SIG Newsletter ası̂s

Panel on Computer Applications in Museums
Thursday, October 6, 1983, 1:10-2:30 p.m.
ASIS 46th Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Washington D.C.

Panelists:
   Philip Leslie, Registrar, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.
   Lenore Sarasan, Willoughby Associates Ltd., Chicago IL
   Rick Holt, Online Computer Systems Inc., Germantown MD

The panelists will discuss the uses that can be made of computers in museums and will attempt to address the question of why museums seem to be so slow to automate.

As Registrar for the Smithsonian Institution, Phil Leslie has become acquainted with a variety of automation projects in various museums. These projects have had varying degrees of success. Mr. Leslie will give an overview of automation projects and discuss types of applications that have been found to be successful, and what plans exist for the future.

Lenore Sarasan was instrumental in developing a computer catalog for the holdings of the Field Museum in Chicago; she has recently guided the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts through the development of a computerized inventory of their collection; and she is involved in a number of other museum automation projects. She is the author of a number of works on museum automation, including "Why Museum Computer Projects Fail," Museum News, January/February, 1981, pp. 40-49. Ms. Sarasan will discuss not only the potentials for the use of computers in museums, but also the problems and pitfalls in planning for automation.

Online Computer Systems Inc. is developing a system for a Catalogue of World Art, sponsored by the Getty Foundation. Experienced with both technical data bases and library automation, Rick Holt will discuss the automation project from the point of view of the software developer. In addition to outlining the current plans for the Getty project, he will discuss the potential for the utilization of new technologies in museum automation.

NEEDED: New SIG/AH Officers for the 1983/84 Year

SIG/AH is in need of new, enthusiastic and energetic people to re-invigorate it. Please come to the Annual Business Meeting, October 6, at 7:30 a.m. (Coffee, tea, and doughnuts will be available).

If you can't make it to the meeting but are willing and interested in rescuing SIG/AH from certain oblivion, please write to me, or call--before the meeting if at all possible.

<div align="right">

Karen Meizner, SIG/AH Chairman 1982/83
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
(816) 561-4000, x-217   4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
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Activity Information Sought

The attached questionnaire is designed to give SIG/AH members an opportunity to share ideas and information. It requests information about your activities related to the information and computer aspects of the Arts and Humanities. Whereas funded projects certainly qualify for inclusion, please feel free to describe other current activities.

Please copy and return more than one form if applicable so that your responses can be summarized and disseminated in a subsequent newsletter. If we get enough response, we may be able to have a session at the '84 ASIS meeting entirely devoted to the projects of our members. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mini Reviews Needed

SIGGRAPH
Symposium on Small Computers in the Arts
International Computer Music Conference
International Conference on Computers and the Humanities
Design and the Information Environment
National Computer Graphics Association
National Educational Computing Conference
Computer Graphics for the Artist and Designer
Syntopican

This list of meetings only hints at the number and variety of those of interest to SIG/AH members. Although we do not have the time or space to include full meeting reviews, reports of highlights would be most welcome. It is difficult to put out a newsletter without contributions from members, so why not send us some information concerning a meeting you have attended.

Books of Interest

Hockey, Susan
A Guide to Computer Applications in the Humanities
London: Gerald Duckworth, 1980, 248 pp (ISBN 0 7156 1315 4;0 7156 1310 3)

Oakman, Robert L.
Computer Methods for Literary Research   PN 73 O24
Columbia SC: U. South Carolina Press, 1980, 235 pp. (ISBN 0 87249 381 4)

Stone, Sue (ed.)
Humanities Information Research: Proceedings of a Seminar; Sheffield 1980
Sheffield: U. Sheffield, 1980, 96 pp. (ISBN 0 906 088 03 8)
(ISSN 0140 3834)
CRUS occasional Paper 4; British Library R&D Report 5588

Corkill, C.; Mann, M.; Stone, S.
Doctoral Students in Humanities; A Small-Scale Panel Study of Information Needs and Uses 1976-1979
Sheffield: U. Sheffield, 1981, 66 pp. (ISSN 0140 3834)
CRUS occasional Paper 5; British Library R&D Report 5637

Editor Needed

An Editor for this newsletter will be needed to replace Al Stewart after this issue. Is there anyone out there willing to step in?

SIG A/H Project Questionnaire

Name of SIG A/H member:

Organization, address, and phone:

Additional investigators:

Activity objective:

Description of methods and results:

Hardware used:

Project sponsor:

Degree of completion:

Estimated completion date:

Availability of software or other "products" to those
outside your organization:

Journal or report citations describing the work:

Please return to: Ms. Karen Meizner, SIG/AH Chairman 1982/83
                  Spencer Art Reference Library
                  Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
                  4525 Oak Street
                  Kansas City, MO 64111