Contents

Abstract: *The intent of this paper is to suggest that the definition of research must be interpreted to include both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The arguement is made that, while there is definately a place for quantification, there is also a clear invitation for the use of qualitative methods. In fact, the nature or discovery itself provides a conceptual base for the development of grounded theory as a research strategy. This paper more fully explores how grounded theory and qualitative methodology can be effectively employed in research design.*

Abstract: *New roles, technologies and environments encourage practical responses to problems of designing information systems. Responses must be guided by careful enquiry into needs of potential users, identifying circumstances, existing knowledge and beliefs. Such activity systems vary between individuals and groups, yet the goal of an information policy designer must be to encourage a unified approach or, at least, a limited number of approaches to problems of information provision. "Soft" systems techniques provide powerful means of describing, analyzing and designing information systems. The techniques are sensitive to the approaches, or views, that people have of their knowledge domain. By identifying the nature of the domain it is possible to define its boundary and, by comparison, to identify the characteristics of common elents. A classification of the main elements usually found within a system includes (Client, Actor). Transformation Weltanschauung, Owner and Environment (to use Checkland's criteria). This approach encourages a forward, strategic view of information management and policy provision, which highlights the point at which technological change can offer opportunities. Successful strategies will also be adaptable to unexpected events, helping to balance the proactive and reactive aspects of policy management.*

CD-ROM Implementation in Developing Countries: Impacts and Pitfalls

Abstract:*CD-ROM implementation can have a major impact on service delivery for libraries and documentation centres. Obtaining and instituting CD-ROMs is only the first step. How to effectively implement the service is just as important. This paper focuses on CD-ROM implementation and its possible implications in a library environment. After presenting some major pitfalls some of the impacts of CD-ROMs in the library/documentation unit in the fields of personnel, networking and information marketing are discussed. The findings of this report are primarily based on the experience of the Royal Tropical Insitute, Koninklijke Instituut voor de Tropen (KIT), Netherlands, during the implimentation of CD-ROM technology in 28 countries in Asia, Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean.*

The Role and Purpose of the University Library in a Rapidly Changing Information Environment with Reference to the Eastern and Southern African Region

Abstract: *Focusing on the Eastern and Southern African Region, this paper begins by exploring the state-of-the-art of university libraries in developing countries and how they respond to the demands currently being made upon them. Problems facing university libraries, such as making the most of the new technology available, providing adequate continuous education opportunities for library staff, and developing library collections to meet the specific needs of library clientele are also examined. Possible solutions to some of these problems are given in detail.*

The Market in the Gap: Continuing Education in the South Pacific

Abstract: *This paper outlines the development of library education and particularly the continuing education provisions in the Pacific Island states. Reference is made to supporting projects funded by the IDRC. The considerable problems of matching continuing education to the very low levels of initial qualification inplace and the geographic problems are outlined. With reference to PROGEFIA in particular sugestions are made for more integrated approaches to programme preparation. Significant improvements in policy/planning of services are also indicated.*

An Introduction to the International Guidelines for Library Services to Prisoners

Abstract: *The author gives a brief summary of some of the recent recommendations made by international bodies such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and IFLA with regard to guidelines for setting up library services to prisoners. The philosophy and goals behind the establishment of library services to prisoners is also examined and guidelines for collections, personnel, equipment, public relations and funding are laid out. Finally, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the first prison library in the Netherlands, some prisoners' views on the library services within the prison are given.*

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