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International Dateline

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INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

New!!! Section Editor: **Dieke van Wijnen**
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Dieke van Wijnen, with this issue, replaces (seamlessly, mind you) Glen Secor as our International Dateline editor. Thank you to both Glen, for all his hard work and Dieke for

her upcoming hard work. And, in the meantime, Glen will still be appearing in . . . Legally Speaking! — KS

BIDS Online

by **Liz Chapman** (Librarian, Institute of Economics and Statistics, University of Oxford)
(libies@vax.ox.ac.uk)

BIDS stands for **Bath Information and Data Services** which is a UK-based provider of bibliographic data services. The service was launched in February 1991, so is now celebrating its 4th birthday. It was instigated by librarians, in particular **Derek Law** of King's College, London.

The service began by providing access to the **ISI** citation indexes but has since added **EMBASE**, **Compendex**, and specialised databases from the **British Library**, the **London School of Economics Library** (BLPES) and the **Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau**. The first three include abstracts with the service. BIDS also provides gateway access to **UnCover**.

Institutions which use BIDS (mostly University libraries) are licensed through payment of an annual fee which then provides unlimited access. (Well, unlimited up to the number

of ports available.) In practice each licensed site has the responsibility to allocate passwords to users and provide training. BIDS does have an email and telephone help line too. A relatively simple menu-driven interface with online help means it is quite easy to use. Regular users share their comments and queries online by an email user-group.

If you'd like to know more look at the **World Wide Web** server URL <http://www.bids.ac.uk> or read the article by **Derek Law** in *Journal of Information Networking*, 1(2) 1994 pp 103-116.

The University of Bath BIDS service provides other facilities for librarians in the UK and they are now the home of our excellent **BULLETIN BOARD FOR LIBRARIES**. Thus I have coined the term **BUBL Bath**. (does it mean the same in the USA?!)

European Copyright User Platform (ECUP) by Dieke van Wijnen

On October 28th, 1994, **The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)** signed the **European Copyright User Platform (ECUP)** contract with **Mr. Parajon Collada** of the **European Commission**. This initiative by the European Commission — and contracted to EBLIDA — seeks to promote agreement between librarians and publishers concerning electronic document delivery. Workshops in this vital area are now starting.

The contract grant was the result of a Concertation meeting (organized by DG XIII/E-3 of the European Commission) on **Copyright and Electronic Delivery Services**. It was held on 29 November 1993. The meeting proved to be very constructive and raised a great many important issues and problems to be resolved in this area. As **Professor Bernt Hugenholtz** of the **Institute of Information Law (University of Amsterdam)** pointed out, libraries are at a clear disadvantage when it comes to copyright problems for electronic delivery of documents and they must be made aware of these problems.

The **Libraries Programme** of DG XIII/E-3 is currently

funding over 40 library projects in IT. The ECUP project will focus on twelve of these innovative projects which have been selected by DG XIII/E-3 as projects with a strong potential for helping to resolve the copyright problems. Some of these projects have already been seriously frustrated by copyright difficulties. It is EBLIDA's intention to resolve these difficulties via ECUP. The 12 projects are: **AIDA**, **BIBDEL**, **EDIL**, **ELISE**, **ELSA**, **EURILIA**, **EXLIB**, **FASTDOC**, **JUKEBOX**, **MOBILE**, **RIDDLE** and **VAN EYCK**.

Under the ECUP contract, EBLIDA is obliged to conduct a series of workshops in the EU, first, with a view to making librarians aware of the issues involved in copyright and electronic document delivery, and second, with a view to finding solutions to them. Librarians, government officials and a National Focal Point representative will be present at these workshops. EBLIDA's contract is for one year. The results of each workshop will be reported to the ECUP's Steering Group. This group will identify copyright problems specific to

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Interesting Problems

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Conclusion

Writing collection development policy statements are still a beneficial use of a librarian's time because they force the selector to thoroughly think through the issues and put down on paper what they propose will bind their decisions. However, as technology and user needs change, policy statements will have to be revised

and what seems to be the most reasonable policy today will become unreasonable tomorrow. ☹

¹ Adapted from "Collection Development Policy Statements for Electronic Resources," presented at the 1994 Charleston Conference, The Savage Marketplace, Charleston, SC, November 1994.

² Dan Hazen, "Collection Development Policies in the Information Age," *Col-*

lege and Research Libraries, 56 (January 1995): 29-31.

³ Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Services, *Manual for the North American Inventory of Research Library Collections*, Revised Edition, (Washington D.C.: ARL, OMS, 1988), 19.

⁴ Nancy Powell and Mary Bushing, *WLN Collection Assessment Manual*, 4th Edition, (Lacey, Washington, 1992), 32-33.

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libraries and to electronic document delivery; it will also initiate discussions with rights owners on possible solutions to the problems found. The Steering Group will be selected from amongst members of EBLIDA, preferably with copyright experience and with a connection to one of the 12 selected Telematics projects within the Libraries Programme. Selection will be subject to approval by the European

Commission. The Steering Group will meet three times during the life of the project. The first meeting took place in January 1995. Discussions with rights owners will follow the third (and final) Steering Group meeting, which will take place in June of 1995. The Steering Group will be comprised as follows: one person will be selected from each of the following groups: University library sector, National library sector, Public library sector, Research library, Other intermediary, Professional lawyer, Representative of Euro-

pean Commission. The first workshops have already taken place. The first was held in Portugal on the 2nd of November, 1994 and the second in Norway on the 1st December, 1994.

For more details about EBLIDA and its activities, please contact Mr. Dan MacCarthy at the EBLIDA Head Office. Address: P.O. Box 43300 2504 AH The Hague, Tel: (31+) 70 309 0608, Fax (31+) 70 309 0708; Email: Eblida@nblc.nl ☹

Editor's Note: Don't miss the contribution by another of our International Correspondents, Gita Gunatilleke, "Electronic Resources in New Zealand University Libraries," this issue, page 20 — KS

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The cable companies who do transmit images and sound now want to get a piece of the data and text business, and they both want movies on demand. If they do succeed in getting together to provide information on demand, then the stream of money flows from the creator to the processor to the storage and access provider to the transmitter. But if copyright is not readily available for all types of information then one less party gets paid in the stream. And if the transmitter also is the storage place for the information, then that player gets the whole thing.

So now you can understand why the phone companies want to buy the content owners and why Microsoft wants to own the network transmission capabilities. Ameritech wants to be involved in controlling more than just the phone lines. Blockbuster wants to get closer to a cable service and Disney wants to learn how to create (process) new versions of their content. Information, like the water in Lake Michigan may be free, but if you want it delivered to your door twenty miles away from the lake, then a lot of money will change hands before your thirst is quenched. ☹