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And We Weren't There

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Chaos

EDI On the Internet and Other Unrelated News by Sandra K. Paul (President, SKP Associates)

Before I get into EDI on the net, I thought that readers of this column would appreciate a letter in the Bent's Notes column of the *British Bookseller* (19 November, 1993, p. 39). A bookseller wrote that he ordered 116 copies of a single title and the order was processed as 116 separate order lines. "They should have been packed in 116 boxes," he wrote, "but unfortunately a human got in the way and packed them in two. The title ordered was *Chaos!*" Those of us involved in technology love to know that humans sometimes offer value-added interference to what the systems are trying to do!!

There are several listservs on the Internet on which conversations about EDI are taking place. However, there is now one specifically for the discussion of EDI on the Internet, as this topic has become such a hot one in various circles. One question being asked is whether traditional businesses have NOT used the Internet because it was considered non-commercial traffic or because it really was inappropriate for commercial traffic. Traditional EDI types (commercial businesses, for the most part) have been sending their EDI messages over value-added networks (VANs) such as General Electric's Information Service (GEIS) or the IBM/Sears joint venture, ADVANTIS. They claim that the security and reliability of these VANs is required because of the importance of the integrity of the messages they are sending. However, some non-traditionalists have been using the net with great success and look to the X.435 protocol to provide even more security.

One such experiment has become reality and was reported in a Press Release over these listservs. **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory** (LLNL) developed what the Department of Defense is calling Electronic Commerce Through Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI). At a cost to DoD of \$15 million over four years, the EC/EDI project represents "an open, electronic mail-based system supporting standard transaction formats with EDI, engineering data, multimedia and electronic signature/authentication/privacy capabilities. The Livermore application today supports ANSI X12 formats and is "capable of being readily extended to support the

United Nations (EDIFACT) international transaction formats." Livermore transmits the X12 formats "via one of the two major international electronic mail enveloping standards (Internet/SMTP or OSI/X.400). Privacy and electronic signature security features are compatible with NIST <National Institute for Standards and Technology>, Internet and commercial public key encryption standards." In reality, **Robert Frank** of Livermore reports that "The AF <Air Force> sends all of their e-mail-enabled (SMTP) EDI (X12) transactions via Internet to LLNL and we distribute to our sponsoring Value-Added-Networks via either SMTP or X.400 e-mail. In return, we receive only EDI-Enabled e-mail from the VANs (either SMTP or X.400) and we distribute to the AF via Internet/SMTP."

By the time you read this column, BISAC and SISAC will have held forums for developers of computer systems for publishers, librarians, and booksellers in conjunction with a BISAC meeting in New York City and with ALA Midwinter in Los Angeles. We expect the question of VANs vs. Internet to continue as we, too, look into the problems and possibilities offered by the net. We'll keep you posted right here in the future.

Finally, I hope you'll all remember to mark your calendars for Sunday, June 26, 1994, from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. in Miami. Katina and I are co-chairing "Selecting Products in Electronic Formats: A Dialogue on the Critical Information Librarians Require." (see *Against the Grain*, November, 1993). Don't miss it! ☞

And We Weren't There

Origin of the First Dictionary in the English Language by Nat Bodian (Publisher's Marketing Consultant)

(Excerpted from the chapter "Book Publishing Origins, Firsts, and Curiosities in the 17th Century" in the complete but unpublished book *The Joy of Publishing* © 1993 by Nat Bodian.)

The first dictionary in the English language was that of the British schoolmaster and lexicographer, Robert Cawdrey, published in 1604. It has a lengthy title, but was generally referred to as *A Table Alphabetical*. The work contained about 3,000 words and was done by the schoolmaster from Oakham, England, in collaboration with his son, Thomas, a schoolmaster in London.

Most of the content in Cawdrey's work, according to *The Art and Craft of Lexicography* by Sidney Landau (Scribner's, 1984) was taken from Edmund Coote's *English School-Master*, a grammar prayer book and lexicon with brief definitions, published in 1596, and from a 1588 Latin-English dictionary by Thomas Thomas, *Dictionarium Linguae et Anglicanae*.

The Cawdrey dictionary listed difficult English words and gave their meaning and language of origin. It lacked, however, such things as etymology, part of speech, and illustrative quotations — features developed in later dictionaries.

The 1604 edition was followed by a second in 1609, a third in 1613, and a fourth in 1617. The full title of the first dictionary in the English language was:

A Table Alphabetically, conteyning and teaching the true writing and understanding of hard usuall English wordes, borrowed from the Hebrew, Greeke, Latine, or French &c. ☞