

## **LIBNET comes to ISU**

Indiana State University Libraries (ISU) is providing access to more than 30 electronic databases through every local area network (LAN) on campus through LIBNET (Library Network). The databases originate from the library's one-year-old CD-ROM Network and complement ISU's LUIS III online catalog which contains the holdings on the ISU libraries and four other academic libraries in Indiana. A team of LIBNET resource librarians has used print, personal contact, and electronic means to promote the new service.

## **LOEX wants BI papers . . .**

For the 21st Annual LOEX National Library Instruction Conference to be held May 14-15, 1993, in Racine, Wisconsin, LOEX solicits abstracts of presentations for Short Instructive Sessions (45 minutes) or Poster Sessions. Topics should relate to methods of teaching and learning and the impact of technology such as the online catalog, CD-ROM indexes, or network communications, but may also deal with aspects that have not changed (if you explain why). Especially sought are submissions covering community colleges, instructional design, design of instructional materials (print), adult and returning students, the usefulness of CAI vs. workbooks vs. credit courses, specific hard-to-use databases or CD-ROM products, collaborative learning, active learning, teaching low-achieving students, and the best ways to teach technology. Send a one-page abstract by January 22, 1993, outlining your session along with your name, address, and telephone number and any audiovisual or special equipment needs to Abstracts, LOEX Clearinghouse, Eastern Michigan University Library, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. For more information call Linda Shirato at (313) 487-0168 between 12 and 5 p.m., EST.

## **. . . and STS wants science research**

The Forum for Science and Technology Library Research Committee of ACRL's Science and Technology Section invites abstracts describing recent research or work in progress of interest to science and/or technology librarians. Com-



mittee members will select individuals to present reports of their research at the 1993 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Research should focus on timely, relevant, and significant aspects of science and/or technology librarianship. Proposals should be limited to one page and should contain an abstract of not more than 250 words, as well as the researcher's

name, institution, phone number, and e-mail address. Abstracts should be submitted by January 1, 1993, to: Kathy Whitley, Science-Engineering Library, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721; phone: (602) 621-6375; or kmwhitl@arizvms or kmwhitl@ccit.arizona.edu.

## **Choice reviews on CARL**

The *Choice* Reviews Database is now available through CARL Systems, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. *Choice* book reviews are brief, critical reviews of scholarly books and quality nonfiction titles commonly found in a college or university library or college bookstore. The database contains more than 26,000 reviews of books reviewed since 1987 and is growing by 600 reviews per month. Libraries that have accessed the *Choice* database have used it for bibliographic instruction and as a reference database, as well as an enhancement to their catalog since it provides the full text of the book review.

## **Get help writing that RFP**

RMG Consultants, Inc. of Chicago is now offering to license its RFPs to libraries. *Request for Proposal for Automated Systems and Services (RFP)* may be of special interest to libraries looking for an automation system. The *RMG Licensed RFP* is available in machine-readable and paper form and the service includes telephone consulting time to answer questions or resolve problems. The cost of the service varies depending on the size of the library and ranges from \$1,500 to \$2,500. The *RFP* represents RMG's 12 years of automation experience and defines the library's requirements for systems and related services. For details contact Barbara Kopystecki of RMG at (312) 321-0432.

## Libraries and librarians needed for international exchanges

ALA's Joint Committee on International Exchanges is building a database of U.S. and international libraries and librarians interested in international study visits or exchanges. Requests for information and inclusion on the database for and from all countries of the world are welcomed, although in 1992-1994 special attention will be given to visits and exchanges with East/Central Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. Librarians considering a study visit abroad are invited to request an input form to be included in the database. Already the Moscow Library Association, the National Library of Romania, the Library and Technical University of Budapest, the University Library at the Lajos Kosuth University in Debrecen (Hungary), the National Library of Prague, and the National University Library of Macedonia have offered to host American librarians. Committee members are prepared to act as go-betweens and to assist those interested in finding sources of financial support.

The committee has received letters from Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and the Commonwealth of Independent States such as this from Lyubov, a reference librarian

in a science library, "Neither we nor our children will live to see the society we are trying to build today. So I dream to see America—country of the future, as I imagine it."

For more information contact Opritsa Popa, chair, ALA IRC/IRRT Joint Committee on International Exchanges, University of California, Davis, Shields Library, Davis, CA 95616.

## Reference help available on the Internet

Need help answering a difficult reference question? "Stumper L" may be able to help. Students at Rosary College's Graduate School of Library and Information Science are operating a listserv on the Internet. Librarians can send in questions they need help finding answers to and the graduate students send the questions on to the over 500 librarians in 5 countries that subscribe. The subscribers then respond directly to the questioners using the Internet.

Questions sent to "Stumper L" have included "What state driver educational manuals allow advertising?" "How can one make a native American dream catcher?" and "What is the origin of the phrase 'run-of-the-mill'?" To subscribe to the service send the message "Sub Stumper L (your name)" to Mail-serv@crf.cuis.edu. ■

## Making the most of your serials budget

During the past four years of increased serials prices coupled with decreased institutional budgets and statewide funding, the University of Massachusetts Medical Center Library (UMMCL) has been able to increase subscriptions from about 2,100 to 2,500 titles. Two approaches made this 20% increase possible.

First, the policy of using only one subscription agent was evaluated and abandoned. Surveys showed that: 1) some publishers gave 10-55% discounts with no added service charges; 2) some domestic subscription agents added 3.5-4.9% service charges for all titles; 3) some domestic book dealers supplied domestic continuations at 12-15% discounts; and 4) some foreign subscription agents discounted foreign titles 3.5-5.0%. Because of these findings, subscriptions were redirected as follows: foreign serials to a foreign agent; discounted domestic titles to the publishers; non-discounted domestic titles to publishers whose total annual subscription costs ex-

ceeded \$10,000; domestic continuations to a book dealer; and remaining titles to a domestic agent.

Second, the need for subscriptions by some of the Medical Center's revenue-generating components was brought to the attention of administrative units. Potential cuts in subscriptions were equated with potential cuts in abilities to provide quality patient care and perform important basic research. As a result, supplemental funds were appropriated in order to maintain and add titles.

Thus, during a period when many academic libraries had to reduce subscription levels, the UMMCL was able to keep pace with the ever-increasing volume of scientific periodical literature. Testifying to the value of this information, the library now supplies over 2,000 interlibrary loan articles per month to its region of the country.—Donald Morton, *University of Massachusetts Medical Center Library* ■