

**United States Agricultural Information Network /  
International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists  
Joint Conference, April 3-5, 1997, Tucson, Arizona  
The Information Frontier:  
Linking People and Resources in a Changing World**

by Mary Cassner,  
Dana W. R. Boden,  
and Robin McBride  
Subject Specialist/Liaison Librarians  
C. Y. Thompson Library  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Thanks to Lillian Mesner, University  
of Kentucky, and Margaret Merrill,  
Virginia Tech, for their input regard-  
ing the Concurrent Interest Group  
Panel Presentations.

Photographs by Joseph N. Swab,  
*ALIN* Editor, NAL  
(unless otherwise indicated).

The first ever United States Agricul-  
tural Information Network (USAIN) /  
International Association of Agricul-  
tural Information Specialists (IAALD)  
Joint Conference and Pre-Conference  
Workshops were held in Tucson, Ari-  
zona, April 2-5, 1997. The conference  
theme was "The Information Frontier:  
Linking People and Resources in a

Changing World." Conference atten-  
dance numbered close to 200 persons,  
representing over 35 countries, giving  
the conference a true international fla-  
vor. U.S. participants included repre-  
sentation from the National Agricul-  
tural Library, land-grant institutions,  
corporations, other libraries, informa-  
tion providers, and vendors.

#### Pre-Conference Activities

The Executive Board of IAALD  
and the USAIN Executive Council  
each held meetings before the official  
Conference start. Attendees arriving  
prior to the official conference opening  
ceremonies on Thursday had the op-  
tion of attending a variety of pre-con-  
ference workshops. On Wednesday,  
"Living in the Learning Organization:  
Change Support and Process Improve-  
ment" discussed the concept and prac-  
tical use of the Learning Organization.  
Shelley Phipps and Carrie Russell from  
the University of Arizona served as fa-

cilitators for the workshop.

Half-day pre-conference work-  
shops and their facilitators included:  
"Introduction to the Internet and  
World Wide Web" and "Advanced In-  
ternet and World Wide Web," both  
facilitated by Laura J. Bender and Ann  
Eagan of the University of Arizona;  
"AGRICOLA: Trends and Tips," by  
Susan Wilzer and Dottie Heise, U.S.  
National Agricultural Library; "Bring-  
ing GIS to Library Users: Introduction  
and Overview," by Craig Wissler, Uni-  
versity of Arizona; "CAB Abstracts  
Update and Workshop," by Christina  
Cunliffe, CAB International; and  
"FSTA [Food Science and Technology  
Abstracts]," by John Metcalfe, Interna-  
tional Food Information Service.

The U.S./Central and Eastern Eur-  
opean Agricultural Library Round-  
table met for two days prior to the Con-  
ference opening. A Roundtable report  
follows in this issue of *ALIN*.

#### Contents of This Issue:

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#### Editor's Note

The reports on the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference  
and the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural  
Library Roundtable are being jointly published in this  
issue of *Agricultural Libraries Information Notes (ALIN)*  
and in the *Quarterly Bulletin (QB)* of IAALD, v. 42, no. 2,  
1997. *ALIN* thanks Antoinette Paris (Toni) Powell, edi-  
tor of the *QB* (and Director, Agriculture Library, Univer-  
sity of Kentucky), for sharing the abstracts of papers also  
printed here. Complete proceedings of the Conference  
are being published in the *Quarterly Bulletin*.

Thursday, April 3, 1997

Toni Powell and Jan van der Burg, USAIN and IAALD Presidents respectively, gave the introductions and welcomes at the opening session, along with Barbara Hutchinson, Conference and Program Chair; Pamela André, Director of the National Agricultural Library; and, Sylvia Piggott, President of the Special Libraries Association.

Thursday's keynote speaker, Dr. Marcos Kisil of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, spoke on the topic, "Provider/User Relationship in Information Systems: The Perspective of the Developing World." Dr. Kisil stated that developing countries need to begin the process of change at the local level. Technology must be adapted and applied in ways that will not widen the gap between the have and have nots. The role of librarians is to build bridges between the producers and users of information.



An IAALD Board meeting before the Joint Conference opened. (L-R) Janeti Bombini de Moura, Jodee Kawasaki, Toni Powell, Margot Bellamy, YU Ge, Jan van der Burg, Carol Boast Robertson, Pamela André, Edith Hesse, Anton Mangstl, and Thiendou Niang.

### Concurrent Papers I: International

Two sets of workshops followed the keynote address and refreshment break. Jodee Kawasaki, Montana State University, moderated the first group, "Strategic Planning: Managing Change." Tim Cullen, from the Natural Resources Institute in the United

Kingdom, presented "Enjoying the Privatization Process and Thriving in Periods of Dramatic Change: A Case Study from the Agricultural Documentation Sector." The presentation covered the privatization of the Natural Resources Institute from an anecdotal perspective. For those who might encounter a

similar situation in the future, Cullen stressed the importance of good communication with staff as well as retaining a positive attitude and a sense of humor.

Joseph Judy of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) office in Rome, Italy, gave the second presentation, "WAICENT: The World Agriculture Information Center." Judy described the FAO and discussed FAOINFO Info Flow, FAOSTAT Info Flow, FAOSIS Info Flow, WAICENT Benefits, and the FAO Home Page. The URL for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is: < <http://www.fao.org> >

Dr. H. Friedrich represented the Zentralstelle für Agrardokumentation und Information located in Germany. His topic was, "The German Agricultural Information Network (Deutsches Agrarinformationsnetz, DAINet) – Goals, State of the Art and Future Perspectives." An update and discussion of DAINet was offered as well as future plans for the database.

Kay Mowery, Georgia Experiment Station Library, moderated the second



Dottie Heise and Susan Wilzer (speaking) conducted the pre-conference workshop, "AGRICOLA: Trends and Tips."



Toni Powell



Anne Fox



Dana Boden



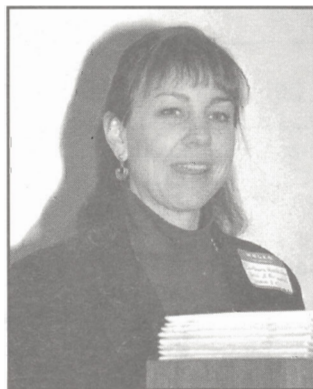
Amy Blair



Robyn Frank



Cynthia Via



Barbara Hutchinson



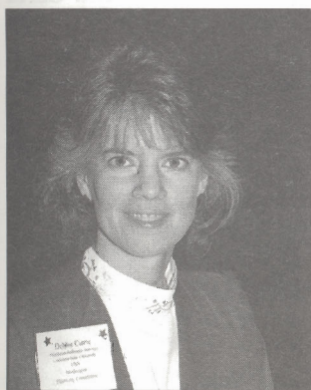
Andrea Powell

## USAIN Executive Council

(Above) Continuing members: Toni Powell (President), Amy Blair (Secretary/Treasurer), Robyn Frank (NAL Liaison), Cynthia Via (Past President), Barbara Hutchinson (Director), and Andrea Powell (Director). Anne Fox and Dana Boden, outgoing Directors. (Right and below) Newly elected to the USAIN Council are Rita Fisher (President-Elect) and Directors, Debbie Currie, Kay Mowery, Irwin Weintraub, and Pat Wilson.



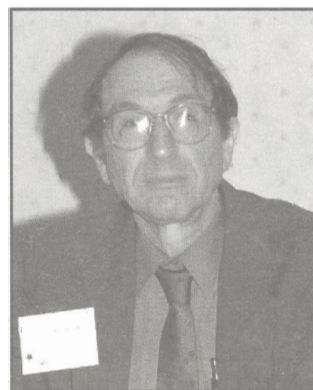
Rita Fisher



Debbie Currie



Kay Mowery



Irwin Weintraub



Pat Wilson



(Left) The participants in the USAIN/IAALD pre-conference workshop "Living in the Learning Organization: Change Support and Process Improvement" give their attention to the facilitators (below), Carrie Russell (speaking) and Shelley Phipps.

set of workshops, "Designing Information Tools." Corinne de Gracia, Edith Hesse, Jane Johnson, Fernando Garcia, Miguel Efren Orozco, Estela Amador, and Jose Juan Caballero of the CIMMYT Library in Mexico made the first presentation, "Adapting a Second Generation Integrated Library System (ILS) and Extending It to Users Worldwide via the Internet." They explained the process and criteria used in choosing, transferring, and implementing this library database which is available through the Internet.



The middle presentation in this series was "Semi-Arid Tropical Crops Information Service (SAT-CRIS). A Decade Later: Impact of this Service on Agricultural Scientists." Presenter S. Srinivas, from the ICRISAT in India, described SATCRIS products and services provided by ICRISAT. One of the goals of this agency is to increase outreach in order that additional scientists are aware of the available services. Attendees were encouraged to learn more at:

<<http://www.cgiar.org/ICRISAT>>

The third presentation, "AGRINET Integrated Information System (AIIS) of Sri Lanka: An Information System for Library Automation in Developing Countries," was given by Neil Upali Yapa of the International Irrigation Management Institute in Sri Lanka. The AGRINET Integrated Information System provides for acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, serials control, and current awareness. A union catalog, union list, and national bibliography contribute to the libraries' ability to share resources.

### Luncheon Program



The "CAB Abstracts Update and Workshop," facilitated by Christina Cunliffe.

Jan van der Burg, IAALD President, served as moderator for the luncheon program. He recognized international visitors and sponsors for the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference. Jane Johnson, Rita Fisher, and Carol Boast Robertson presented IAALD with a check for \$35,000 from the sale of *Agricultural Information Resource Centers: A World Directory 1995*, which they edited. The luncheon speaker was Thiendou Niang, from the Netherlands. He is employed in Information and Capacity Development by Centre Technique de Cooperation Agricole et Rurale. Speaking on "Information Partnerships in a Changing World — a view from Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific," Niang stated that the Third World Countries are becoming increasingly democratic and have

Speakers and Moderators



(L-R) Sylvia Piggott, Pamela André, Toni Powell, and Jan van der Burg



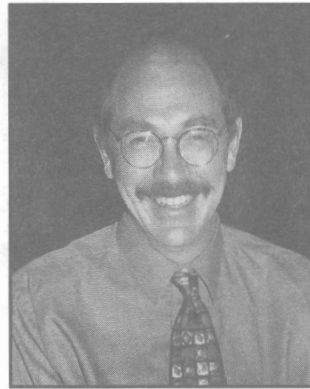
Barbara Hutchinson



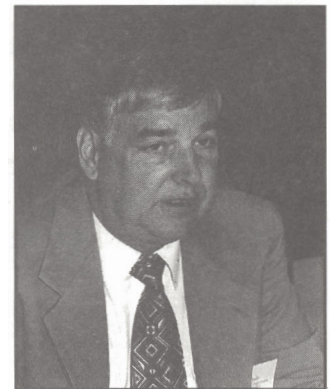
Marcos Kisil



Jodee Kawasaki



Tim Cullen



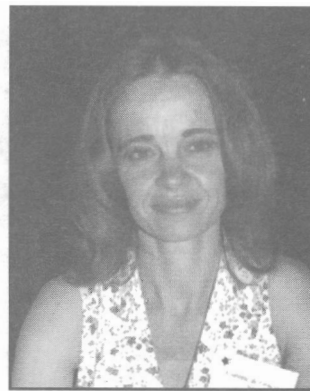
Joseph Judy



Holger Friedrich



Kay Mowery



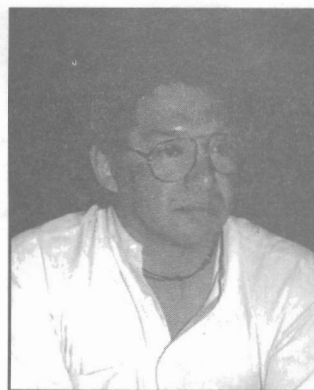
Corinne de Gracia



Edith Hesse



Jane Johnson



Fernando Garcia



Miguel Efrén Orozco



S. Srinivas



Marcela Chrenekova talks to John Metcalfe at the International Food Information Service exhibit. Metcalfe was also the facilitator for the pre-conference workshop on FSTA.

broad information needs. Technology is the tool of choice to further the progress of development. Linkages to other countries, partnerships, and networking are now the norm.

### Concurrent Papers II: International

Conference attendees had the opportunity to select from three series of programs which were offered simultaneously. Ann Fiegen, University of Arizona, served as moderator for the first session. Marita Acha from the Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales in Lima gave a presentation entitled, "Smallholder Agriculture in Peru: Access to Information." Acha described the geography, agricultural zones, farm sizes, social groups, and languages of Peru that affect the type of information that is required and its accessibility. It was Acha's view that current information systems need to be restructured if they are to serve small farmers or peasants.

Elizabeth Goldberg from the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) in Colombia presented "International Electronic Partnerships in Management of Grey Literature." Goldberg described the development of a networked information source for

grey literature dealing with Latin American natural resources management in agriculture. She also reported the results of a study of how well the

system worked, pinpointing the areas (technical, economic, and social) where the system had not performed up to expectations. She also gave perspectives on funding and on partnerships.

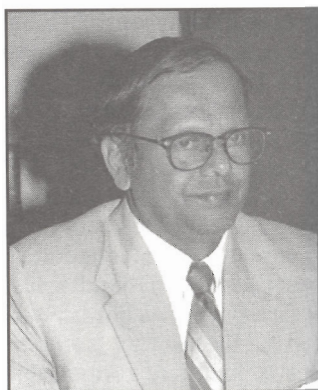
Qiaoqiao Zhang, Margot Bellamy, and Stephen Rudgard, from CAB International, addressed "CAB International's CD-ROM Sponsorship Program: Some New Initiatives." Bellamy reviewed CABI's role in providing information technology and resources to developing countries. Findings of an evaluation of performance and effectiveness included some constraints in providing service in Africa because of the limited technology skills of information specialists as well as users' unfamiliarity with the technology. Demand for CABI resources increased in China thanks to a policy enforcing the use of published information in the research process.

Anita Battiste, University of Florida, moderated the second series of presentations. Tricia Lerner, repre-

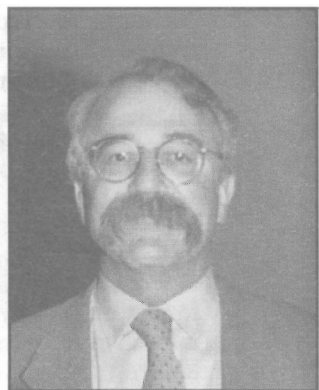


(L-R) Jan van der Burg, IAALD President, Carol Boast Robertson, Thiendou Niang of Centre Technique de Cooperation Agricole et Rurale (CTA), Rita Fisher, and Jane Johnson. At the first formal luncheon of the joint conference, Robertson, Fisher, and Johnson presented IAALD with a check for \$35,000 from the sale of *Agricultural Information Resource Centers: A World Directory 1995*, which they edited and which IAALD and CTA sponsored.

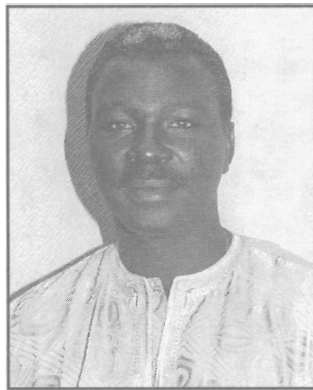
**Speakers and Moderators**



**Neil Upali Yapa**



**Jan van der Burg**



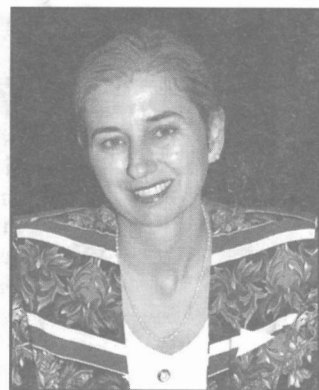
**Thiendou Niang**



**Ann Fiegen**



**Marita Acha**



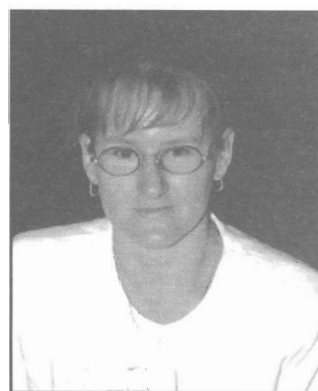
**Elizabeth Goldberg**



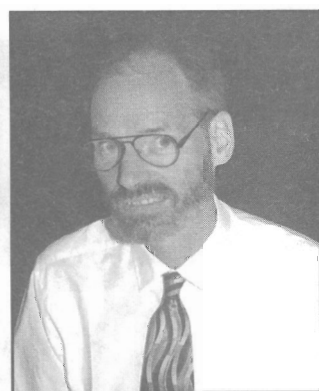
**Margot Bellamy**



**Anita Battiste**



**Tricia Lerner**



**Peter Walton**



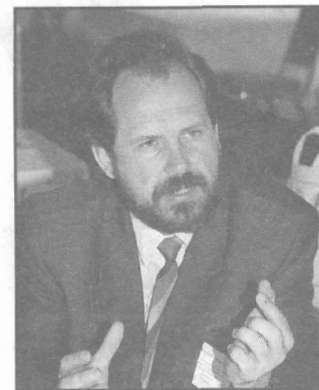
**Chris Addison**



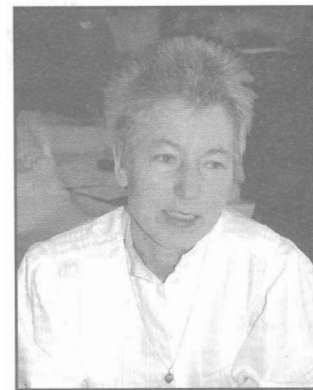
**Eleanor Mathews**



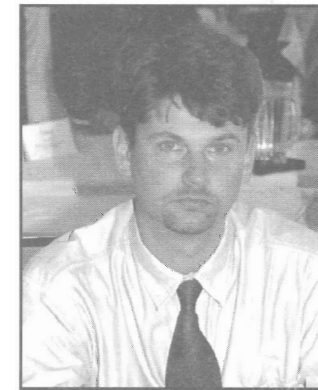
**Pamela André**



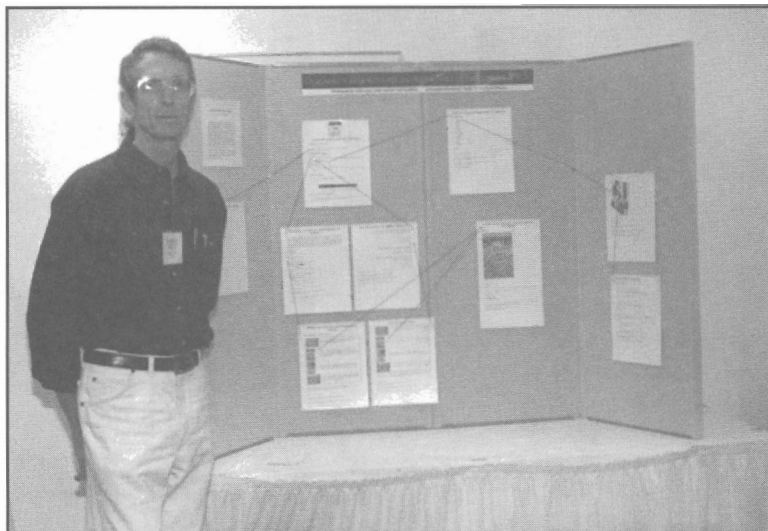
**Michal Demes**



**Jana Skládlová**



**Tomaz Bartol**



Michael Haseltine at the poster session with "Designing a Web Resource on Aridic Soils of Israel and the U.S."

senting the Tropical Beef Centre of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia, gave the initial presentation, "Off the Dirt Track: Connecting Australian Beef Producers to the Internet." Lerner discussed a program to connect rural beef producers in Australia. Specific projects included MECIS, an electronic communication and information system for the meat industry; Farmwide's "1000 Farmers Online;" Rural Women and Communication, addressing gender issues and technology; and Internet Content for Farmers' Analysis to analyze accessibility and presentation. General challenges include an inadequate telecommunication infrastructure, lack of standard costs, and user education issues.

Peter Walton from the Pacific Regional Agricultural Programme in Fiji, spoke about "Improving Access to Agricultural Information in the Rural Areas in Fiji." Factors that limit service to Fiji farmers include the large number of islands that compose Fiji, geographical distance and travel considerations, small budgets, and inadequate telecommunications. Walton plans to establish a resource center containing newsletters, newspapers, books, posters, and leaflets.

"A 'Web Without Frontiers: Building European Partnerships on the Internet" was the subject of the talk by Chris Addison from Communique in Ireland. Addison is a consultant who collaborated with Peter Ballantyne of the European Center for Development and Policy Management (ECDPM) on specific projects. Covered in the presentation was creation of Addison's and Ballantyne's web site which emphasized links to a few good sites. Issues included creating a multi-aspect, dynamic, complex, integrated, and easy to publish site using good navigation, retrieval, and mapping networks. URLs mentioned include:

< <http://www.oneworld.org> >

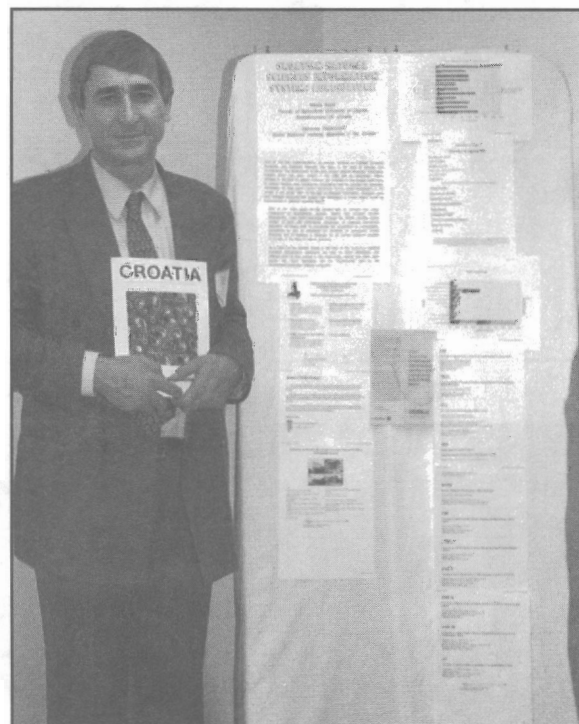
and

< <http://www.nri.org> >

Eleanor Mathews, Iowa State University, moderated the third session which began with Pamela André, Director of the U. S.

National Agricultural Library, and Michal Demes, Director of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture in the Slovak Republic, making a joint presentation: "Accomplishments of the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable." André stated the U.S. policy goal of supporting developing democracies and gave the history, objectives, and accomplishments of the Roundtable. Demes said that the purpose of the Roundtable is to aid Central and Eastern European librarians in information technology. The Internet is important to these librarians to facilitate cooperation with the FAO, NAL, and other centers in the United States, Europe, and Africa. Demes also demonstrated a multi-media CD-ROM product, "Slovakia for the World."

Dr. Jana Skládalová, Director of the Central Food Library at the Institute of Agricultural and Food Information in the Czech Republic, discussed, "Progress in Computerization Activities in the Czech Republic." Skládalová described the structure, characteristics, and automation efforts of public libraries, libraries of higher-learning institutions, and national scientific libraries in the Czech Republic. She also discussed the Czech Agricultural Information Network. Member institutions include the Institute of Agricultural and Food Information, four higher-learning



Nikola Kezic at his poster session entitled "Croatian Natural Sciences Information System: Agriculture."





photo: Janet Wright

Librarians from Latin America attending the USAIN/IAALD joint conference. Some of them and others not present for this photo were sponsored in part by USDA's Research and Scientific Exchanges, Foreign Agriculture Service, with the cooperation of the National Agricultural Library. Also at this conference NAL sponsored the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable whose meeting report also appears in this issue of *ALIN*.

institutions for agriculture, and various other agricultural information centers. Librarians use e-mail and the Internet to discuss similar problems that may be occurring in other countries and seek suggestions for improvements requiring a minimum of funding.

The last presentation in the series, "Present State and Possible Future Role of AGRIS in the Library Community," was given by Tomaz Bartol, Head of the Slovenian National AGRIS Centre. AGRIS is a global information system that is especially important in smaller countries as a means for younger scientists to present their research. Possibly in the future the AGRIS system may include full-text via the Internet and AGRIS may provide greater assistance in publishing articles, for example, advising authors on how to improve their publications.

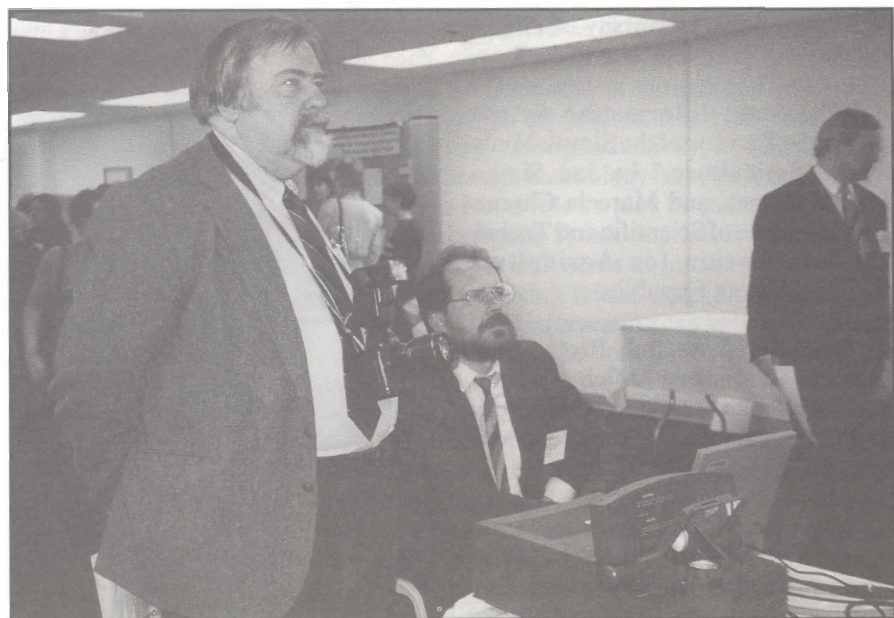


photo: Janet Wright

Joe Swab watches as Michal Demes projects onto a large screen the web pages related to ISTIA and the Slovak Republic and the two poster sessions he and his staff authored.

## Poster Sessions and Demonstrations

Conference attendees had the opportunity to view the following wide variety of poster sessions (see Abstracts later in this issue of *ALIN*):

“Designing a Web Resource on Aridic Soils of Israel and the U.S.,” by Carla Long Casler and Michael Haseltine, Arid Lands Information Center, University of Arizona.

“Facilitating Access to Agricultural and Natural Resource Information in Developing Countries: What Roles for European Cooperation?” by Tim Cullen, Natural Resources Institute, United Kingdom, and Peter Ballantyne, ECDPM, The Netherlands.

“SDI at STPC,” JoAnn DeVries and Katherine Wern, University of Minnesota.

“Developing a Rangeland Management Web Site for the Agricultural Network Information Center (AGNIC),” by Mitchel P. McClaran, Michael Haseltine, and Jeanne Pfander, University of Arizona.

“Ten Best Ways to Search AGRICOLA Through FirstSearch,” by Luti-shoor Salisbury, University of Arkansas.

“The State Information System within the Purview of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture,” by Jan Simko, Michal Demes, and Marcela Chrenekova, Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA), Slovak Republic.

“The AgroWebClub Project,” by Marcela Chrenekova, Michal Demes, and Jan Simko, Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA), Slovak Republic.

“Croatian Natural Sciences Information System: Agriculture,” by Nikola Kezic and Jadranska Stojanovski, University of Zagreb and Institute Rudjer Boskovic.

“EXAGRI Project: Availability and Accessibility of Agricultural Informa-



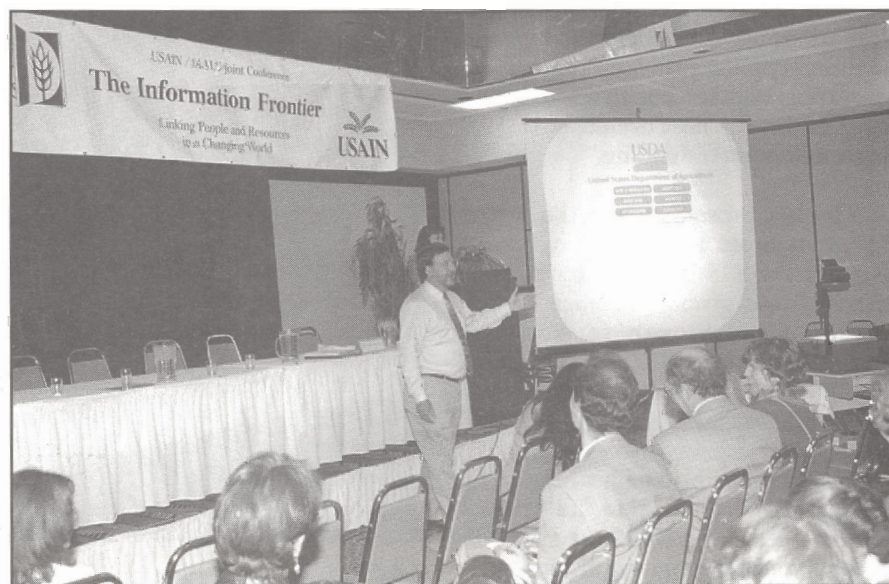
Some of the University of Arizona staff who organized the Conference and coordinated the local activities and arrangements. (L-R) Sydney Hutchinson, Michael Haseltine, Barbara Hutchinson (Conference and Program Chair), Elissa Cochran, Doug Jones, Katherine Waser, and Carla Casler.

tion from Small Farmers in Brazil,” by Janeti Bombini de Moura and Nilce Puga-Nass, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil.

### Friday, April 4, 1997

Toni Powell, USAIN President, served as moderator for the opening

session. Keynote Speaker, Dr. Charles McClure, Distinguished Professor, School of Information Sciences, Syracuse University, addressed the topic, “Developing Networked Information Services: Strategies and Issues.” Key aspects of the evolving internet telecommunications environment include decentralization, collaboration, em-



On the second day Keynote Speaker Dr. Charles McClure and USAIN President Toni Powell (behind him) open the day's events.



Ivo Hoch from the Czech Republic talks with Brian Keyes at the Research Libraries Group Exhibit.

powerment, globalization, unpredictability, convergence, distributed IT planning and management, training, policy, evaluation, and new products. McClure discussed the Access America web site, the federal government's attempt to improve the public's access to government services and products; it may be accessed at:

< <http://gits.fed.gov> >

Another site recommended by McClure was the Global Electronic Commerce URL:

< [http://www.iitf.nist.gov/electronic\\_commerce.htm](http://www.iitf.nist.gov/electronic_commerce.htm) >

Important questions that McClure believes must be investigated by institutions writing web pages are: who are the users of the services; what services are most important to them; what are the



Charles King, a guitarist from the Tucson area, plays at one of the conference evening dinner meetings.

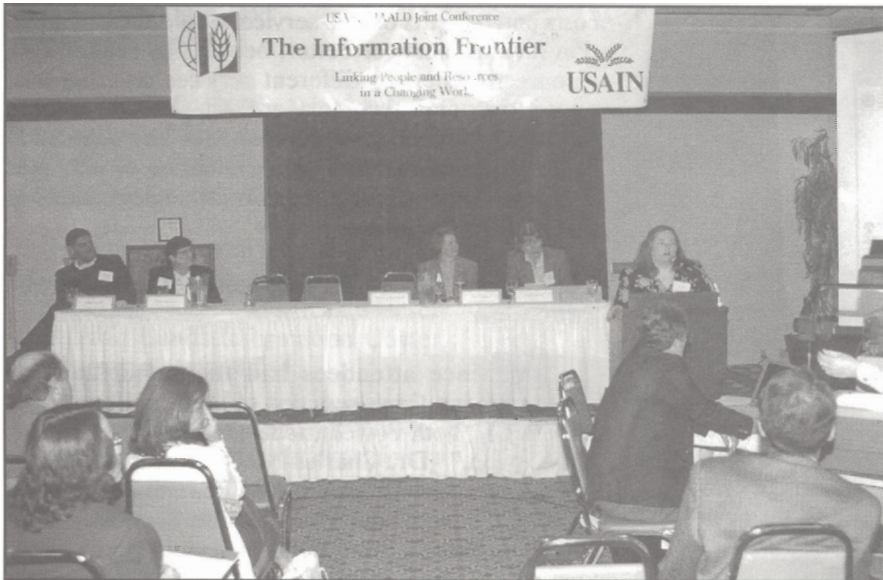
costs and benefits of web service; would the organization receive more, or better, benefits by reallocating resources to new or different services or programs; what is the political context; and what are the services that users will need in the future? McClure concluded by emphasizing that although evaluation of web sites is essential, so too is the need for strategic thinking in planning for the future.

### Concurrent Papers III: Extension and Distance Education

Conference attendees had the opportunity to choose among three sessions offered in Concurrent Papers III. Toni Powell moderated the first "Break-out Session." Dr. Charles McClure was again featured in a presentation entitled, "Federal Information Policies for Networked Information Services." McClure discussed how "public policy" is made, problems with the Telecommunications Act, and copyright and intellectual rights. There are too many policy issues for a person to be adequately informed about each so McClure advises: 1) find one or two specific issues; 2) stay informed on these issues; 3) be an advocate — explain to friends and colleagues; 4) take action — publicize in newsletters, talk at PTA, etc.; 5) be persistent — some issues are long-term; and 6) be willing to compromise.

Rita Fisher, Washington State University, moderated the "Strategic Planning: Managing Change" session consisting of three presentations. Keith W. Russell, Deputy Director of the U.S. National Agricultural Library, spoke on, "The Value of Information in Agricultural Research." There are more than 100,000 publications in agricultural research published worldwide each year. Russell concluded: 1) creativity and innovation are essential in agricultural research; 2) contributions of an information-rich environment contribute to greater productivity; 3) diffusion of innovations through technology transfer is important; 4) information has a role to play in change or development of paradigms; 5) information is valuable in redirection of research areas to pursue; 6) information is critical in resolving crises, crisis management, and rapid response; 7) information can help avoid duplication of effort; 8) and information is valuable in other ways that can be documented.

Tim Lynch, Mann Library, Cornell University, addressed the topic, "It's a Matter of Context: Successfully Managing the High-Tech Project." Lynch raised several cautions related to managing the high-tech project. First, there is oftentimes a lack of common language between computer professionals and individuals planning the project. It is recommended that there be documentation of what is desired, including a clear definition of the scope of the project. Accountability should also be built into the project plan. Lack of common context between computer people and



The panel at the "AgNIC Symposium" (L-R) were: Doug Jones (Arizona); Nancy Eaton (Iowa); Pam André (NAL); Edith Hesse (Moderator); Rebecca Bernthal (Nebraska) (speaking at the lectern); Bill Feidt (in front of the lectern) demonstrates the AgNIC web pages, projected on a screen simultaneously.

those planning the project could result in project failure.

Janet A. McCue, Head of Technical Services, Mann Library, Cornell University, presented, "Why Should a Cataloging Department Hire a Metadata Specialist? and, Are There Any Out There?" McCue defined metadata as data about data. The role of catalogers is being re-defined. Catalogers should be metadata specialists but should also articulate the unique value they bring to the ability to connect people to information.

Sharon Fujitani, California Polytechnic State University, served as moderator for session three, "Web Site Demonstrations." The opening presentation was, "INFOMINE: Unique Web Resource for Agricultural Information," by Charlene M. Baldwin and Steve Mitchell, both from the University of California, Riverside. INFO-MINE is a library of scholarly resources developed in 1993 at Riverside. It serves as both a web index and a search engine. This award-winning web site has more than 9500 links to other sites and is arranged by disciplinary focus with ten major research interests. The

URL for INFOMINE is:  
< <http://lib-www.ucr.edu> >

The middle presentation originally titled, "How the WWW Redefines the Role of Information Specialists Working in the Fields of Nutrition and Agriculture," was later renamed, "GEN-

UIN - Comprehensive German Nutrition Information Service on the Web." The presenter, Dr. Roy Ackmann, Director of the Nutrition Information Center at the University of Giessen, indicated that GENUIN is the most extensive information system for nutrition in Germany. It can provide World Wide Web access to all local databases, and it contains links to international web sites as well.

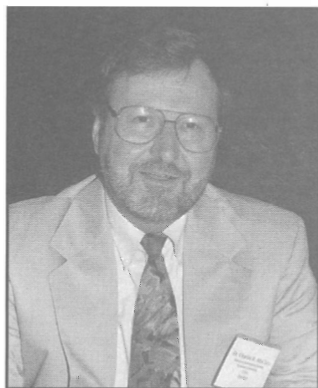
Last in the series was, "AgEcon Search: Research in Agricultural Economics." Because of the illness of the author and scheduled speaker, Patricia Rodkewich, this was presented by Louise Letnes from the University of Minnesota. The AgEcon project is a cooperative effort by agricultural economists and librarians to transmit, organize, and preserve publications in an electronic format. "AgEcon Search" has been designated the electronic publisher of choice for agricultural economic literature by the American Agricultural Economics Association. After acquiring and mounting working/staff papers in this field, it is hoped to expand the database by adding other types of publications in the future. The URL for this web site is:

< <http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/> >

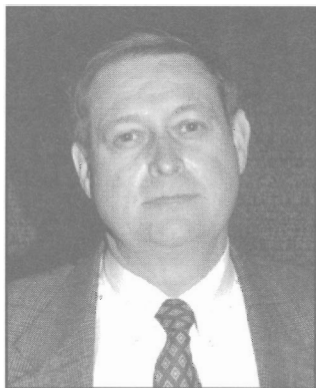


Bill Feidt (seated, center) continued the AgNIC demonstration after the symposium speakers finished their presentations.

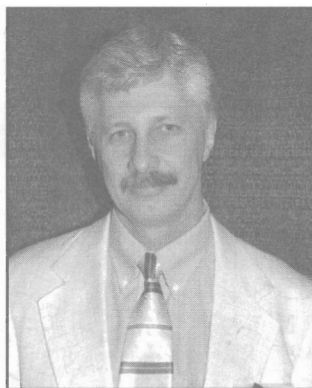
Speakers and Moderators



Charles McClure



Keith W. Russell



Tim Lynch



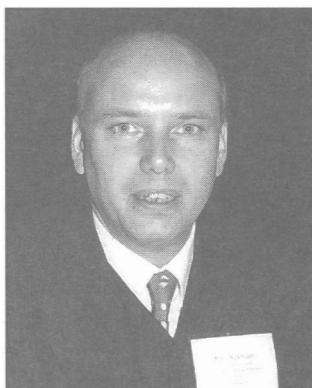
Janet A. McCue



Sharon Fujitani



Charlene M. Baldwin



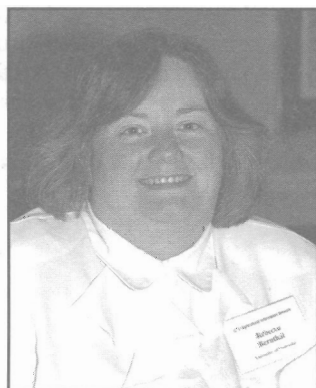
Roy Ackmann



Louise Letnes



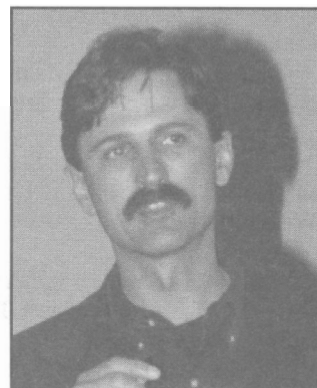
Nancy Eaton



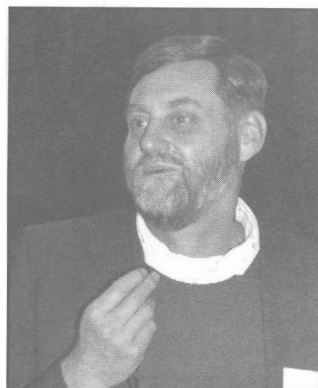
Rebecca Bernthal



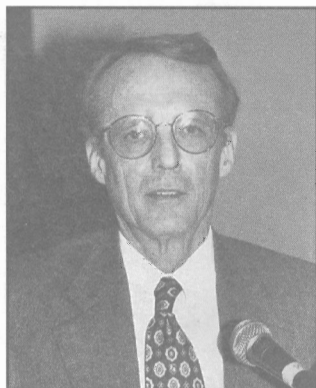
Ina Pour-Ei



George Ruyle



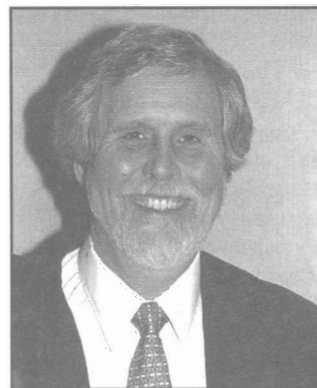
Doug Jones



Richard Thompson



Jean Gilbertson



Bill Feidt

## Afternoon Programs

The first part of the afternoon was devoted to an update on the AgNIC project. Edith Hesse from the CIM-MYT Library in Mexico moderated this session entitled, "Agricultural Network Information Center (AgNIC) Symposium." Pam André explained that AgNIC is a collaborative effort by the National Agricultural Library and several land-grant institutions to provide Internet access to agriculture-related information. Nancy Eaton, from Iowa State University, stated that although the pilot project will end on June 30, 1997, it is expected that AgNIC will continue. Eaton discussed Alliance Guidelines, drafted on April 3, 1997, and stated that additional participating libraries are needed. Several librarians discussed their institutions' involvement in the AgNIC project. Speakers and their institutions' subject area involvement in AgNIC were:

Rebecca Bernthal, University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Plant Sciences.

Ina Pour-El, Iowa State University: Animal Science.

Dr. George Ruyle, and Doug Jones, University of Arizona: Rangeland Management.

Richard Thompson, National Agricultural Library: Food and Nutrition, and Rural Information.

Ellie Mathews, Iowa State University, and Jean Gilbertson, University of Wisconsin-Madison, spoke on behalf of AgNIC users.

Bill Feidt provided the AgNIC web site demonstrations. The URL for the AgNIC home page is:

< <http://www.agnic.org> >

A demonstration by vendors and colleagues, as well as a refreshment break, followed the AgNIC presentation.

The late afternoon program was "U.S. National Preservation Program Update and Announcement of a New Initiative for an Agricultural Information Digital Archive." Presenters for this program were Evelyn Frangakis, Preservation Officer at the National Agricultural Library and Sam Demas from Cornell University. Demas, who is Co-Chair of the USAIN National Preservation Program Steering Committee, distributed a handout containing the following information: mem-



Dottie Heise at an interlude at the NAL Exhibit. Dottie's cap promotes NAL's AGRICOLA database.

bers of the National Preservation Program Steering Committee; current preservation planning models; premises of the program for agricultural literature; program structure; preservation plan including priorities; participants in the USAIN/NEH preservation project; and future directions. Institutions currently involved in the state and local literature preservation project (June 1996-June 1998) include University of Alabama, University of Cali-

fornia-Berkeley, University of Connecticut, Cornell University, University of Florida, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Penn State, Texas A & M, and the University of Wisconsin. If funding allows, the following institutions will be added to the state and local preservation project for 1998-2000: University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, University of Hawaii, Iowa State, Kansas State, University of Minnesota, and Montana State University. Frangakis

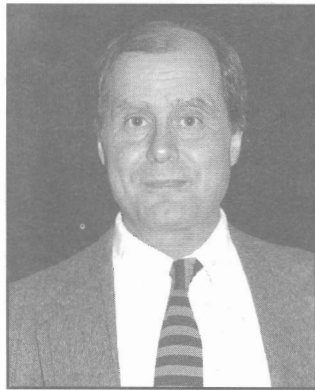


Carole Cochran is visited by Constance Britton at the Chemical Abstracts Service Exhibit.

Speakers and Moderators



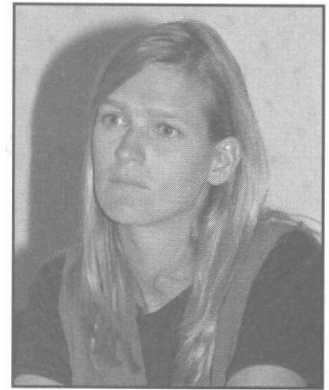
Evelyn Frangakis



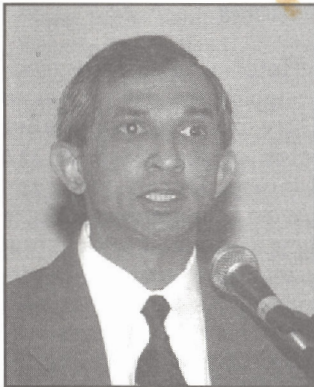
Sam Demas



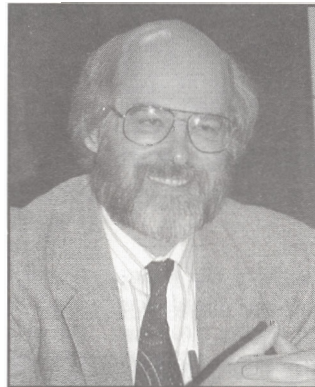
Gary Paul Nabhan



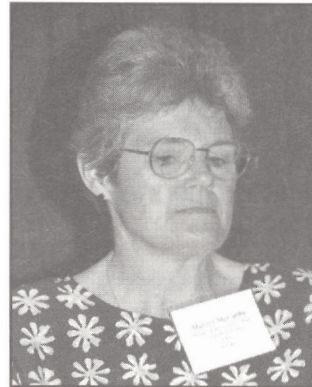
Kimberly Buck



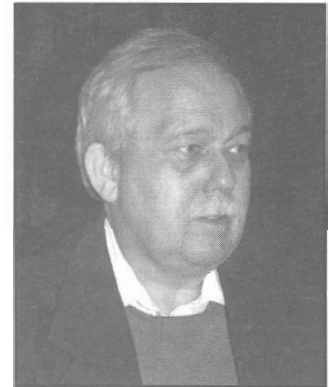
Biddanda Ponnappa



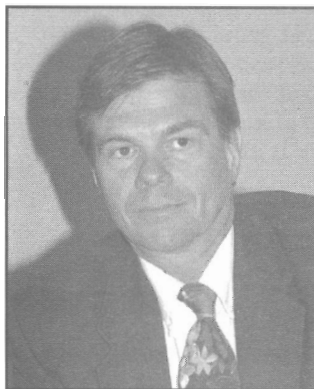
Victor Desroches



Marilyn McCarthy



John A. Eilts



Tim McKimmie



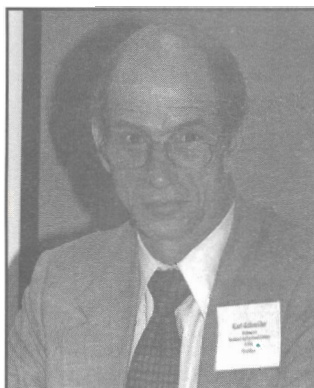
Patricia Rodkewich



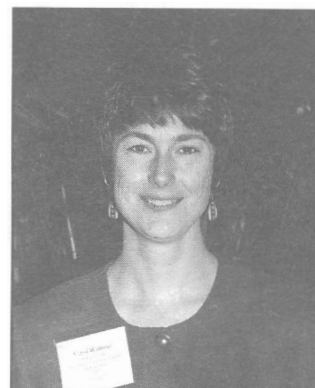
Peggy Johnson



Diana Farmer



Karl Schneider



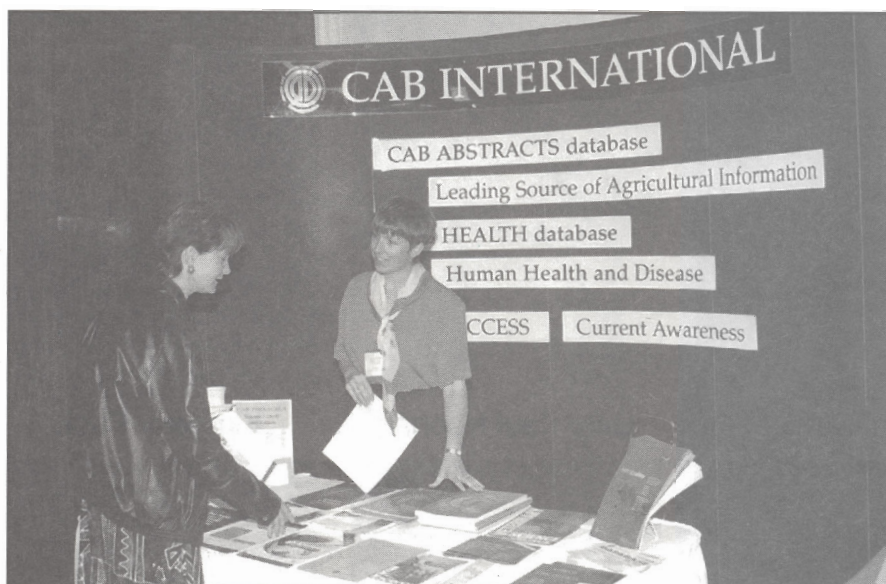
Carol Warriner



Anita Battise



Maria Porta



Jeanne Pfander gathers sample publications and talks with Andrea Powell at the CAB International Exhibit.

discussed NAL's plans to analyze microform holdings, preserve USDA titles by means of digital imaging, and upgrade the Special Collections program.

**Saturday, April 5, 1997**

### USAIN General Membership Meeting

An overflow crowd attended the early morning USAIN membership meeting, called to order by USAIN President Toni Powell. Anne Fox and Dana Boden, outgoing USAIN Executive Council members, were recognized for their service as Directors on the USAIN Council. Continuing on the Council are: Toni Powell (President), Amy Blair (Secretary/Treasurer), Robyn Frank (NAL Liaison), Cynthia Via (Past-President), and Barbara Hutchinson and Andrea Powell (Directors). Newly elected to the USAIN Council are Rita Fisher (President-Elect) and Directors, Debbie Currie, Kay Mowery, Irwin Weintraub, and Pat Wilson. At the time of the meeting, USAIN membership numbered 143.

Major accomplishments of USAIN during the past year included planning and conducting the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference; putting together an "Action Plan" for the future; producing the member survey; and developing

"Procedures and Rules" for the functioning of the organization. Goals for 1997-1998, as outlined in the "Action Plan," include: strengthening membership and communication within the membership; supporting NAL and increasing communication and cooperation with this agency; increasing cooperation with other agricultural organizations; and, providing education and professional development opportunities for agricultural information spec-



Heather Severson visits with Leonora Luciano at the R. R. Bowker Exhibit.

ialists. There is a tentative offer from Kansas State to host the 1999 USAIN Conference. Members were encouraged to subscribe to the USAIN listserv. The subscription address for USAIN-L is:

**LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LIB.NCSU.EDU**

Leave name and subject line blank. In the body of the message type: **subscribe USAIN-L your-first-name your-last-name**

### Keynote Address

Barbara Hutchinson served as moderator, introducing the day's Keynote Speaker, Gary Paul Nabhan, author and Director of Research at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum. His talk, "Giving Communities a Voice by Integrating Regional, Multicultural Knowledge into Information Resources," highlighted his agreement with the proposition that new western scientific knowledge does not make up for endangered knowledge lost forever. He suggested that we remember that "grey literature" is rich in information which can link generations; that natural and cultural resources should be valued; and, that the expression of values and validity of knowledge that encourages sharing is important.



## Concurrent Interest Group Panel Presentations

Conference attendees had the opportunity to attend one of five concurrent panel presentations hosted by a USAIN Interest Group. Immediately following the presentations, time was set aside for interest group discussions and preparations of interest group reports.

The Social Issues interest group sponsored a discussion of the topic, "Bridging Traditional Knowledge of Place with Technical Environmental Knowledge." Irwin Weintraub, Rutgers University, served as Chair. Speakers Gary Paul Nabhan and Kimberly Buck, from the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, discussed a project on which they are working to collect and make available cultural knowledge of traditional peoples in Mexico. It was emphasized that institutions need to maintain a cultural sense of place and that individuals need

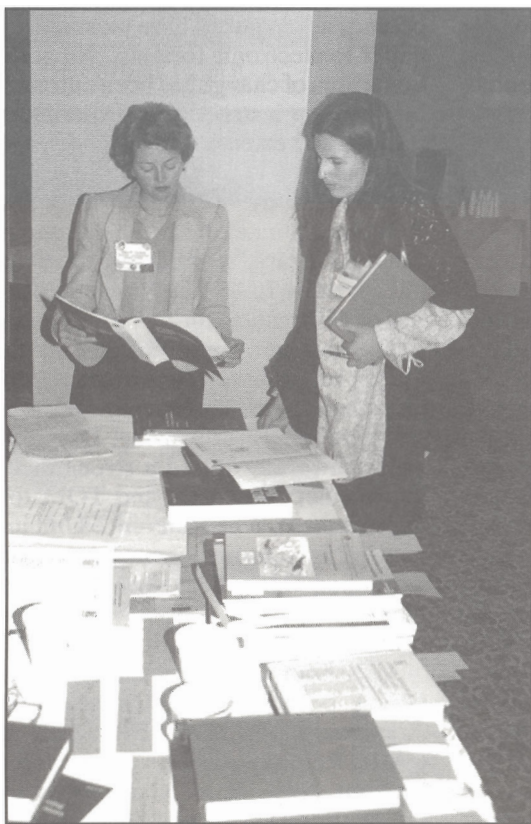


Karl Schneider makes his presentation at the session on "Agricultural Grey Literature...."

to be encouraged to share information across generations and protect the knowledge that is most in danger of being lost. The book, *Valuing Local Knowledge*, was highlighted as a resource.

Biddanda Ponnappa, University of Tennessee, chaired the Document Delivery interest group session. Speakers and their topics were: Biddanda Ponnappa, "Document Delivery for a Global Clientele: Prospects for the 21st Century;" Victor Desroches, Director, Canadian Agricultural Library and Information Management Services of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, "CAL-CISTI Partnership for Document Delivery;" Marilyn McCarthy, Head of Access Services, Arizona Health Sciences Library, University of Arizona, "Docline;" and John A. Eilts, Ariel Product Manager, Research Libraries Group, "Ariel Software for Document Delivery." Important issues for the future include business perspectives of document delivery; cost and speed of document delivery; copyright concerns; bibliographic description and indexing of literature; and, agreement on which libraries will purchase or obtain copies of the literature so that other institutions may borrow this material.

The joint session for the Collection Management and Rural Information interest groups was co-chaired by Tim McKimmie, New Mexico State University, and Jodee Kawasaki, Montana State University. Speakers addressed the topic of "Agricultural Grey Literature, Alternative Literature, and State and Local Documents: Problems and Solutions for Information Management." Panelists included Patricia Rodkewich and Peggy Johnson, University of Minnesota; Diana Farmer, Kansas State University; Karl Schneider, National Agricultural Library; and Carol Warriner, University of Arkansas. Grey literature may be defined as anything, regardless of format, that is published outside of the regular commercial publishing channels. Electronic grey literature, as well as grey literature from foreign countries, is particularly difficult to identify and acquire. Cataloging problems may occur when needed information normally recorded on bibliographic records is lacking from pieces. Preservation and archiving can be even more problematic as the medium used for the publication of grey literature is often of a perishable nature. Few, if any, publishers currently have plans for archiving



Elissa Cochran and Marcella Chrenkova examine materials at the "Prize" table—materials donated by exhibitors as prizes.

electronic grey literature. Efforts to digitize and archive this material in an electronic form may present the future with a major problem in the form of backward compatibility and, hence, potential inaccessibility. Also, a large percentage of the population, especially those who do not live in Europe or the United States, have only rudimentary electronic access, if they have any at all.

Anita Battise, University of Florida, and Maria Porta, University of Illinois, co-chaired the AGRICOLA interest group discussion. The panelists and their topics were: Shirley Edwards, Head, Indexing Branch, National Agricultural Library, "AGRICOLA;" Joseph Judy, Manager, WAICENT/FAOINFO Dissemination Branch, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "AGRIS;" and Dr. Christina Cunliffe, Publisher, Database Products, CAB International, "CAB Abstracts." Edwards reported on recent indexing changes in AGRICOLA. She also stated that the *List of Journals Indexed in AGRICOLA* is available via the Web and is no longer being published in print format. Judy stated that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has hired a consultant to review issues related to AGRIS. Cunliffe gave an overview of CAB International and explained the abstracting policy for its database. She compared the CAB, AGRICOLA, and AGRIS databases. Cunliffe concluded by indicating future directions for the CAB database.

Debbie Currie, Louisiana State University, and Andrea Powell, CAB International, co-chaired the Changing Information Environment interest group. Panel members discussed the topic, "Rewriting the Rules: Coping with Change in the Information Chain." Panel members were: Michael Somers, Kansas State University; Andrea Powell, CAB International; and Anne McKee, B. H. Blackwell. All panelists felt that there will continue to be room for all the usual players in the modern information chain but only by creating niches. They also felt that the subscription model would survive but that new author-publisher relationships, and improvement in electronic

journal status in tenure evaluation, will begin to provide viable alternatives. Electronic access to materials will require new developments in subscription access and archiving.

### Luncheon

Moderator for the luncheon presentation was Beverlee French, University of California, Davis. The speaker was Dr. Michael Reid, Associate Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis. His topic was, "Agricultural Problem Solving: Prospects for Use of the Internet." Dr. Reid advocated providing "just in time" information and tailored learning opportunities. Digital literacy should be used to facilitate life-long learning. Key issues for the future include controlling the tremendous amount of information and misinformation as well as the cost and maintenance of infrastructure. Librarians should reclaim their role in certifying the quality of information. The speaker believes the role of online research and electronic information needs to be valued during the promotion and tenure process.

### Concurrent Papers IV: Extension and Distance Education

The final series of concurrent papers for the conference were given Saturday afternoon. Session one, "Building Partnerships," consisted of a panel discussion on "Enhancing Access to Agriculture and Other Extension Materials: A Cooperative Project at Kansas State University." Moderator for the presentation was Jeanne Pfander from the University of Arizona. Panel participants, all from Kansas State University, included: Amy Hartman, Electronic Documents Librarian; Luann Ingersoll and Angela R. Jones, science catalogers; and Michael A. Somers, Chair, Technical Services Department. Kansas State University Libraries, Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service, and the National Agricultural Library entered into a cooperative agreement to improve access to extension publications and other agricultural materials. Cooperative Extension provided materials with minimal level bibliographic

records and also helped develop the functional system. The Cataloging Department of Kansas State University Library reviewed the Cooperative Extension records, provided training and support, and provided access to materials and MARC records. The National Agricultural Library, meanwhile, coordinated the project, developed minimum publication information requirements, and provided a file of retrospective records to the Kansas State University Library.

Tim McKimmie, New Mexico State University, served as moderator for the second session, "Training/Strategic Planning," which consisted of three presentations. Patricia Wilson and Toni Powell, both from the University of Kentucky, addressed "Information Competency: It's Not Just Bibliographic Instruction Anymore." They detailed the history of library instruction at the University of Kentucky from 1974 to the present. Library instruction has evolved into information competency as resources have moved from paper to electronic formats. An additional area of change has been outreach in providing instruction to experiment stations and extension agents.

"Case Study of Teamwork in the Reference Unit at the St. Paul Campus Central Library," was the subject of the talk given by JoAnn DeVries, University of Minnesota. In response to unpredictable and rapid changes in the library/information environment, the librarians chose to use teamwork as a structure for self-organizing. Developing teamwork required a strong facilitative role, consensus, and TQM for improvement. The Reference Unit increased its sense of commitment and developed a more healthy and adaptive philosophy.

Lutishoor Salisbury and Alberta Bailey, both from the University of Arkansas, reported on "Evaluation of CARL Reveal Service as a Source for Current Awareness: Case Study at University of Arkansas." Salisbury and Bailey provided the results of a study evaluating student and faculty use of, and satisfaction with, CARL Reveal Current Awareness Service. Findings included: a higher rate of use in agricul-

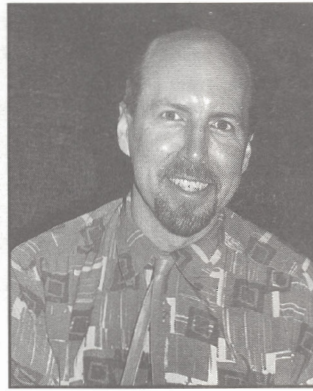
Speakers and Moderators



Shirley Edwards



Christina Cunliffe



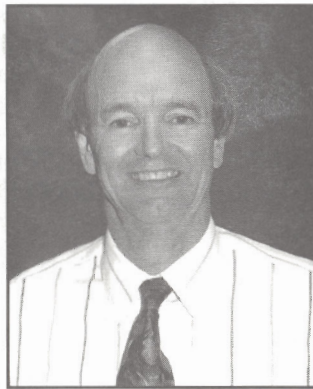
Michael Somers



Anne McKee



Beverlee French



Michael Reid



Jeanne Pfander



Amy Hartman



Luann Ingersoll



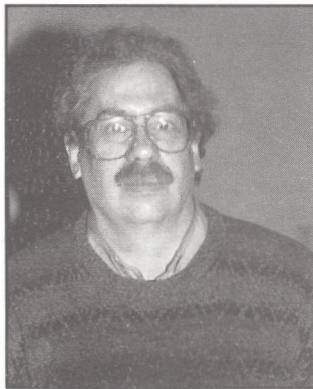
Angela R. Jones



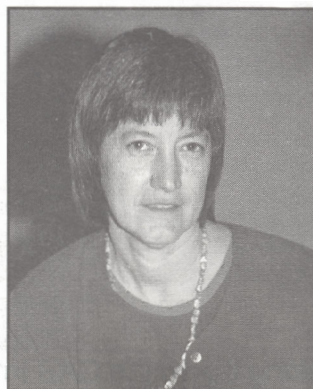
JoAnn DeVries



Lutishoor Salisbury



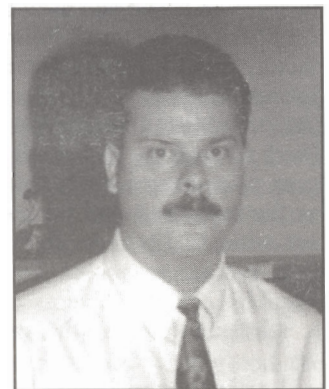
Gerry McKiernan



Sandra Leach



Geraldine Holmes



Alfonso Villaseñor

ture than in other disciplines; 80% of faculty and 30% of students could not provide their access number (and were obviously not able to use the system); 53% of users never updated their profile; and, most users found the service to be excellent to very good. One reason that users discontinued use was a lack of relevant material retrieved. While 85% wanted to continue the service, only 42% would be willing to pay. It was concluded that training and re-training are necessary for wider and effective use of this service.

Tim Cullen from the Natural Resources Institute in the United Kingdom moderated session three, "Designing Information Tools/Distance Education." Gerry McKiernan, from Iowa State University, titled his talk, "Give Them What They Want: Participatory Development of a WWW Agricultural Database Collection." He described an experiment to enhance a Web-based science and technology reference library by allowing users a voice in the selection of subject categories of resources to be included within its collection. He discussed benefits and limitations of the study and proposed an alternative model for "virtual cooperative collection development." The URL for the agricultural science and technology reference library [LC class (S)] is:

< <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~CYBERSTACKS/S/Agri.htm> >

B. P. Ponnappa and Sandra Leach from the University of Tennessee Libraries presented "Journal Online News: Facilitating Communication on Evaluation of Subscriptions Using the World Wide Web." "Journal Online News" was a web site used by the University of Tennessee Library to solicit faculty input for de-selection during a journal cancellation project. Journal titles were listed on the Web by subject fund as well as alphabetically. Five year price histories were given as well as the measured and perceived use of each title, and its accessibility via indexing or other means of dissemination. The URL for this site is:

< <http://toltec.lib.utk.edu/~jon> >

Last in the series was "Diversity and Distance Learning: A Challenge for

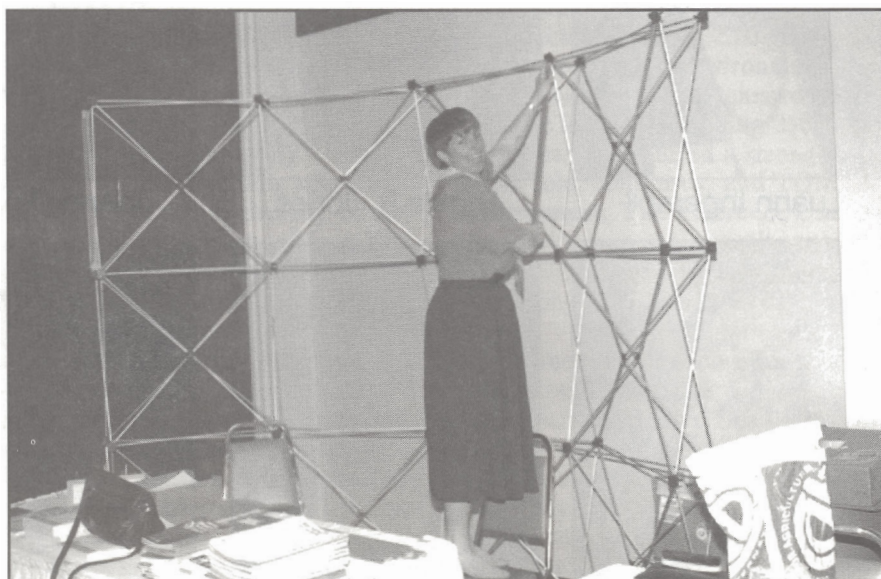


Carla Casler discusses a *DIALOG*-related document with Hilary Fox at the Knight-Ridder Information Exhibit.

Distance Educators," presented by Geraldine Holmes from Louisiana State University. Holmes stated that learners tend to learn more slowly when the values implicit in instruction differ from their own. Although students may speak English, they may not speak your English. Inter-cultural communication is vital for adult distance education learners, as well as for other learners.

#### Mid-Afternoon Programs

National Agricultural Library staff presented a library update report. NAL's budget for the 1997 fiscal year is flat, but NAL hopes to protect the collections budget and retain its level of document delivery service. Funds are available renovate part of the building. One of NAL's goals is to revitalize its relationships with land-grant universities. Technical Services has been



Andrea Powell taking down the CAB International Exhibit on the last afternoon of the USAIN/ IAALD Conference.



At the closing ceremony the USAIN and IAALD presidents, NAL Director, and the audience of conference participants recognized all who had contributed to make the Conference a success. (L-R) Toni Powell, Jan van der Burg, and Pamela André.

working on a retrospective conversion project. Preservation efforts at NAL continue to move forward. Information Systems continue to support AgNIC.

The last official program of the conference was devoted to the USAIN Executive Council, IAALD Board, and Interest Group reports. This was followed by a Conference wrap-up.

### Spanish Translation

Although all of the sessions of the USAIN/IAALD joint conference were presented in English, many of the papers/sessions were translated into Spanish simultaneously. Alfonso Villaseñor, a free-lance interpreter from Tucson, did this translating.

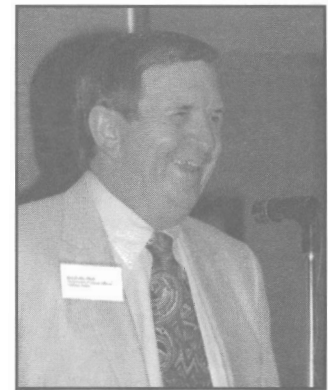
### Other Events

A wide range of vendors exhibited their products at the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference. A list of exhibitors, sponsors and other acknowledgements follows this article. Vendor repre-

sentatives participated with conference attendees in many of the presentations, discussions, and social events, as well as offering the latest information about their products in their booths. This contact is always beneficial to both the vendors and the information professionals.

Conference attendees were treated to a wide variety of food and drink. Many of the luncheons were highlighted earlier in this paper. Continental breakfasts as well as morning and afternoon breaks were available each day in the exhibit area. A Wednesday evening informal icebreaker reception was sponsored by USAIN and the University of Arizona's Arid Lands Information Center. A time for socializing, following the poster sessions, was enjoyed by many of the conference attendees on Thursday. The evening concluded with a Mexican dinner sponsored by the University of Arizona Library and the College of Agriculture. Moderator for the after-dinner remarks was Pam André, Director of the National Agricultural Library. Wel-

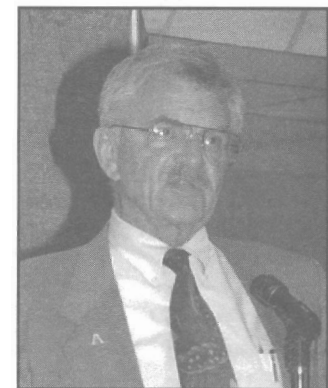
coming statements were offered by Dr. Kenneth Foster from the Office of Arid Lands Studies, Dean of Libraries Carla Stoffle, and Vice-Provost and Dean of the College of Agriculture Eugene Sander, all from the University of Arizona. Conference attendees were treated to a southwestern social at the Corona Ranch on Friday evening. A southwestern dinner highlighted the event, followed by music, dancing, dance instruction, and socializing!



Kenneth Foster



Carla Stoffle



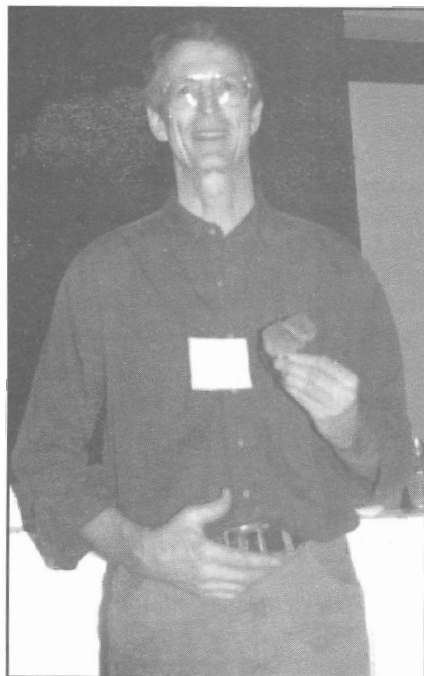
Eugene Sander



Among the local Arizona staff recognized by USAIN and IAALD for making the Conference a success, Barbara Hutchinson (left) and Carla Casler (right) were awarded flowers and Michael Haseltine (below left) and Sydney Hutchinson (below right) were given toy kangaroo rats.



Lunch "on your own," Friday, gave some attendees the chance to try nearby eateries and/or investigate the unique items available in the nearby "Old Tucson" shops. Many of the conference participants attended organized tours of various near-by sites on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, including national parks, desert museums, missions, and art galleries. Some chose to add vacations before or after the conference to enjoy the scenery and weather.



### Conclusion

Special thanks goes to the USAIN Executive Board, IAALD Executive Council, Conference planning groups, vendors, sponsors, and all who made the Conference a success. We appreciate your efforts on our behalf. Good job!

