

## Register for support staff teleconferences

ACRL is cosponsoring the National Institute for Library Personnel teleconference produced by the College of DuPage (COD) in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. "Soaring for Excellence" will deliver ten live, interactive, satellite teleconferences and train 30,000 library assistants at 300 viewer sites. The programs, which will provide specialized training for support staff in library and information services, will be broadcast beginning on February 14, 1995, and then on the first Tuesday of each month through June 1995. COD was awarded a \$125,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Education to produce the teleconferences.

The programs—covering topics such as "Libraries Then and Now: What Does the Future Hold," "Individualized Library Service for a Diverse Population," and "Technology and the Library Staff,"—form a core framework for developing skills in working as a member of the library team. Continuing education and college credits will be offered for the teleconferences. Bernard Fradkin, dean of the Learning Resources Center at COD is codirecting the project with Linda Slusar, coordinator of COD's Library Technical Assistant program.

Site registration for the teleconference series is \$295 before November 15, 1994, and \$395 after that date. Individuals wishing to participate in the teleconferences should contact local academic institutions to determine possible locations. For more information call the teleconference hotline at (708) 738-3583 or fax (708) 858-0499.

## Carnegie Mellon selects SIRSI system

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) has selected SIRSI's Unicorn Information Management System to replace the LS2000 library system it's been running for ten years. CMU had been the "alpha test site" for the NOTIS Horizon system, until development of the system was abruptly discontinued and the NOTIS Systems division combined with Dynix as part of Ameritech Library Services (*C&RL News*, September 1994).



Charles Lowry, CMU university librarian, said that "Unicorn is designed to meet our requirements for a second generation library system. It is a UNIX-based open system that vigorously exploits the opportunities presented by client/server architectures in highly networked environments." Lowry added that although following an accelerated pace to replace the system

the search was no less rigorous.

## Imaging initiative launched by Getty

The Getty Art History Information Program (AHIP) has formed an international Imaging Initiative to address issues related to the use of digital images in the arts and humanities. The initiative will foster the development of standards necessary to ensure that scholars, teachers, students, and the general public have access to images of art and cultural objects over electronic communications networks. "The 'information superhighway' offers the possibility for improved access to our artistic and cultural heritage," said Eleanor Fink, director of AHIP. "This potential can only be realized, however, if common approaches are developed for the recording, storage, and distribution of electronic visual information." Concerns addressed by the initiative will include standards, intellectual property rights, and developing a common vision of image access. Jennifer Trant, a specialist in arts information management, will manage AHIP's Imaging Initiative. Trant can be reached by phone at (310) 451-6381, or e-mail at [jtrant@getty.edu](mailto:jtrant@getty.edu).

## ACRL poster session deadline extended

Share your latest creative thinking with your colleagues through a poster session at ACRL's 7th National Conference in Pittsburgh, March 29–April 1, 1995. You now have until December 15 to submit your poster session proposal. Poster sessions are information presentations featuring successful solutions to problems, and unique and innovative library-based projects with important lessons to share with the larger academic and research library community.

## Radioactivity in books and journals

A relatively surprising phenomena that librarians should be aware of has been documented in recent years: radioactivity in the paper used in books and journals. Fortunately, however, the amount of radiation in question is modest and produces only a small increase in the natural background radiation.

The most recent study on this topic<sup>1</sup> analyzed the radioactive emissions from journals containing high-quality paper. The volumes sampled contained varying amounts of radium-226, thorium-232, potassium-40, cesium-137, and other radionuclides. The authors determined that many of these radionuclides were introduced into the paper-making process as part of the clays and other additives used to produce the white color and glossy finish of fine paper.

Two earlier studies<sup>2,3</sup> measured the radioactivity in several hundred books published since the late 1800s in various countries and continents. The books displayed wide variations in radioactive content which was attributed to differences in the types of pulp, the production processes, and the additives used, as well as the year in which the paper was produced.

The bottom line for those of us who work with these materials on a daily basis is en-

couraging. The studies estimate that for individuals working in library settings, the radioactivity from books and journals effectively increases the background radiation rate by between three and ten percent. To put this in perspective, a set of dental x-rays results in a dose of about 9 millirems, which is roughly equivalent to the total annual increases projected for book-related exposure.

Rather than being unduly concerned about our "radioactive" collections, it may be more productive to work with paper manufacturers and publishers towards using different additives which could lower the radionuclide content of high-quality paper.<sup>4</sup>—*Thomas W. Conkling, Pennsylvania State University*

### Notes

1. H. W. Taylor and B. Singh, "Radioactivity in Fine Papers," *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity* 21 (1993): 177-87.

2. B. Y. Lalit, V. K. Shukla, and T. V. Ramachandran, "The Radioactivity Content of Books," *Health Physics* 40 (May 1981): 735-39.

3. B. Y. Lalit and V. K. Shukla, "Radioactivity in Books Produced During the Last 50 Years," *Health-Physics* 47 (Sept. 1984): 447-51.

4. Taylor and Singh, "Radioactivity in Fine Papers," p. 185.

Submit your proposal to Thomas M. Peischl, chair, Poster Sessions Subcommittee, c/o Mankato State University Library, Box 19, Mankato, MN 56002-8400. Detailed instructions may be found in the "Call for Papers" published as an insert in the January 1994 *C&RL News*. Questions? Contact Peischl by e-mail at tpeischl@nmu.edu or phone: (906) 227-1117.

### CJCLS seeks authors

ACRL's Community & Junior College Libraries Section (CJCLS) is actively looking for publication proposals to enrich the literature of community college librarianship. To aid their effort CJCLS has established a permanent Research and Publications Committee. Those interested in developing a research or publication project should request a copy of the section's "Research and Publications Guidelines" from the committee's chair, Beverley

Gass, Dean, Learning Resources Center, Guilford Technical Community College, P.O. Box 309, Jamestown, NC 27282; phone: (910) 454-1126, x2434.

### Internet teleconference to be aired

"Exploring Internet 3: Business and Commercial Applications," sponsored by D & F Associates, Inc., will be telecast on Thursday, December 1 from noon to 2:00 p.m. (EST). The teleconference will feature Mary J. Cronin, professor of management and university librarian at Boston College and author of *Doing Business on the Internet: How the Electronic Highway Is Transforming American Companies*; and Paul Christy, director, Information Lab, STAT-USA, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. Arrangements to view the teleconference can be made by calling (815) 756-2530 or faxing (815) 756-1126.

## USC opens \$27.5M Leavey Library

The University of Southern California's (USC) Leavey Library, designed from the ground up as a "teaching library" opened this fall. Packed with electronics, the Leavey Library was "designed to prepare these students to make critical judgments about this flood of electronic information and to control and use it," said university librarian Peter Lyman.

"We say 'Login and learn,'" said Leavey Library director Chris Ferguson. "Users need to feel comfortable with this technology, not just to use the libraries of today and tomorrow, but to function in an increasingly digital world."

The Leavey Library's features include: a 24-hour-a-day Information Commons furnished with 100 single and group workstations with pie-shaped tables (see photo) to facilitate student interaction and cooperation; a 50-seat auditorium equipped with modern multimedia projection capabilities; 21 rooms for group study and special classes; two learning rooms—one with 15 workstations and one with 25—for training in library skills, database searching, and the use of the Internet; seating for 1,475 patrons; touch screen interactive information kiosks; a computing "Discovery Cen-



**The Information Commons at USC's new Leavey Library was designed to encourage student collaboration.**

ter" where students and faculty can explore the latest in hardware and software; an initial collection of more than 65,000 volumes with room to grow to more than 120,000; a traditional reading room offering reserve services, a periodical reading room with study carrels, comfortable lounges, and tables, and a copy center—all designed for 24-hour use.

The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation donated \$9 million for the project. Other major contributions included \$4.5 million from the Ahmanson Foundation and \$2.5 million from the Weingart Foundation. The library was designed by the architectural firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott. ■

## C&RL editor sought

Applications and nominations are invited for the position of editor of *College & Research Libraries*, the bimonthly, scholarly research journal of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). The editor is appointed for a three-year term which may be renewed for an additional three years. Applicants must be members of ALA and ACRL. Qualifications include professional experience in academic libraries, a record of scholarly publication, editing experience, an understanding of the scholarly communication process, and a broad knowledge of the issues confronting academic libraries.

Some funding for editorial assistance is available, and there is a small honorarium for the editor.

Appointment will be made by the ACRL Board of Directors at the 1995 Annual Conference, upon the recommendation of the search committee and of the ACRL Publications Committee. The incoming editor will assume full responsibility for *C&RL* in July 1996, after a year of working with the outgoing editor.

Nominations, or resumes and letters of application including the names of three references, should be sent to: *C&RL* Search Committee, c/o Hugh Thompson, Program Officer, ACRL/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. The deadline for receipt of applications is December 15, 1994. Finalists will be interviewed at the Midwinter Meeting in February 1995. ■