superfund, hazardous waste, acid rain, and global warming are generally **not included**. Occasionally the staff will include announcements of OPPT Library acquisitions, products and services and announcements, or relevant Congressional hearings. Highlights from major journals and other publications of interest to OPPT staff are also included.

NEWSBREAK involves an initial investment of time to locate and enter the articles, but once that is accomplished, no additional effort is needed to send out extra copies. The savings in time, paper, and energy are noteworthy. The library can be flexible about the service: it will send NEWSBREAK on a weekly basis to those who request it; the weekly update is a much larger document, sometimes 5-10 pages long. Or the library can suspend delivery of NEWSBREAK to individual requesters for any time period requested. The staff also keeps a paper copy of NEWSBREAK in the library for users to scan.

The library keeps a copy of all articles cited in NEWSBREAK for those who want to read the full text. They caution readers, though, that their newspapers are discarded after three weeks. Copies of articles that have "lasting value" are added to the library's vertical file. EPA staff and contractors located off-site can request copies of articles via interlibrary loan through their local or Regional EPA library.

NEWSBREAK has received an enthusiastic response from EPA staff and contractors alike. OPPT Library staff continue to explore other means of making NEWSBREAK available.

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*The trend of library policy is clearly toward
the ideal of making all information
available without delay to all people.*

*- The Software Toolworks Illustrated Encyclopedia,
Groslier Electronic Publishing, Inc.*

Region 1's Federal Register Service

by Peg Nelson (contractor), Regional Manager,
Region 1 Library

The Region 1 Library recently began promoting its electronic version of the *Federal Register* Table of Contents Service to all Regional staff. The library can now deliver the consolidated Table of Contents for EPA listings from the weekly *Federal Register* (CD/FR from Counterpoint Inc.) to an unlimited number of Regional requesters via the Local Area Network (LAN).

The service began several years ago with distribution of a photocopied version of the Table of Contents to a select group of recipients. With the recent implementation of a new electronic capability, the distribution was broadened and currently includes 35 subscribers from Air, Environmental Services, Regional Council, Water, Waste, and Planning & Management divisions.

The electronic delivery of this information saves staff time in preparation, eliminates photocopying and mailing, and is easy for the recipient to read and delete. Subscribers can easily locate the full text of items of interest either in hardcopy or search the CD/FR from their *WordPerfect Office* menu and read, print or download selected text.

One staff member has two long rules (100 pages or so) in electronic format for easy searching using *WordPerfect* word search capability. He can then turn to hard copy or keep reading the electronic version. Text is ready for incorporation into letters, memos, draft rulemaking for states, etc.

Annapolis' Federal Register Summary

by Arlene Howard (contractor), CRL Librarian

Each week the Librarian at the Central Regional Laboratory (CRL) prepares two documents for electronic delivery to EPA staff: a bulletin titled *INFOstructure* and a *Federal Register* summary. This information helps to inform CRL's staff about literature in the environmental chemistry field and EPA regulations. The documents are distributed electronically via LAN on *WordPerfect Office*.

INFOstructure contains brief citations for articles of interest relating to environmental chemistry and lab safety, EPA regulations, news, newsletters, books, and documents received during the previous week and notices of upcoming meetings of interest to CRL's staff. The *Federal Register* summary lists rules, proposed rules, notices, and meeting announcements which EPA has published during the previous week in the *Federal Register*, Section 40 CFR.

If anyone is interested in being placed on the distribution list to regularly receive a copy of either of these documents via All-in-1, contact Arlene; her e-mail address is Howard.Arlene.



We Know You're Doing It Too ...

We're sure that many more of the EPA libraries are delivering information electronically to their clients, and we would like to share their great ideas and successes. Anyone who wants to share news or tips about the electronic delivery of information, or plans to implement such a service, can contact Jonda Byrd, Network Program Manager, at (513) 569-7183, or Mary Hoffman (contractor), Network Coordinator, at (202) 260-7762. We will work with you to put together your information for publication in a future issue of *INFOACCESS*. ♣

Developing Library Strategies: Case Studies from the Region VII and EMSL-Las Vegas Libraries

The Information Management and Services Division (IMSD) in Washington periodically revises its Network Library Strategy to ensure that it conforms to the Office of Information Resources Management's strategic plan and the Agency's current mission statement. IMSD's Library Network Program Manager, Jonda Byrd, encourages the EPA librarians to use the goals and objectives outlined in this network strategy as guidelines for developing a strategy for their library.

A number of libraries have outlined goals and developed strategies for their library operations and services. Most have made the most of statistics to support their stated goals and priorities for service. We will take a look at two examples in this article, a revised strategy from the Region VII Library and a Five-Year modernization/automation plan from EMSL Library in Las Vegas.

Planning for the Region VII Information Resources Center (IRC)

The Region VII librarian, Barbara MacKinnon (contractor) and her manager, Mark Hague revised their library strategy focusing on the provision of information services with an emphasis on electronic resources. Their first step was to assess the growth in library services over the previous year or two and then compare their productivity in terms of services provided by Region VII library staff relative to the other EPA Regional libraries. Their assessment showed that improved communication, marketing and organization over the past two years generated substantial increases in

Region VII Library Draft Vision Statement

The Library/IRC staff drafted the following "Vision Statement" with the intent of circulating it among supervisors for comment, suggestions, additions, feedback, and eventual consensus.

The Information Resource Center [IRC] will be an integral part of the provision and sharing of information within Region VII. It will serve as the link between the person with the need for information and the source of the information. The "standard" sources will be augmented by a wide range of databases, bulletin boards, CD-ROM's, bibliographic software, online services, networks, and other electronic sources of information. The IRC staff will be knowledgeable in their use and available for "coaching" or for searching. All the information sources within the Regional office will be known to and available to everyone.

The Records Centers, IRC, and Publications Center will share the responsibility for storing and disseminating information along clearly defined, logical guidelines, without duplication of effort or storage. An index to all books, documents, and reports housed in Region VII (including those in the program areas) will be available on the LAN. ♦

library service: a 172% increase in requests handled per month, and a 329% increase in the number of interlibrary loan requests handled, and that the Region VII library compared very favorably to other Regional libraries in terms of productivity.

Once the assessment was completed, they began to frame their goals. They reasoned that accomplishment of priorities in previous years relating to centralized ordering, receiving, and distribution of printed sources would free up library resources for the development of other sources of information, especially electronic sources. One of the goals in the revised strategy calls for library staff to become experts in electronic databases and bulletin boards - what information is available, how to access them, how to use them efficiently.

Marketing was also a high priority, especially since the library staff discovered that word of the increased use of library services had not been reaching the right people. The staff came up with some new ideas to promote the library including weekly activity reports, staff updates, weekly memos to division directors outlining service provided to their staff, and presentations to senior managers.

Their recent move provided an excellent opportunity to implement the new strategy and introduce a new name for the library: Information Resources Center [IRC]. The new floor plan of the IRC is consistent with the greater importance of information research and electronic sources, and the decreasing importance of books and journals.

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A Plan for Modernization and Automation at the EMSL-Las Vegas Library

The modernization/automation plan developed by the EMSL-LV Library is a bit different from the strategy done by Region VII. It is another good example of the type of long-range planning the EPA library network should be doing. Camille Clark Wallin (contractor) EMSL Librarian, coordinated the discussion that went into this five-year plan. The introduction to the plan states that *"the goal is to utilize available resources to anticipate and respond to the information requirements of EPA staff to further the mission of the Laboratory."* It explains that it is the first of a succession of five-year plans that will present recommendations for expanding and improving library services through the automation and modernization of basic library functions.

The library staff projects that the modernization process will take two fiscal year cycles to complete, after which the plan will evolve into an automation plan. [The distinction is explained in more detail in the text of the plan.] The introductory text also states that future revisions of the plan

will include special emphasis on library automation considerations in light of a planned new facility. Automation considerations will be based on capabilities identified in an EMSL-LV Library space plan and will include the continued incorporation of recommendations made by the Library Advisory Committee.

Modernization

The first part of the plan contains sections on manual techniques and automated techniques for modernization. The section on manual techniques discusses the establishment of a collection of test methods, reviewing profiles for microfiche, evaluation and weeding certain collections, drafting justifications for new photocopying equipment and workstations, drafting a disaster plan, investigating the use commercial document delivery services, and drafting a library policy & procedures manual.

Some of the action items outlined in the section on automated techniques are ...

- ◆ Ensure that staff are trained to create catalog records for books and documents.

- ◆ Establish accounts with other database vendors.

- ◆ Obtain a modem for the librarian's workstation.

Automation

The automation section of the EMSL-LV plan explains that there are two kinds of automation done in libraries: automating manual library processes and implementing computers for increased functionality and delivery of services. The EMSL-LV Library made great strides in both areas during FY92.

The first part of the automation section of the plan discusses the automation of library services and functions. The plan recommends that the library obtain a system to track procurement requests for books and subscriptions; obtain microcomputer-based software to produce bibliographies, track library costs, and manage subscriptions; and modify existing systems to provide necessary functions.

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Region VII IRC Goals

The following goals are outlined in the Region VII strategy, as drafted by the library staff and library manager:

Goal 1: To be the link between the person with the need for information and the source of the information.

Goal 2: To market the IRC so that every staff member in the Region VII office is aware of the resources available and uses them to maximize his/her job performance.

Goal 3: To prepare for, make recommendations for, and assist in carrying out the move of the library into new space.

Goal 4: To transfer to Procurement the responsibility and procedures for centralized ordering of books, reports,

journals, and other Library/IRC materials; to retain a consulting role to maintain smooth operation.

Additional Information Supports the Strategy

Barb included some interesting supplementary material as appendices to the strategy: Service Provided by the Library; Library Service Compared to Other Regional Libraries; a Draft Vision Statement [see the box on page 6]; Ideas for a new Wetlands Collection; Proposed Library Services using the Regional LAN; and a Draft presentation for Senior Staff. These appendices add a great deal to the Region VII strategy and may give you some ideas for your planning document. ▲

Five-Year Plan from page 7

The second part of the section describes automation that supports the delivery of library services, recommending that library staff:

- ◆ Coordinate Internet access through Agency and other local ports, including training for library staff.
- ◆ Obtain additional microcomputers for staff to increase staff efficiency.
- ◆ Secure CD-ROM readers to take advantage of capabilities of the technology for storing and retrieving information.
- ◆ Arrange to make CD-ROM materials available through the EMSL-LV LAN.
- ◆ Investigate the possibility of developing electronic library forms.
- ◆ Include the librarian as a technical advisor for planning on the optical disk documents project team.

Related Issues

The last part of the plan discusses related issues that will probably affect the library's plans for modernization and automation. The following issues are mentioned:

- ◆ Replacement of old technology with new technology.
- ◆ Library staff training on EPA-specific systems such as electronic mail and other in-house systems.
- ◆ LAN access for electronic delivery of information to EMSL staff.
- ◆ Continued expansion of office automation at the laboratory.
- ◆ Library staff participation in the optical publishing "loop" for access to just-published EMSL-LV reports.

There are also some IRM-related issues that will affect the library's productivity and ability to provide information services. These are:

- ◆ The establishment of a records management program; the library and records management staffs should complement each other in their goal to preserve and provide access to information for laboratory staff.
- ◆ Increased cooperation and coordination with the laboratory's Technical Information Manager to improve access to EMSL-LV's publications.
- ◆ Increased coordination with EMSL-LV's IRM planning process so the library's plans will be in line with laboratory-wide information resources planning.
- ◆ Early coordination and cooperation with the Nuclear Radiation Assessment Division and the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air-Las Vegas Facility staff so their library collections can be effectively merged with the EMSL-LV library collection when the new facility is ready for occupancy.

The plan also contains supplementary information including a timeline listing currently identified resource requirements and a list of library advisory committee members for further reference.

Sharing Strategies and Plans

The Library Network would like to encourage its members to share their plans and strategies and similar documents with their colleagues. You can add your plans to the file of network products by send them to Mary Hoffman (contractor) Network Coordinator at the Public Information Center, PM-211B, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Fax (202) 260-6257. If you have questions or would like to see something from the file you can contact her at (202) 260-7762. ♀



At a recent meeting in Washington, the Environment and Resource Management Division of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) invited Carol Watts, Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Library (NLE), to talk about the status of the proposal for a National Library for the Environment. Carol is a member of the committee charged with drafting the NLE proposal. Following is a summary of her remarks.

Background

The proposal for a National Library for the Environment (NLE) is part of a larger proposal for a National institutes for the Environment (NIE) being promoted by Stephen Hubbell and Henry Howe, founders of the Committee for the NIE (CNIE). They founded the CNIE to try to resolve a number of problems relating to the creation and use of environmental information in the Federal government. The proposed NLE would attempt to resolve the problem of access to environmental information by serving as a central point for it.

At the EPA/NOAA Librarians Meeting in April 1992 David Blockstein, Executive Director, CNIE, told that group that the CNIE petitioned Congress to look into the idea of a National Library

The National Library for the Environment

for the Environment and that Congress had approved a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study of the NLE proposal in 1990. The NAS report and a CNIE response to the report should be completed in early 1993.

What Will the NLE Look Like?

About a year and a half ago, a group of interested information professionals met in California to talk about the NLE proposal. Their topic of discussion: what would NLE look like? The participants of this session agreed that the organizational structure for NLE be a hybrid — combining a centralized organization with distributed, network-based collections and services.

They recommended that the NLE staff should include librarians, data managers, database managers, telecommunications specialists, network managers, and graphic designers. These professionals would work with experts in information access and the environmental sciences. One of the continuing and potentially controversial questions is who the library would serve. The answer to that question will probably depend on the library's support and funding. Obviously NLE can't do everything for everyone, and its service priorities will be determined by those who pay the bills.

What Will the NLE Do?

There has been much discussion by the NLE committee about its purpose and mission. Most committee members agree that the NLE will:

- ◆ Provide a single channel to the Nation's environmental libraries, archives, data and information centers;
- ◆ Promote the integration and sharing of quality environmental information to enhance sound science and decision-making;

The National Library for the Environment's Purpose:

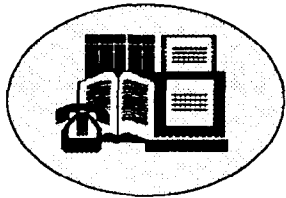
The National Library for the Environment (NLE) will promote integrated, rapid and equitable access to environmental information and data vital to the health and welfare of our national interests. The NLE will be a prominent and distinct entity within the proposed National Institutes for the Environment (NLE), a new U.S. agency that will be established to serve national environmental priorities, set goals, and support environmental research, education and training. ♦

- ◆ Encourage the cross-disciplinary exchange of ideas;
- ◆ Inform the Nation's citizenry by providing open, full, and timely information about environmental issues;
- ◆ Enhance business and industrial consciousness and competitiveness;
- ◆ Enhance the Nation's participation in global, environmental information networks and activities;
- ◆ Promote information and data standards;
- ◆ Promote the preservation of data and information in relevant formats.

What Are the Benefits of an NLE?

For scientists and researchers the NLE will foster easier, faster and more thorough research, and provide a public forum for displaying their research results.

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Region 3. HW Technical Information Center - PRP* Search Workshop

A workshop entitled, "Online Sources of Information on Companies and Their Principals," was conducted by Dawn Shellenberger (contractor), HWTIC Librarian, with assistance from Region 3 Librarian Diane McCreary and a Superfund civil investigator. The workshop focused on databases available through commercial online services to which the Region 3 libraries subscribe, i.e. DIALOG, Dow Jones News Retrieval, DataTimes, Dunsnet, and LEXIS/NEXIS. Presenters also discussed four other systems to which the Superfund civil investigators subscribe - *Information America*, *Metronet*, *Realist*, and *Transunion*. The material discussed in the workshop was derived primarily from a catalog of online company information sources in database form assembled by Dawn and her assistant. The catalog will be made available to Region 3 EPA and contract staff through the Information Booth on the Regional LAN. Workshop handouts included the introductory pages and appendices from the online catalog as well as sample records from some of the databases highlighted during the session.

* PRP = Potentially Responsible Party

Region 9 Pollution Prevention Library - Reaching Out With PIES

Karen Sundheim (contractor) Pollution Prevention Librarian, demonstrated the Pollution Prevention Information Exchange System (PIES) at the Third Annual Pollution Prevention Conference for Local Governments. She reported that there was a considerable amount of interest in the system, as demonstrated by numerous requests for PIES access numbers and manuals. Karen accumulated a long list of information requests while networking with local government staff members; she was asked questions on topics ranging from pollution prevention case studies to training information and funding sources.



ERL Library, Gulf Breeze - Heavy Metal Research

The Gulf Breeze Librarian, Liz Pinnell (contractor), worked with the laboratory's senior scientist to assemble information on heavy metals. The information was used to prepare a presentation handout for a seminar on the environmental aspects of heavy metal pollution that was conducted by the scientist at Pensacola Junior College. Liz has also provided other information for laboratory research projects on sediment toxicity testing and the biodegradation of hazardous chemicals under anaerobic conditions. This is a good example of the way EPA librarians support Agency scientists.

OPPT Library - Using Internet to Spread the Word About TRI

Lisa Capozzoli (contractor) TRI Librarian, successfully used Internet to disseminate some information about the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). Her Internet "message" explained the purpose of TRI and described the various means of accessing TRI data. As a result Lisa received numerous requests for additional TRI information. Since this experiment at sharing information over the Internet was a success, Lisa and OPPT Library staff are currently exploring further use of Internet to disseminate TRI and related information to a wide range of individuals and institutions.

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Around the Library Network

This section of INFOACCESS is used to report on upcoming meetings and projects currently underway in the Regions, Laboratories, and Headquarters. Anyone with contributions for this column should contact Mary Hoffman (contractor), Network Coordinator, at (202) 260-7762.

HQ Hazardous Waste Superfund Collection - Enhanced FolioViews Version Now Available

Felice Sacks (contractor) Hazardous Waste Superfund Librarian-HQ, has been working on an enhanced version of the Hazardous Waste Superfund Database (HWSFD) in *FolioViews*. The enhanced version contains the Hazardous Waste Superfund database with 5800+ records with abstracts from the Hazardous Waste Collection at the Headquarters Library and other related information.

The Collection contains Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) directives, Superfund Records of Decision, EPA reports on Hazardous waste topics, toxicological profiles and health assessment documents, videos, journals, books, and other government documents. Also included in the enhanced version of the database is information from the NTIS database on groundwater and remediation, and a variety of documents from OSWER including images of Superfund and RCRA fact sheets and guidance documents that have been scanned in.

FolioViews is a hypertext application which allows users to access the information contained in databases. Searches can be performed using Boolean [and/or] logic, and print options and help screens are built into the program. One of its strengths is that it can be used on a LAN, in fact a number of libraries have worked to make it available through their Regional LAN. It is also available on the CLU-IN Bulletin Board. Users will find that although it will work on a black & white monitor, a color monitor is preferable. Another nice feature is that windows can be brought up on the screen and then cycled behind each other. For those interested in obtaining a copy, there are two versions of the database available, one takes up 6 megabytes and the other 10 megabytes; the larger file contains more graphic images.

In the interest of further improving this valuable database, Felice would like to know if the Regional librarians have ideas about other information that could be included. *FolioViews* can accommodate information in the form of graphics, charts, pictures, and even video or audio clips. Information in any format - word processing, dbase files, etc. - can be imported into *Folio Views*.

If you would like more information about the database, or would like to see something added to it, contact Felice at (202) 260-3021 or at Sacks.Felice on All-in-1.



Headquarters Library - Beta-Testing Envirotext [a.k.a. CELDS]

The Headquarters Library will participate in beta-testing for the *Envirotext Retrieval System*, an enhanced collection of databases incorporating the Army Corps of Engineers' Computer-Aided Environmental Legislative Data System (CELDS). The EPA, Army and DOE are the government grantor agencies involved in the development of *Envirotext*, and they will be the first to test the pilot system in 1993. When it is complete, the system will contain state and Federal statutes and regulations covering environmental, facility siting, health & safety matters; Federal executive orders; the status of Congressional legislation; Federal interagency agreements; Native American tribal laws; Tribal and international treaties; and various other documents. System coordinators project that the system will be available for general use during FY94. *

NLE from page 9

For American citizens the NLE will provide a friendly interface with an environmental community comprised of government, academic and corporate participants. The NLE staff will help users determine the best sources of information and data.

For the nation, the NLE will mean better coordinated access to information which should help to accelerate environmental research. It will improve environmental decision-making and reduce duplication of research.

A Vision for the Future

Carol noted that the NLE proposal is a "vision for the future," and it will take more than a few months to establish a project of this size. It is difficult to predict what will happen in the coming months, but Carol assured the group that the committee for the NLE will continue to discuss the issues and refine the proposal.

The proposal committee is still open to suggestions. Although EPA has no formal representative on the committee, Brigid Rapp and Jonda Byrd, IMSD, have contributed to the current proposal and will continue to submit suggestions to the committee. If you have ideas for the NLE proposal committee, contact Jonda at (513) 569-7183 or on email at Byrd.Jonda. If you would like to contact Carol Watts at NOAA, her number is (301) 443-0237; her Internet address is Watts@NODC. DNET.NASA.GOV. ☼

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PIC LIST



Carpet and Indoor Air Quality
[Fact Sheet], October 1992.

Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1992 Update. Executive Summary, July 1992, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). EPA 530-S-92-019

Clean Air Act of 1990: A Guide to Public Financing Options, 1992 Environmental Financial Advisory Board. Prepared for the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee.

EPA's Endangered Species Protection Program [fact sheet], June 1992, Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances

Review of Draft Passive Smoking Health Effects Document, November 1992, Science Advisory Board, EPA SAB-IAQC-93-003 (*Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders* - EPA 600-6-90-006B is available from CERL - call (513) 569-7562)

Summary of Markets for Scrap Tires, October 1991, OSWER, EPA 530-SW-90-074B

Superfund and Enforcement Program Publications Update, August 1992, OSWER, EPA OSWER 9200.021

Targeting Indoor Air Pollution: EPA's Approach and Progress,

September 1992, Office of Air and Radiation. EPA 400-R-92-012

Terms of Environment: Glossary, Abbreviations and Acronyms, September 1992, Office of Communications, Education, and Public Affairs. EPA 175-B-92-001

Wetlands Protection Hotline Fact Sheet, 1992, Office of Water

National Priorities List (NPL) Titles ...

Background Information: National Priorities List Final and Proposed Rules, October 1992, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). EPA OSWER 9320.7-041

Descriptions of 19 Sites Proposed for the National Priorities List Before October 1992, October 1992, OSWER.

Descriptions of 33 Sites Placed on the Final National Priorities List in October 1992, October 1992, OSWER. EPA OSWER 9320.7-061

Final and Proposed Sites [by site name], October 1992, OSWER

Supplementary Materials: National Priorities List, Final and Proposed Rules, OSWER. EPA OSWER 9320.7-051 ☼