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RLG databases now available on Web

The Research Libraries Group (RLG) opened a new searching option to its RLIN bibliographic database, CitaDel citation files, and English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC). Eureka, RLG's user-friendly searching interface, now makes all of them available through Web browsers.

Patricia Renfro, director of public services for the University of Pennsylvania, welcomed the new service: "In the last two to three years, networks campuswide and worldwide have become a major change agent in higher education—in how people learn, teach, and interact. Equipped with the necessary connectivity and ease of use, users now are challenging their librarians to supply them with good information through a well-organized, smart interface, around the clock. RLG's new Web version of Eureka will help us to do just that."

For more information about Eureka on the Web, including actual demonstration search sessions, visit www.rlg.org/eurekaweb.html. To learn about Eureka search accounts for individuals, departments, or campuswide use contact RLG at bl.sal@rlg.org or call (800) 537-RLIN, option 3.

Call for presentations for off-campus library services

Presentation proposals are sought for the 8th Off-Campus Library Services Conference sponsored by Central Michigan University (CMU) Libraries and CMU's Extended Degree Programs. The conference, to be held April 22–24, 1998, will be in Providence, Rhode Island. Proposals are sought for papers, panels, poster sessions, and forums on topics such as administration, promotion, outcomes, staffing, etc. The call for presentations is available from Connie Hildebrand, Park Library 313, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859; e-mail connie.hildebrand@cmich.edu. Proposals submitted by March 15, 1997, will receive first consideration.

American librarians visit Northern Ireland

From January 25 to February 5 a contingent of 14 American librarians toured libraries and archival collections in Northern Ireland and met with Irish colleagues. The Americans represented a cross section of institutions from the U.S. and visited a similar cross section of Irish institutions.

This library tour was sponsored by the British Council and is part of an ongoing effort to promote a balanced view of Northern Ireland and its political context. The tour was based in Belfast, with day trips to view collections throughout the country. Included in the tour were an introduction to the politics of Northern Ireland and a visit to the parts of Belfast that have seen the most damage from 25 years of civil unrest. The British Council clearly supports the English presence in Northern Ireland, but tour participants enjoyed frank and open discussions of Irish politics and the impact of "The Troubles" on funding for Irish libraries and public institutions.

Participants were treated to evenings of theater, storytelling, and receptions by both

the Northern Ireland Library Association and the British Council's office. The tour provided a valuable overview of the priceless library and archival collections held by various institutions in Northern Ireland including the University of Ulster and Queen's University, two major institutions of higher learning. All libraries have strong Irish collections but, due to the introduction of technology, OCLC, and the Birmingham Library Cooperative Mechanization Project network, materials of all types are easily accessible to all users in the United Kingdom.

For information on upcoming study tours and opportunities for the pursuit of individual projects in Northern Ireland contact Kathy Culpin, Cultural Affairs Assistant, Northern Ireland Cultural Programme, The British Council, Cultural Department, The British Embassy, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008-3600; (202) 588-6500; fax (202) 588-7918; <http://www.britcoun.org/usa>.—*Ann Snoeyenbos, New York University, and R. N. Sharma, West Virginia State College*