



International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers

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31st IAMS LIC Conference: FAO, Rome

Letter from the President

'All roads lead to Rome.' *The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, (2002) defines this as "All paths or activities lead to the center of things." Geographically and metaphorically, this came true for me and many IAMS LICers organizing and attending this years' IAMS LIC conference.

My first visit to the "Eternal City" was in February 2005, meeting with Jean Collins from the FAO Fisheries Department, the institutional host of our conference. I was really overwhelmed by the size of the FAO building, its endless corridors and the amazing view from the cafeteria terrace.

We discussed the basics of the conference, determined the conference 'grid' i.e. Fisheries Day, Vatican Field trip, conference dinner, registration fee etc. Jean had this marvellous idea to provide attendees with a "lunch card" from the FAO cafeteria included in the full registration fee, giving everyone the freedom to eat and drink 'al gusto' (and maybe leave some spare money for the 'Guin Fund'). She showed me the possible conference hall, which at that time was a different room, much smaller in size than the "Green Room" we finally got and introduced me to library team. I understood that Jean exerted a tremendous effort negotiating rooms and services, especially security services within the FAO. And the Pope was very ill.

In June, I visited Rome for a second time now on private holiday. In the meantime Pope John Paul II had died, a new pope elected and most of us had seen on TV masses of people invading Rome. I was relieved that this activity did not immediately precede the conference. So, I enjoyed my holiday doing the hard tourist 'work' one can do in seven days (Churches, Coliseum, Catacombs) and learned how difficult it can be to get into the Vatican Museum. People were lining up for more than three hours in the hot sun. So I gave up, hoping that thanks to Jean's crew, things would work better on our planned field trip during the conference.

In the beginning of July, that evil terrorist attack in London shocked the world, and we were very concerned about how this would influence FAO security issues as well as securing travel visa for IAMSLIC members from developing countries.

Today, almost one month after the end of the conference, I am still rubbing my eyes

thinking: What an intense conference week! We had lots of interesting papers, very professional presenters and moderators, fruitful discussions and stimulating brainstorming. We also got fascinating insights in the work of colleagues all over the world. Behind the scenes, Jean and the FAO FIDI team took care of everything, smoothly and almost noiselessly, and let me tell you, this was an incredible heap of work. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the conference a success. The conference had 89 participants from 38 countries (FAO staff not included), one third of them were first timers. I am very happy that many participants from developing countries, three of them with IAMSLIC funding, were able to attend the conference.

My first action in my new role of IAMSLIC President was to sign the 'Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities' on behalf of IAMSLIC. This was approved by the Executive Board during its meeting at October 10, 2005. For information about the 'Berlin Declaration' see the following URL: <http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>

From the discussions at the Executive Board and Business Meetings, I learned that we have to improve the information flow between the Board and the general membership. Members also need more time to express their ideas and concerns. Several issues generated much discussion, some confusion, and some consensus. This included the conference site selection process, and the 'Proposal for Redefining IAMSLIC Regional Group Membership Status, and for Restructuring Funding Distribution and Organizational Processes'. Guidelines for conference planning and especially for site selection have to be

updated and elaborated. I appreciate very much Joan Parker's offer to build up a new special committee assuming these important tasks.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that our hard working web committee is close to the finishing line in moving the IAMSLIC Web Services to MBL/WHOI Library. Presumably within this very year the heavily enhanced and completely redesigned IAMSLIC web site will go online for members and the public. Congratulations to Barbara Butler, our President-elect (2007-2008) and Snowdy Dodson, Secretary (2005-2007). IAMSLIC

is a volunteer organization that depends on participation of the members. This year many opportunities are available for you to participate as a member or Chair of a committee. I invite you to join any of the IAMSLIC committees.

Marcel Brannemann
IAMSLIC President 2005-2006
Alfred Wegener Institut fuer Polar und Meeresforschung, Bibliothek



Summary of Meeting Decisions

Here are some highlights of the discussions held at the Executive Board Meetings and at the General Membership Meetings conducted during the IAMSLIC Conference in Rome in October 2005.

These are not official minutes.

At the **1st Executive Board meeting** there was discussion of the **proposal to redefine the IAMSLIC/EURASLIC** membership. Steve Watkins suggested that the Board approve the document in concept and then organize a committee to work out how the concept could be implemented.

The discussion centered around issues such as eliminating one of the annual IAMSLIC grant cycles, the increased number of IAMSLIC members that are currently only members of EURASLIC, the dollar amount per regional group member proposed in the document, the benefits to EURASLIC and other regional groups, the possibility that IAMSLIC dues would have to increase if many members who are

currently not affiliated with a regional group choose an affiliation.

It was decided that a committee to study the implementation of the proposal would

be formed. The committee is comprised of Jan Haspelslagh, Joan Parker, Susan Stover, Marian Jiagge and the treasurer of EURASLIC. Ad hoc consultants are Steve Watkins and Barbara Butler. Marcel Brannemann will set a time frame for the committee to report.

There was a lot of discussion around site selection for the 2007 and 2008 IAMSLIC conferences. The **Site Selection** committee recommended Sarasota, Florida for 2007 and Suva, Fiji for 2008. Discussion centered around whether there should be two consecutive conferences held in the United States (Oregon is the site for 2006). Alternate suggestions included:
1) holding a joint conference in Europe to confirm IAMSLIC's commitment to EURASLIC (EURASLIC meets every 2

years) – if the reorganization proposal presented to the membership is accepted or 2) showing support to the African Regional Group by holding the conference in Africa.

The Executive Board approved the signing of the **Berlin Declaration**, a document supporting open access to scientific literature.

The **Treasurer's report** showed that over the past year we have spent more than we have taken in and that our income was only as high as it was because the Hobart conference made a profit of \$10,000.00. Susan Stover, treasurer advises that we watch our expenses very closely.

President Jane Barnwell suggested that it is time to look to the future and think about **strategic planning** and goals for the organization.

At the **1st General Business Meeting** the five members of the committee who drafted the **IAMSLIC/EURASLIC proposal** were introduced (Steve Watkins, Barbara Butler, Jan Haspeslagh, Marcel Brannemann and Barbara Schmidt). Barbara Butler described the problems encountered with the membership database when the EURASLIC membership period expires at a different time than IAMSLIC memberships. The five member committee was formed to eliminate barriers, establish consistent benefits, eliminate duplicate efforts and provide equitable distribution of fiscal resources. They propose elimination of the first grant cycle where regional groups applied for funds, but were not guaranteed to receive any amount. Instead, all regional groups will receive \$20 per member from the membership paid by the members. During years when the treasury is healthy, this amount would be

increased by \$10 per regional group member.

A committee will continue to study how the proposal can be implemented and whether this financial distribution is feasible. Currently there are approximately 348 IAMSLIC members, 106 are not members of any regional group.

Copies of the proposal were made available to all at the meeting to be read before a vote at the 2nd General Business Meeting.

At the **2nd Executive Board Meeting** Stephanie Haas presented a proposal to fund "**The Aquatic Commons**". The project would use Southampton software to create a full text searchable digital aquatic repository. The work could be performed at the Florida Center for Cooperative Library Automation. Stephanie would like to submit a proposal to FAO and ASFA to fund part of the setup and maintenance costs. The Aquatic Commons would provide an area to submit reports and metadata and harvest material on aquatic sciences, not only marine but freshwater too.

A task force was named to study the project and report back to the IAMSLIC executive by November 30, 2005. Members of the task force are Marc Goovaerts, Stephanie Haas, Simon Wilkinson, Peter Bruggeman and Guillermina Cosulich.

There was further discussion about conference **Site Selection** and a vote was taken. The result was the same as the Site Selection Committee recommendation.

The **IAMSLIC website** will be hosted on the server at Woods Hole. About 80% of the site is loaded and ready to go live.

There was an **additional short meeting of the Executive Board** to discuss **Site Selection**. The meeting was called as a result of some members of the Board being uncomfortable with the current situation. The following motion resulted from the meeting:

Based on the outcome of the presentation of the IAMSLIC/EURASLIC proposal to members and based on new information, if the proposal passes, the Executive elects to hold a joint conference in 2007 with EURASLIC.

At the **2nd General Business Meeting** the **election results** were announced. President-Elect for 2007/08 will be Barbara Butler
Secretary for 2005/06-2006/07 will be Snowdy Dodson.

The **IAMSLIC/EURASLIC Proposal** was brought up for discussion. A number of members expressed concern about the financial implications of the proposal. Others preferred that a more concrete proposal be brought to the membership before a vote is cast.

Eleanor Uhlinger suggested that many of the members who are not in attendance at the conference need to read the proposal. She urged that the document be brought to the entire membership for a vote.

A number of members present asked that the proposal be translated into French and Spanish.

The motion was tabled until translations are made available.

A proposal was made and accepted that
a) the **Site Selection Committee** be comprised of one member from each regional group and one member at large, none of whom are on the Executive Board
b) the Site Selection Committee will update the guidelines for submitting, reviewing and selecting the conference site based on the IAMSLIC long term strategic goal of enhancing regional group participation in IAMSLIC governance.

A proposal was made and accepted that the Bylaws Committee be directed to review the composition of the **nominating committee** and make the necessary changes to the Bylaws to allow one member from each regional group, and one member-at-large, none of whom are on the executive board to serve on the nominating committee, based on the IAMSLIC long term strategic goal of enhancing regional group participation in IAMSLIC governance.

Any changes to the Bylaws will be voted on by the entire membership.

The above summary is submitted by Elizabeth Winiarz, Secretary. I thank everyone for allowing me to spend two terms as IAMSLIC secretary. I look forward to continued membership and commitment to the organization.

Elizabeth Winiarz
Library
University of Massachusetts



IAMSLIC conference in Rome - PowerPoint presentations online

If you couldn't make it to the conference, you can still view many of the presentations online. The PowerPoint files from the 2005 IAMSLIC conference in Rome have been loaded to the Members Area of the new IAMSLIC web site. To access the files, go to: <http://slic.mbl.edu/> and use the ID & password emailed to you via the members' list to login to the Members Area. On the left side under

Members Area, click on Conference Presentations.

While you're there, check out the new web site but please keep in mind that it's not quite finished yet! If you have any questions or comments, please email Sally Taylor at sally.taylor@ubc.ca (Chair, Web Committee).

Sally Taylor, Biology Librarian
Woodward Biomedical Library
University of British Columbia

31st IAMSLIC Conference: FAO, Rome, Italy, October 10 – 14 2005 (see final attendee list at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsclibrary/2005iamslic/2005attendeesfinal.pdf>)



IAMSLIC conference report: Fisheries Day, 13 October

The 2005 Conference, hosted by FAO, had 85 registrants attending sessions on “Information for Responsible Fisheries Libraries as Mediators.” Thirty-eight countries were represented and thirty people were attending for the first time. Many thanks are due to the FAO Fisheries Department and the FAO Library for their wonderful hospitality and support of the conference.

2005 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the 1st anniversary of the Memorandum of Mutual Cooperation between IAMSLIC and FAO. To the Programme Committee, it seemed logical to focus one day of the conference on fisheries information. The following is a brief overview of the day. The Conference Proceedings will contain not only the papers, but a synthesis by the day’s moderators, Dr. Devin Bartley (FAO Fisheries Department) and Janet Webster (Oregon State University Libraries).

Sidney Holt started the conversation with a brilliant address on the role of information in his life as a scientist. He noted that “science is rooted in conversation” and went on to identify three important connections for successful fisheries science: connections with people, connections through time, and connections through disciplines. Following Dr. Holt, Dr. John Kurien provided thoughtful comments on the economics of fisheries focusing on the three A’s of food security: accessibility, affordability and absorbability. These same concepts apply to fisheries information and its successful use.

With these two talks as background, other morning speakers addressed fisheries

information issues. Rachele Oriente and Anton Immink both discussed the challenges of information outreach and education from very different perspectives. Joan Parker reviewed the efficacy of ASFA as the finding tool of choice. David Douman and Eric Reynolds, both of the FAO Fisheries Department, reviewed the importance of Code of Conduct to world wide fisheries management and the role of information in its successful implementation. Many in the audience were challenged to think differently about the role of the librarian to advocate for changing policies and to assume a more active role in outreach to new audiences.

The afternoon session focused on specific case studies of libraries and fisheries information. Simon Wilkinson presented an innovative strategy for sharing aquaculture information across 16 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific using low-tech digital publishing. Moses Ibeun succinctly described fisheries information issues in Nigeria while Geoffrey Salanje did the same for Malawi. These provided background for Margaret Shaw’s presentation on resource sharing strategies for fisheries libraries in Africa. Concepts articulated by Holt and Kurien were repeated throughout the day providing a framework for the final discussion on how to revise and refine the MOU between FAO and IAMSLIC.

Many thanks go to the FAO FishCode Programme and the FAO Fisheries Department for their generous support of Fisheries Day at the IAMSLIC Conference as well as their splendid hospitality throughout the week.

Janet Webster
Head Librarian, Guin Library
Hatfield Marine Science Center
Oregon State University

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Conference participants: 18th Annual Conference: Bremerhaven, Germany, October 5 – 9 1992

2nd AFRIAMSLIC Conference

Communique of 2nd AFRIAMSLIC Conference

We, the participants at the 2nd Africa Regional Group of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (AFRIAMSLIC) conference, held in Accra, Ghana from 13th-15th September 2005 under the theme "Coping with the digital age in Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries in Developing Countries" have observed that for us to cope with the digital age in aquatic and marine science information generation, management and application there is the need for increase support.

1) To this end, the Association appreciates the level of funding from African governments. However, to cope with the digital age governments are being called upon to support the development of appropriate infrastructural base for ICTs.

2) It is observed that the development of digital services is low due to the lack of qualified personnel. We therefore call for the adoption of ICT culture, training and encouragement for relevant personnel in our institutions.

3) The association noted with appreciation the current level of assistance provided by our development partners and call for increase support in the areas of equipment, subscription to digital information and capacity building.

Finally, the conference:

- 1) Adopted a working document which will guide activities of AFRIAMSLIC
- 2) Identified strategy for networking among AFRIAMSLIC members and development partners

Marian Jiagge(Chair, AFRIAMSLIC)
Librarian
Water Research Institute(CSIR)
Ghana



Obituary

A word of appreciation for Clare Cuerden

Many of you - maybe more the oldtimers than the new - will have met or corresponded with Clare Cuerden, who was FAO Fisheries Librarian from 1967 to 1990, when she retired.

I learned when I returned from holiday recently that Clare had died in Umbria in July. Clare was certainly known to many working in fisheries in developing countries during the 70's and 80's - not only FAO Field staff but individual scientists and librarians i.e. the people she considered the most important for the services of the FAO Fisheries Library.

You can easily see Clare's priorities in the paper she presented to the 12th IAMSLIC Conference, Newport (Oregon), in 1986.

The paper "Including fisheries: the development of a fishery library network within the framework of FAO" gives a brief history of the FAO Fisheries Library and the work which Clare pioneered to reach out to smaller fisheries libraries in developing countries.

<http://www.vims.edu/cgi-bin/byteserver.pl/GreyLit/IAMSLIC/proc86029.pdf>

Her 1986 paper suggested politely that IAMSLIC consider expanding its constituency to include freshwater rather than be exclusively marine ...although she was not always known for putting things so politely. Clare was a fighter - always had strong views and said what she believed.

FAO and its Members benefit to this day from the strong fisheries library collection which Clare built and managed for over 20 years. Ensuring that the publications from developing countries were available in FAO - and indexed in ASFA - has given them wider visibility and in many cases probably saved them from extinction. Clare enjoyed 15 years of retirement in a small Italian town, where she was known

to all for the time she devoted to helping children with English, organizing any library she could get her hands on and generally being part of the community.

Jean Collins
Fisheries Branch Library
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Z39.50 Distributed Library & Union List

Two new Z39.50 lending libraries (2 September)

Two more IAMSLIC libraries have recently joined the group of participating libraries in the resource sharing services provided through the Z39.50 Distributed Library and the Latin American Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials. The University of Connecticut's Avery Point Campus Library and the Instituto Nacional de Investigacion y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) Library have both added their serial holdings to the Union List of Serials, which is then also searched as part of the overall Z39.50 Distributed Library. The holdings of the INIDEP Library, as a member of the Latin American Regional Group, are also included in the Latin American regional union list of serials.

Additions to Union List (17 September)

I am pleased to announce that another 3,100 serial holdings records have been added to the Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials. The Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, whose complete catalog has been available for searching via the Z39.50 Distributed Library for some time now, has contributed 2,220 records with detailed holdings information for their serials collection. The Leibniz Institut fuer Meereskunde-GEOMAR joint library has also added 882 new records for non-active

serial titles to their previous list of 467 currently-received titles.

Because detailed holdings are described in the Union List, it is often a preferable source for verifying that a library actually owns a desired volume/issue/year before submitting borrowing requests. The combined Union List now contains nearly 23,000 holdings from 47 IAMSLIC libraries for approximately 13,000 unique serial titles, so it is a rich resource for locating items published in journals and other serials that may be difficult to locate through library catalogs.

Another new Distributed Library participant (28 October)

I am pleased to announce that the library of the National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research of Nigeria has added its serials holdings to the Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials, making them also available via Z39.50 searches of the IAMSLIC Distributed Library. This enhances coverage of a number of important journals and other publications from Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa and may provide additional impetus for the possible development of a regional union list of serials for the AFRIAMSLIC region.

Steve Watkins
CSU Monterey Bay Library

Member News

Membership in IAMSLIC is at an all-time high of 366 members. As always, the printable membership directory has been updated for this quarter but your best resource for tracking down fellow members is the online searchable membership database in the member-only area of the IAMSLIC website.

During our recent conference in Rome we voted that the Membership Committee be comprised of a member from each regional group and one member at large. Members of the committee are: Jean Collins (Chair), Janet Webster (Cyamus), Barbara Schmidt (EURASLIC), Rachele Oriente (Pacific Islands), Peter Fritzler (SAIL) and Eleanor Uhlinger. We still need members from the Latin American and Afriamslic groups.

Please join the Membership Committee in welcoming the following new members.

Simon Wilkinson, Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia- Pacific, Thailand; **Celia Rosen**, Alaska Resource Library & Information Services, USA; **Maurice Jorgens**, Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, United Nations, USA; **Ramiro Martinez Herrera**, Instituto Tecnológica del Mar-

Unidad Mazatlan, Mexico; **Arnoldo Guadalupe Vazques Aguilar**, Centro de Investigacion en Alimentacion y Desarrollo AC- Unidad Mazatlan, Mexico; **Fatima Canales Gomez**, Centro de Informacion Bibliotecario (ESPOL), Ecuador; **Rosa Isela Valdez Lizarraga**, Facultad de Ciencias Del Mar, Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa, Mexico; **Lucy Dzandu**, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research- Institute for Scientific and Technological Information, Ghana; **Ura Kinibo**, National Fisheries College Library, Papua New Guinea; **Sofia Levashova**, Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), Russia; **John Ronald**, Texas A&M University at Galveston, USA; **Pip Cohen**, Ministry of Fisheries, Tonga; **Kevin Cullen**, Marine Institute Library, Ireland; **Brian O’Riordan**, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, Belgium; **Eric Mumbone**, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Library, Namibia; **Charlotte Hess**, Indiana University, USA

Barbara Butler
Librarian
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology



Library and Regional Group News

Name change - NMFS Santa Cruz Lab

Hopefully to avoid confusion in the future: we are still in NOAA, NMFS, and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC). Our lab used to be identified geographically, as the "NMFS Santa Cruz Laboratory," but we are now called by our new SWFSC division name, "**SWFSC Fisheries Ecology Division.**"

Just to be clear, we are still the lab located in Santa Cruz, CA, and so far our research programs are the same (California groundfish and salmonids, mainly). Only the lab’s name has changed.

Also, for those who don’t already know, "NOAA Fisheries" is just another name for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Kit Johnston
Librarian, NOAA Fisheries

Smithsonian Libraries ISO-ILL access

Smithsonian Libraries ISO-ILL Access for OCLC is now back. Smithsonian Libraries is once again a lender. Please feel free to resume interlibrary loan requesting for books and photocopies from Smithsonian Libraries. Keep your fingers crossed that all remains well so that we can remain listed as a supplier.

Smithsonian Libraries should be your library of last resort. Try others first who own the title you want.

Our OCLC library symbol is SMI. This applies to all Smithsonian Libraries-no matter the location. You may want to check our online catalog for more information. Go to <http://siris-libraries.si.edu/>. Books and journals listed for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama may not be loaned or photocopied.

Our OCLC symbol, SMI, must be listed more than once in the lending string of OCLC ILL requests. If SMI is listed only once, the request will be refused.

For those of you not using OCLC for requesting, please take note of the following information for making requests through other channels.

Information for outside libraries requesting materials from the Smithsonian Libraries can be found at <http://www.sil.si.edu/research/ill/nonstaff.htm>.

David T. Steere, Jr.
Senior Reference Librarian, National Museum of Natural History Library

Mote Marine Laboratory celebrates 50 years

Fifty years - a half-century of growth - is an achievement for just about any organization. But at Mote Marine Laboratory, 50 years represents more than institutional growth; it marks decades of significant advances in the science of the sea. Mote started out as a tiny marine lab in Cape Haze after William Vanderbilt asked Dr. Eugenie Clark if she would come to Florida and start a marine lab and become the director.

Her 'yes' led to a historical journey and the creation of a new marine lab that she headed for 10 years. Science advances continued under former directors, Drs. Perry Gilbert and William Taft and Mote namesake, William R. Mote, who lent his business acumen to the growing organization. Dr. Kumar Mahadevan took over the lab's leadership in 1986. Under his direction as President and C.E.O., the lab has continued to serve as a local, national and international resource, furthering the understanding of the oceans through the cutting-edge research needed to ensure the health and productivity of the world's seas.

Today Mote Marine Laboratory operates seven research centers, supports a library that provides resources, reference and research to the staff and the public, hosts an education division with public outreach through school programs, internships, and distance learning programs, in addition to sharing the secrets of the sea at Mote Aquarium with 400,000 visitors annually.

Susan Stover
Senior Librarian
Mote Marine Laboratory

PIRG

PIRG is probably the smallest regional group of IAMS LIC (only 11 members) and we do not have a Chair at present, but some information about regional activities can be gleaned from the PIMRIS Newsletter, available online:

http://www.usp.ac.fj/library/collection/pimris/pimris_publications.htm

Chris Nelson
Librarian/Coordinator,
Pacific Islands Marine Resources
Information System (PIMRIS)
University of the South Pacific



Databases, Portals and Publications

Regional Ocean Portal for Latin America and the Caribbean

We kindly invite you to visit the OCEAN PORTAL (<http://portal.unesco.org/portaloceanico/ev.php>), the gateway to one of the most complete sources of Ocean information in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Ocean Portal has more than 630 themes and more than 4,400 knowledge objects.

Ma. Clara Ramirez J.
Biblioteca "Dra. Ma. Elena Caso Muñoz"
Unidad Académica Mazatlán del
Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program launches online encyclopedia of marine life

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) has unveiled a new free online resource that highlights the diverse marine life of America's ocean and Great Lakes treasures. The "Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries" offers photos, streaming video and important facts for more than 100 key animal and plant species from each of the national marine sanctuaries.

"NOAA's 'Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries' provides critical information on the diverse life found in the oceans and is an excellent example of the resources NOAA develops

to improve the nation's environmental literacy," said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator.

The "Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries" allows users to search for their favorite species or browse the wildlife of each sanctuary by category, ranging from spiny lobster to killer whales and from white-tipped reef sharks to sea anemones. The encyclopedia entry for each species includes a photo, quick facts, information about its diet, habitat, distribution and status, and links to outside resources for more information. Many of the entries also offer engaging, high-quality video clips of species in their natural habitats, making the "Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries" an entertaining and informative resource for educators, students of all ages, zoos and aquaria, science and technology centers, and natural history museums.

The Encyclopedia of the Sanctuary is available online at:
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education>.

Jeff Rothal
Reference & Instruction Librarian
Naval Postgraduate School
Dudley Knox Library

Water Information Center Portal

This new site has many useful reports available in full text for free. While produced in the U.S., the focus is on information that can be used throughout the world. The contact for the site is listed.

The U.S. National Academies is pleased to announce the launch of its Water Information Center, a portal of more than 100 peer-reviewed reports from the National Academies on water-related issues. The website (<http://water.nationalacademies.org>) aims to assist the work of water scientists, engineers, managers, policy-makers, and students throughout the world. These reports represent independent and objective consensus among experts from academia, industry, and other entities.

The website features the following major topics:

- Water Supply and Sanitation
- Water and Soil Remediation
- Hydrologic Hazards
- Water Quality in the Natural Environment
- River Basin Systems Management
- Environmental Assessment, Management, and Restoration
- Water Science and Research

All of the reports can be read for free online, and summaries are freely downloadable as PDFs. If you are from a developing country, the full reports can be downloaded for FREE. A large number of reports are also available to free download for residents of other countries.

Janet Webster
Oregon State University

Register of Pacific Scientists

The Register of Pacific Scientists (RPS) is an online database of people working in areas related to science, science teaching and science communication in the Pacific.

The RPS is a joint initiative of the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in Apia and the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science at the Australian National University. It allows all eligible people to register their names, contact details, qualifications, brief comments and their CVs or resumes. There is also a search function so that anyone wishing to look for people with an active interest in science in the Pacific can find them. The URL is: <http://pacificscience.net/>

Jane Barnwell
Pacific Specialist
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Hamilton Library / Pacific Collection

Science and the Sea in print

The Marine Science Institute has launched its series, *Science and the Sea*, as a monthly column in one of Texas' most widely read fishing magazines, *Gulf Coast Connections: Texas Saltwater Fishing*. The series is an informative and entertaining column that explains a variety of interesting features of the marine environment and the creatures that live there. We will post these articles on the MSI website every month at: <http://www.utmsi.utexas.edu/outreach/sats/>

Liz DeHart, Head Librarian
University of Texas Marine Science Institute
University of Texas Libraries, Marine Science Library

OSG05Presentations

For those interested in geospatial data technologies, the proceedings from Open Source Geospatial '05 is at <http://ms.gis.umn.edu/community/conferences/MUM3/>

Jane Barnwell
Pacific Specialist
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Hamilton Library / Pacific Collection



REGIONAL GROUP Contacts

Cyamus

Maureen Nolan, is the 2004 - 2006 regional representative

PIRG

Chris Nelson
Librarian/Coordinator,
Pacific Islands Marine Resources
Information System (PIMRIS)
University of the South Pacific

SAIL

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PRESIDENT-ELECT 2007-2008

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SECRETARY 2005-2007

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TREASURER 2005-2006

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