

Guam earthquake topples 90,000 books

An earthquake with a magnitude of 8.2 on the Richter scale rocked Guam on August 9, 1993. At the University of Guam's Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library about 90,000 books and periodicals—90% of the collection—vibrated off the shelves and hit the floors. Stress fractures were observed in several locations and damage to air handling ducts, electrical lighting fixtures, and flooring was sustained. The library was in the process of occupying its \$9 million renovation and addition when the earthquake hit. This is the second major disaster the library has faced in less than a year. In August 1992 Supertyphoon Omar hit Guam and the heavy rains caused the library's roof to flood, clogged drain pipes, and sent water cascading down the emergency stairwells, flooding both floors of the building. Staff had been planning a grand opening festivity for October.

C&RL NewsNet debuts

C&RL NewsNet, an abridged electronic edition of *C&RL News* accessible on the Internet through the Gopher server at the University of Illinois at Chicago, made its debut September 10, 1993. *C&RL NewsNet* contains all of the items in the printed *C&RL News's* "News from the Field" column and all of the classified advertising, i.e., the job postings. The information in *C&RL NewsNet* will precede publication of the printed copy by 2-3 weeks. For example, the November "News from the Field" and classified advertising will be uploaded to the Internet around October 15. The printed edition of the November issue of *C&RL News* will be mailed on November 5. *C&RL NewsNet* will carry current information only; uploading the new information will replace the information in the previous issue.

To reach *C&RL NewsNet* you can locate the University of Illinois at Chicago in the menu of all servers maintained on gopher at the University of Minnesota. Alternatively, you can connect your favorite gopher client directly to host "gopher.uic.edu 70". Select "The Library" from the menu and then select "C&RL NewsNet" from the next menu.



You will be presented with a menu of choices: Welcome to *C&RL NewsNet*, News from the Field; Job Postings by Job Title; and General Editorial, Subscription, and Advertising Information. Each news item and each job listing will be posted separately so you can easily scan to find the information you need. Currently the information is posted as plain text files; within the next few months

we will be making the information available as a searchable database.

Note: UIC's Gopher is registered at the University of Minnesota and is accessible from any gopher client. If you have technical questions or trouble reaching *C&RL NewsNet* check with your computing support staff or computer center. If you have suggestions or comments about *C&RL NewsNet* content or format send them to the editor Mary Ellen Davis at Internet: U38398@uicvm.uic.edu or bitnet: U38398@uicvm.bitnet.

NYU and The New-York Historical Society team up

The New-York Historical Society and New York University have joined in an innovative partnership, through which Dean of NYU Librar-

Much ado about education

Students and educators are being offered discount tickets for selected showings of the current film "Much Ado About Nothing," directed by Kenneth Branagh. The offer comes from the Samuel Goldwyn Company and the National Association of Theatre Owners. In addition to the film, free study guides and posters will be available locally from participating theatres. W.W. Norton, the publisher of Branagh's book about the making of the film, is offering the book at half-price during the month of October to students and educators who, with proof of seeing the film, send for it by mail. For information on how to participate call Robert Faust at (800) 6-GOLDWYN.

Assessing student dissatisfaction: No quality without accessibility

A formal evaluation study of our children's literature collection revealed that students' perceived dissatisfaction with the quality and extent of the collection was primarily due to problems with access.

The small-scale study consisted of three parts: Quality was determined by comparing a sample of titles against several review journals. Extent or breadth of the collection was measured by comparing our titles against several "best" lists. Access was evaluated by means of a user survey in questionnaire format, as well as a close examination of the classification system used for this collection and searching of problem titles in the online catalog. The survey also examined the users' perception of the quality and extent of our collection.

Whereas quality and extent adequately measured up to the standards we had established at the outset of the study, we found

that problems with access were the major cause for students' dissatisfaction: e.g., proximity of the collection to the computer lab; inconsistent cataloging and classification practices; inadequate subject headings; the lack of cross-references (authority control) in the online catalog; but also students' inept use of the online catalog (typos, incorrect search strategies, unfamiliarity with limiting keyword searches, etc.).

A pathfinder to the collection with helpful hints how to search children's books in the online catalog; reclassification of some titles; addition of subject headings with the appropriate subdivision "juvenile literature" or "juvenile fiction"; and providing better physical access were among the immediate steps we took to making access to the collection a more satisfying experience for our students.—*Susanne Nevin, Gustavus Adolphus College* ■

ies Carlton C. Rochell will oversee management of the Society's library services to the public and develop joint programming for both institutions such as a centralized computer catalog system, book acquisitions and educational and public outreach programs. Among the enhancements planned to the Society's Library during the one-year agreement are: increasing library access from three days per week to five; loading the Society's database in to the NYU online system, establishing an affiliates program for scholars, mounting exhibits of the Society's collections at NYU, and having NYU oversee all current acquisitions, processing and cataloging for the Historical Society; the resources of both institutions will be used for book preservation. This is not the first formal relationship between the two institutions; from 1841 to 1857, the Society was in residence in NYU's original Main Building on Washington Square.

Do the standards meet your needs?

ACRL's University Libraries Section (ULS) is considering whether to revise the *Standards for University Libraries*, approved by the ACRL Board of Directors and the ALA Standards Committee in 1989. These standards are not prescriptive or quantitative, but focus on setting

goals and objectives and measuring the degree to which library performance meets these goals and objectives. As such, the standards may be durable even in the face of fairly dramatic changes occurring in university libraries. ULS would like your comments on the standards and is especially interested in hearing how individuals have used the standards. Comments on how developments since 1989 and those on the horizon might affect the stability of these standards are also requested. (*Note: The Standards* are printed in the September 1989 issue of *C&RL News*, pages 679-691.) Send your comments to: ULS member-at-large Beverlee French by December 31, 1993, at Library Administration, Shields Library, University of California, Davis, CA 95616; e-mail: bafrench@ucdavis.edu; tel: (916) 752-2110; fax: (916) 752-6899.

EBSS listserv address change

The Education and Behavioral Sciences Section of ACRL has changed the location of its electronic discussion forum. EBSS-ALA is now available to EBSS members courtesy of the University of Maine. To subscribe, e-mail a request that includes your electronic address and full name to Deborah Rollins at rollins@maine.bitnet or rollins@maine.maine.edu. ■

Pick a system. *Any* system.

At EBSCO we think one of the most important decisions you'll make for your library is that of choosing quality subscription service. Equally important is choosing the automated system that best fits your library's needs. When you choose EBSCO for subscription service, we respect your library automation decision and provide an array of electronic services that complements your system's capabilities. Our services are compatible with most major systems — so you can have superior subscription service *and* your system of choice, too. Call us today to learn more about our independence-oriented library automation services.



P.O. Box 1943 • Birmingham, AL 35201
(205) 991-6600 • Fax: (205) 995-1636

Where library automation is a liberating experience.