

Proceedings Foreword

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Foreword

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The 1996 IATUL Conference was organized by the Library of the University of California, Irvine. This was the second time in IATUL's 41 year history that the conference met in North America, and the first time it met on the west coast. The new Science Library at the University of California, Irvine was among the attractions. Designed by London architects, the late James Stirling and Michael Wilford, this is the largest combined science and medical library in the western United States and it was opened in June 1994, and was the site of the Opening Reception for this IATUL Conference.

The conference theme, "Networks, Networking and Implications for Digital Libraries" was an invitation to discuss case studies of international digital library initiatives, efforts to promote electronic archives and new methods of document delivery and supply, ways to engage in teaching and using the Internet, the increasing developments of networked technologies in commercial and academic applications, and organizational change in academic science libraries with increased partnership among colleagues in academic and administrative computing, science faculties and university administration. Over 40 papers were delivered and presentations made on these and related topics. A selection of papers are available in this volume. The majority of the contributed papers are included as are selected papers from some of the concurrent discussion sessions. It was impossible to capture the content and enthusiasm from the various demonstrations of new information products and technologies which were introduced at this conference. Two invited keynote papers were delivered in the opening session. The first was given by Dr. Clifford Lynch and the second by the late Paul Evan Peters, the founding Executive Director of the Coalition of Networked Information (CNI) who passed away suddenly in November, 1996 and it is to his memory that this collection of papers is dedicated.

The Conference was attended by more than 120 participants from 20 different countries, many attending IATUL for the first time. This organization presented the IATUL 1996 Essay prize to Julie Wilcocks, Librarian at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, for her paper, "*Bringing Staff (Faculty) Up to Speed: CD-ROM Access via a WAN at the University of Witwatersrand.*"

Part of the festivities of this conference included visits to area libraries, and it is noted that hospitality at the following libraries contributed to the great success of this program: University of California, Irvine; Caltech Libraries; University of Southern California; Huntington Library & Gardens.

The IATUL Board wants to acknowledge the Conference Organizing Committee, composed of Nancy Fjällbrant, Sinikka Koskiala, and Michael Breaks; the Library Administration at the University of California, Irvine, Dr. Joanne Euster, University Librarian and Shirley Leung, AUL for Research, Instruction & Library Systems; and the local conference arrangements committee, chaired by Julia Gelfand. A conference

of this magnitude could not be realized without the tremendous and generous support of the many sponsors who contributed to making it all happen. A special note of gratitude to Jennie Chan and Nelly Baron who contributed much behind the scenes for many months in preparation of the conference and in the final delivery of these proceedings. However, the delays in preparing these proceedings for distribution remain mine alone and I ask your indulgence in noting any errors in the final product. It was with great pleasure that my colleagues and I had this opportunity to host such a conference.

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