

SIGnews

APRIL 1987

SIG/ARTS AND HUMANITIES

American Society for Information Science

SIG/AH PROGRAM PLANS FOR BOSTON ASIS MEETING

The 1987 ASIS Annual Meeting in Boston will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Society. An impressive array of keynote speakers and anniversary events are being assembled. The overall theme of the conference is "Information: The Transformation of Society." Each of the four program days has been identified with a particular aspect of that theme, and each day will feature sessions directed to the following subthemes:

***Monday, October 5 - "Transforming Society
Through Information"***

What are the effects of information and information services on society, particularly with respect to education, governance, and cultural institutions?

***Tuesday, October 6 - "Challenges For The
Professions"***

How will the professions (including our own) be changed by information technology and improved access to information resources?

***Wednesday, October 7 - "Information In The
Economy"***

What is the role of information in the economy, locally and internationally, and what are the effects on productivity, growth, and information transfer?

***Thursday, October 8 - "Where Are We Going
From Here?"***

What changes in information technology can we expect, and what are the implications for society and for the information professions?

In keeping with the Anniversary theme, SIG/AH has proposed a panel Session (co-sponsored by SIG/BSS) celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the publication of H. G. Wells' World Brain. June Andel has been in contact with a panel of illustrious speakers for that panel, including two Merit Award winners. In addition, Ralph Dumain has been organizing a sequence of three SIG/AH Sessions on philosophy and information science.

1986 Annual Meeting in Chicago

SIG/AH jointly sponsored two sessions during the 1986 annual meeting in Chicago. The first on the topic Music: Manipulative Medium was sponsored with SIG/BSS, moderated by June Andel, and presented four academically distinguished speakers with a wide range of viewpoints. The inspiration for the program, via Barbara Flood, was Anne H. Rosenfeld's "Music, the Beautiful Disturber" in Psychology Today (December 1985). The thesis is that music is a medium of communication, conveying information according to Shannon-Weaver theories, and that music can be used to influence/manipulate the behavior of the listener. Musicologist Elizabeth Davis connected the Shannon-Weaver theories with the relative information content in piano pieces of Arnold Schoenberg. Musical illustrations clarified the high information content (and its inverse, redundancy) of expected tonal sequences. Behavioral applications were described by Dr. James J. Keenan, Chairman of the Board of Scientific Advisors of MUZAK Corporation. Although representing a commercial organization renowned for exploiting the behavioral effects of music, Dr. Keenan emphasized the subjectivity of the musical experience, citing John Cage's observation, "Music is sound played by millions of hearers," with which Rosenfeld closed her article. The enthusiastic audience participated in an "out-of-body" experience directed by Dr. Dolores Nicosia, a Certified Facilitator in the technique Guided Imagery in Music, a form of music therapy used extensively in hospital settings and in psychological counseling. Dr. Thomas Willis, former music critic of the Chicago Tribune, ended the session on a note of lighthearted philosophical introspection.

SIG/AH also cosponsored with SIG/ED a session on Interactive Videodisk Technology in Research, Education and Training. Linda C. Smith, University of Illinois, moderated the session at which Ching-chih Chen, Simmons College, Boston, spoke on the potential of interactive videodisc technology and demonstrated the Emperor-I project which captures the era of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huangi on videodisc. More than 200,000 still and video images about China's first emperor and his time, accompanied by music and narration, are stored on videodisc. All of the frames can be randomly accessed for close examination by scholars and researchers, or portions can be played sequentially for the general user. The final phase of the project will include the development and dissemination of syllabi for educational use. For more information on Project Emperor-I, contact: Dr. Ching-chih Chen, Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115.

Society for Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer

The Society is a loosely organized group of scholars in the humanities and social sciences interested in the special areas of computerized content and conceptual analysis. These areas are very generally

defined as including methods of lexicography, indexing, and text analysis using conceptual systems such as Roget's "Thesaurus" rather than alphabetical systems of order. Also included in these areas, are studies following earlier models like the GENERAL INQUIRER or Iker's WORDS system, automatic retrieval systems and thesaurus building as well as studies searching for motifs and themes in larger text corpora. Artificial intelligence is of general interest to the SCCAC but does not lie within its main focus.

The function of the Society is to provide a medium of communication and information to scholars working in the various fields within the general area of interest with the least amount of bureaucratic red tape and financial burden. SCCAC will provide addresses of participating scholars, disseminate project descriptions and plans via newsletter, and organize meetings on a regular basis, sometimes in conjunction with ACH (Association for Computers in the Humanities) and ALLC (Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing) conferences. Also, it is a special interest group of ACH.

For more information, contact Society for Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer, c/o Klaus Schmidt, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0170

Computer Special Interest Group in ARLIS/NA

A Computer Special Interest Group has been formed within the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA). It was officially voted on and recognized as the newest SIG at the ARLIS/NA Conference in February 1985 and has organized presentations at the 1986 New York Conference and the 1987 Washington, D.C. conference. It also publishes a column in the Association's journal, Art Documentation. Contact ARLIS at 3775 Bear Creek Circle, Tucson, AZ 85749 for more information, or to contribute articles to the SIG's column in Art Documentation.

Northeast Association for Computing in the Humanities

N.E.A.C.H. (rhymes with reach) brings together humanists in the metropolitan New York area who are interested in computer applications for research and instruction in the humanities. The group meets once a month, generally on Wednesday afternoons, at the I.B.M. Building, 590 Madison Avenue (at 57th Street), New York. The first half of the meeting is basically an informational exchange on groups, products, hardware, software, or whatever. A prepared lecture usually follows. A sampling of lecturers and topics follows.

This past November, Robert Hollander, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Princeton University, spoke on the Dartmouth Dante Project, in which a line-by-line index of the works of Dante has been made available, along with many of the principal commentaries, in machine-readable form. Access to these indexed files, as well as to full-text files, is available through BRS. Plans to distribute the database to IBM PC

owners through diskettes is underway. What is also interesting about this project is that the Kurzweil optical scanning machines are being used for data entry.

At the March 1987 meeting, Nancy Frishberg and Ed Zawacki of I.B.M. Corp. and Bruce Tetelman of Columbia University demonstrated the InfoWindow system, using recorded video images in an application for the teaching of art history. Scheduled for April 1987 is a presentation by Serge Lusignan, Director of the Medieval Institute at the University of Montreal. Dr. Lusignan will discuss a joint project between the Institute and the C.N.R.S., sponsored by the French and Quebec governments, for direct, on-line access for North American users to the manuscript catalogues of the C.N.R.S. For more information regarding the society or planned meetings, contact F. Woodbridge Wilson, President, N.E.A.C.H., Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 East 36 St., New York, NY 10016

Center for Computer Assisted Research in the Humanities

The Center for Computer Assisted Research in the Humanities has published the results of a two-year survey, conducted in 1985-86, to determine how computers are used in the field of Musicology. The 1986 Directory of Computer Assisted Research in Musicology contains entries from commercial firms and independent software designers as well as numerous scholars. A special essay on printing music by computers is included. Projects reported on include bibliographies and indices of both text and music, text and music databases, editions of music, texts, analyses, and analytical methods. The publication is available for \$5.00 from the Center for Computer Assisted Research in the Humanities, 525 Middlefield Road, Suite 120, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415-322-7050).

ScholarNet

ScholarNet, the Academic Computing Network Project based at North Carolina State University, has created HumaNet, an international online computer network for scholars working in the Humanities. Subscribers to HumaNet can go online using their own microcomputer and modem; services include sending of electronic mail, manuscripts in progress, posting notices to bulletin boards, online polling of users, and teleconferencing. For further information, contact Richard W. Slatta, ScholarNet Director, North Carolina State University, Box 8101, Raleigh, NC 27695-8101 (919-737-2908).

Clearinghouse Project on Computerization in Art History, Museum Collections, and Related Visual and Bibliographic Research Support Projects

The Clearinghouse Project on Computerization in Art History, Museum Collections, and Related Visual and Bibliographic Research Support Projects has been established by Pat Barnett at the Thomas J. Watson

Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. It is a microcomputer database of descriptions of automated documentation efforts in the visual arts. In addition to descriptions and addresses of various projects, relevant conferences and organizations are included. The clearinghouse files are managed on an IBM/AT using Marcon, a text management and retrieval software package.

ACRL Meeting of Interest

At the annual meeting of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Art Section and the Audiovisual Committee of ACRL will sponsor a program, Image and Imagination: Adapting New Technologies for Scholarship in the Arts. Set for Monday, June 29, 1987, from 9:30-12:30, the program will focus on the applications of CD-ROM and interactive videodisk for image storage, retrieval, manipulation, and scholarly use. For more information, contact Janice Woo, ACRL Art Chair, c/o Avery Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 (212-280-84804).

This newsletter has been prepared by Elizabeth Davis and June Ansel. Please send comments, inquiries, news items, etc. to them at the following addresses:

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