New Projects in Library and Information Services

A Mine of Information

This project aims to improve access to research resources relating to the South Wales Coalfield. It is funded by the Research Support Libraries Programme (http://www.rslp.ac.uk), a £30M Funding Council initiative to assist libraries in their support of research activities. LIS has received £220,000 for this project, and we will be working in partnership with the universities of Warwick, Nottingham and North London, as well as with the Public Record Office, National Library of Wales, and local record offices. We will be creating computer-based records for many of the archival documents and printed pamphlets in the South Wales Coalfield Collection, linking these to records of other similar material held in partner institutions, and providing access to these via a web interface. We will be using ENCompass software, a new product from Endeavour (who also supply the LIS Voyager system), to allow cross-searching of archival and printed material simultaneously. Two archivists and a librarian have already been appointed to work on this two year project; and a project manager will be appointed shortly.

Sara Marsh, s.l.marsh@swan.ac.uk, x5176

JISC Regional Support Centre for Wales

In April 2000 the Further Education (FE) sector in the UK became full members of the Joint Information Services Committee (JISC). To support the FE colleges, the JISC has set up a number of Regional Support Centres (RSCs) throughout the UK. These Centres will promote and support the use of electronic information services and the use of technology to support learning and teaching. The RSC in Wales is led by the University of Wales Swansea. Other partners in the project are the University of Wales Aberystwyth, Yale College in North Wales, Coleg Powys in Mid-Wales and Pembrokeshire College in the South. This is a three year project, with a total budget of over £600,000.

RSC Wales has eight staff in total, four full-time and four part-time, distributed across the five partner institutions. The Project co-ordinator is Enid O'Shea, based in Library & Information Services. Chris Price, Technical Support officer for the FENET project, continues this role for the new project and Lis Parcell makes a welcome addition to the team as Information Services officer.

The Welsh RSC region covers the whole of Wales and there are 24 constituent FE colleges. The colleges are diverse in both size and nature, ranging from large colleges of up to 30,000 students of all ages to small rural colleges. Several of the colleges are multi-site, with as many as six campuses spread over a large area. The RSC will help to broaden and extend collaboration between the colleges and their links to the universities in Wales.

Enid O'Shea, e.oshea@swan.ac.uk, x5164

Welsh Video Network

All Further Education Colleges and Higher Education Institutions in Wales are set to become part of an integrated national video network. The project is being managed by the United Kingdom Education and Research Association (UKERNA), who are under contract to the Welsh Funding Councils. The aim of the project is to develop the use of videoconferencing in both the FE and the HE sectors, particularly for distance learning and teaching purposes. At least 40 high quality networked video studios will be provided for all of the colleges and institutions in Wales.

Two Welsh Video Network Support Centres are being established at Swansea and Aberystwyth, using the same model as the current FE (Regional) Support Centres. Dr. Robert Symberlist has been appointed to lead this high profile project, and Steve Williams joins the team as Technical Support Officer. For further details, see the project website at http://www.wvn.ja.net/.

Dr. Robert Symberlist, r.symberlist@ukerna.ac.uk, 01235 822200

Inform is published once a term, and is available in electronic form on the LIS web pages at http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/news/index.htm#Inform.

Please send any comments or contributions to Sara Marsh, s.l.marsh@swan.ac.uk x5176
Note
Some of the services mentioned in this section require an ATHENS username and password. These are available from the LIC or any branch library. More details of some of these services are available from the Database Subject Guide at http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/einfo/dbsubjects.htm (now a clickable link on the Information Services page). Guides to many of our databases can be downloaded as PDF files from http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/publications/index.htm#Guides (scroll down the screen to see a full list).
If you need any help with any of these services please contact your Subject Librarian.

NEW ELECTRONIC DATABASES IN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Funds to support research have been used to gain access to these three important online databases produced by Chadwyck-Healey:

Palmer's Full Text - http://history.chadwyck.co.uk
This will soon provide the text of articles in the Times from its beginning in 1785 until 1870. At present the coverage is between 1812 and 1870. The Web site also contains Palmer's Index to the Times 1790-1905. It will be much more convenient to use than the the printed version of Palmer's Index and the Times on microfilm.

Patrologia Latina - http://pld.chadwyck.co.uk
Patrologia Latina comprises the works of the Church Fathers from Tertullian in 200 AD to the death of Pope Innocent III in 1216.

Teatro Español del Siglo de Oro - http://teso.chadwyck.co.uk
Teatro Español del Siglo de Oro contains the most important dramatic works of sixteenth and seventeenth century Spain.

A representative from Chadwyck-Healey will be providing an introduction to Palmer's Full Text and Patrologia Latina on Friday 1 December. The training session on Palmer's Full Text will be between 1 and 2 p.m. The session on Patrologia Latina will be between 2 and 3 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome to come to either. They will be in the Training Centre in the Library and Information Centre.

IAN GLEN, i.glen@swan.ac.uk, x5030

INFORMATION SERVICES

HELP WITH USING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

A number of new services have appeared over the summer to help researchers, lecturers and students make the most of the vast amount of academic information held on the web and other electronic information sources in many subjects.

Virtual Training Suite - http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/
(includes modules on how to be an Internet Sociologist, Internet Economist, Internet Politician, Internet Business Manager and many other subjects). A painless way to get up to speed on the web. Works best with Internet Explorer v.5.

Resource Discovery Network - http://www.rdn.ac.uk/
Search across all the subject gateways like SO SIG, EEVL and Biomed for easy access to good-quality academic websites.

Michele Davies, michele.davies@swan.ac.uk, x5032/5027

NEW DATABASES FOR RESEARCH

Regard - http://www.regard.ac.uk
This free ESRC database allows researchers to search or browse current and past ESRC-funded research projects, reports and details of awards. An invaluable service if you are thinking of applying for ESRC funding.

Social Sciences Databases from Cambridge Scientific Abstracts - http://www.csa1.co.uk/
This vital service for social scientists includes: Sociological Abstracts, Social Services Abstracts, ERIC and Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts. They are available on special offer this year from the EDINA datahost and we would like to hear what staff and students think of them - if you have any bouquets or brickbats please tell your Subject Librarian!

PsycINFO - http://www.bids.ac.uk
This replaces PsycLIT and is offered via the BIDS datahost. It offers extra content (including technical reports), has weekly updates and allows you to email references to yourself. Using a personal ATHENS username, you can connect to it over the internet e.g. from home.

FT Archive - http://ft.chadwyck.co.uk
We now have access to the FT Archive incorporating European Business Wire, a selection of articles from around 80 international newspapers and magazines (all translated into English). In January we plan to increase the number of simultaneous logins, but until then you can still search the FT CD-ROMs on the IRIS network. Access is only possible from the UWS network.

Michele Davies, michele.davies@swan.ac.uk, x5032/5027
Web of Science - links to full-text journals

The Web of Science is a bibliographic database available from the LIS information services page at http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/infoserv. It allows you to search for references to journal articles, and also to identify citations from article bibliographies. It is now also possible for you to locate the full text of many of the articles listed in the database. You need to carry out your search in the normal way, and then display the full bibliographic record. If full text is available, a "full text" button will appear in the top right hand side of the screen. Full text is currently available for any article which also appears in the Science Direct service (mostly Elsevier publications, though some other publishers are also included), and for articles published by Academic Press from 1996 to 1999. Material from other publishers is gradually being added.

Paul Reynolds, p.r.reynolds@swan.ac.uk, x5026

Changes to Mailbase mailing lists

The Mailbase service (http://www.mailbase.ac.uk) which provides electronic discussion list management for the academic community is changing. Following a recent open procurement, the Joint Information Services Committee has awarded the contract to provide the National Academic mailing List Service to the Council for the Central Laboratories of the Research Councils (CCLRC) with effect from 27 November 2000. The new service from CCLRC will have a new name, JISCmail.

To send a message to a list formerly managed by mailbase, you should mail listname@jiscmail.ac.uk. However, if you forget to do this, don't worry - messages sent to listname@mailbase.ac.uk will continue to be redirected to the jiscmail service for six months following the transition, and you will be sent an email reminder about the change.

There is more information for members and owners of mailbase lists at http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Journal Citation Reports

We now have access to Journal Citation Reports (1997 onwards) on the web at: http://wos.mimas.ac.uk/jcrweb/. JCR uses citation data to give journals an impact factor showing a title's relative importance when compared to others in the same field. It is therefore a valuable tool when deciding which journals to publish your work in and can be useful in the run up to Research Assessment.

Susan Prosser, s.prosser@swan.ac.uk, x5032

JSTOR

You may have seen posters in the LIC advertising a new electronic journals service. JSTOR is a full text journal archive providing access to complete back runs of 117 scholarly journals mainly in the fields of arts and humanities though a number of mathematics and statistics titles are included. Recent years are excluded, usually the past 3 - 5 years. JSTOR offers improved access - especially to older journals which are more likely to be missing from the shelves and may not be indexed in electronic databases. Each journal can be browsed individually or the entire database searched by author, title, keyword, etc.

The service can be accessed on campus either by opening your web browser and typing http://www.jstor.ac.uk or through Voyager, the Library catalogue at http://voyager.swan.ac.uk. You can access JSTOR through Voyager by selecting title search within Headings search and typing jstor. If you do a search in Voyager for a journal title which is included in JSTOR you can scroll down the page to find the link to the electronic version.

Susan Prosser, s.prosser@swan.ac.uk, x5032

Keep up to date with ZETOC Alert.

ZETOC is a service which provides access to the British Library's Electronic Table of Contents database. ZETOC Alert allows you to set up an alerting service which will e-mail you the contents pages of your chosen journals every time a new issue is loaded into the database (usually soon after publication). Especially useful to anyone missing the old Bids Autojournals service! The ZETOC database can be found at http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk

Susan Glen, s.glen@swansea.ac.uk, x5031

LIS Staff

Social Sciences and Business Team

There are some changes to the Social Sciences and Business Team this term. We welcome back Gill White from maternity leave. Carine Harston joined the team in September, sharing Gill's maternity leave cover with Sue Prosser until December. Carine is based on level 4, ext. 5033, email c.harston@swan.ac.uk. After 7 years as Subject Librarian, Liz Parcell is stepping down as team leader to take up a 12-month secondment to the JISC Regional Support Centre project. Until further notice, please refer any enquiries to Michele Davies. Michele has worked on the SSB team since 1995, most recently as Deputy Social Sciences and Business Librarian. Michele Davies, michele.davies@swan.ac.uk, x5032/5027

Inter-Library Loans

We are pleased to welcome Allison Brown back to LIS as Senior Library Assistant responsible for Inter-Library Loans. Allison took up her post in July, having completed a History degree at Swansea and undertaken professional studies at the University of Wales Aberystwyth. Allison previously worked in LIS as a library assistant based at the Main Library Issue Desk. Allison Brown, a.brown@swan.ac.uk, x5045.

Helpdesk

Welcome also to new Computing Assistants on the IT Helpdesk. Howard Jones has recently completed the European Computer Driving Licence with DACE, and teaches a DACE course on scanning and working with pictures. Jeremy Brooks is studying for a BSc in Computing and Information Systems at Swansea Institute.
LIS Plans for 2000-2001

As part of our planning processes, LIS has drawn up a list of Development Objectives to carry out during the 2000-2001 academic year. These are based on our five-year Strategic Plan, along with other University strategies like the ICT Strategic Plan and the Learning & Teaching Strategy. We have also picked up ideas and suggestions from our customers, particularly those from our annual Satisfaction Survey.

Our three main objectives for the current session are:

- Expanding the total number of student PCs, and upgrading current machines, using the HEFCW Capital Grant for Student IT
- Reviewing our space and accommodation problems for stock and services
- Implementing and ensuring the reliability of the Netware 5.1 system, along with Outlook for students

The complete list of Development Objectives is available at:

http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/publications/index.htm#Reports

Any comments or suggestions you have on these are very welcome. This URL also has the Development Objectives for 1999-2000, along with a progress report on them, as well as the current LIS Strategic Plan and our Annual Report for 1999-2000.

Chris West
c.m.west@swan.ac.uk, x5174

New Internet Training Materials

Funding has been approved for a site licence for the use of the Netskills Internet Training Materials for the 2000/2001 academic year. The agreement has enabled us to participate in the Netskills Gold Scheme in which ALL their Internet training materials will be accessible plus any more as and when they become available in the academic year. The full list of modules is available at:

http://www.netskills.ac.uk/materials/modulelist.html

Each module contains:

- Material for about 2-2.5 hours of training, although many modules naturally complement each other and can easily be combined to form longer courses
- A PowerPoint presentation (with speaker’s notes)
- MS Word documents containing hands-on exercises.
- Supplementary materials include fact sheets, set-up instructions and details about the module including its hardware and software requirements.

Note that the trainer is able to tailor all materials to meet their requirements, adding logos or text as required. A new Word template makes editing particularly easy. Also, the licensed materials may be made available to students as HTML on password protected pages but you must ensure that the copyright of the materials is clearly stated.

Further information is available at:

http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/courses/index.htm#Teaching Initiatives.

Maureen Saunderson,
m.a.saunderson@swan.ac.uk, x5565

Teaching facilities in LIC PC rooms

If you are teaching in PC rooms 1, 2 and 3, you can now use SynchronEyes software to enable you to transfer your screen to all your students, or to allow you to see each student’s screen and if necessary interact with it. Full instructions for using the software are available on the web at http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/courses/index.htm#

In PC room 3, we have also installed a ceiling projector and an interactive whiteboard called SmartBoard. This allows you to display your teacher’s screen on the whiteboard just like a normal screen, but in addition you can use dummy marker pens and erasers to “write” on the display so as to highlight particular points. You can also “write” up ideas from students and use the PC to edit and reformat these, email them to students, and so on. There is a Powerpoint introduction to the Smartboard at the URL above.

Further information on both Smartboard and SynchronEyes is available from Maureen Saunderson.

Maureen Saunderson, x5565,
m.a.saunderson@swan.ac.uk

Branch library opening hours

At the end of last session there was some uncertainty as to whether LIS would be able to maintain extended weekend opening hours in the Natural Sciences Library. This was piloted last year using funds provided by the University from a special HEFCW allocation to promote widening access. Although there is no more central funding for this service, we will continue to fund it from LIS income for the present session, as we are aware of the high value placed upon this service by students and staff in Biological Sciences and Geography. The Library and Information Centre, Natural Sciences Library, and Education Library will therefore open Saturdays 9am-5pm and Sundays 12noon - 8pm during term time. The South Wales Miners’ Library continues with last year’s pattern of opening 10am - 4.30pm on Saturdays, during DACE terms. Again this is funded solely from LIS income. Full details of LIS opening hours are on our web pages at http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/access/openhrs.htm.

Voyager catalogue

The Voyager library catalogue will be out of action on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 January 2001, while the system is upgraded. The new Voyager 2000 release will make it easier to carry out basic searches in the catalogue, while at the same time simplifying some of the more advanced features such as limit searches and boolean AND/OR searches. The upgrade also paves the way for the introduction of an integrated Inter Library Loans system and a Welsh language interface to the catalogue in the New Year.

Borrowing and returning material will still be possible during the upgrade period, although the facility to search the catalogue will be unavailable. We apologise for any inconvenience caused, but the upgrade is essential to bring in significant improvements to the public interface to Voyager.

Andrew Brown, a.t.brown@swan.ac.uk, x3150