

On the Circuit

INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF LIBRARY CONSORTIA (ICOLC) MEETING, NEWPORT RI, APRIL 2001

ICOLC brings together representatives from the major consortia of libraries across the world. The North American meetings are mainly attended by the US and Canadian consortia, but at Newport RI seven out of the seventy consortia represented were from other parts of the world. As usual ICOLC covered a huge range of topics in 36 hours, a mixture of discussion topics and vendor sessions.

Here are some of the highlights of the discussion sessions:

- ICOLC is revising its current statement on usage statistics and will incorporate work underway in other organisations, e.g. ARL, JISC and the STM Publishing Group;
- one session considered changes in the economic model as we move from print to electronic;
- a short policy statement on advertising in web-based products is to be drafted by ICOLC members;
- we heard an update on the Canadian National Site Licensing Project, which is going well.

The vendor sessions were from the American Psychological Association, E-Psyche, Elsevier Science, TDNet, OUP, the American Council of Learned Societies History E-Book Project, and SerialsSolutions. The presentations were "Curate's egg" in nature. The thought of writs falling through my letterbox prevents me from saying which were good and which were indifferent, but the good ones were those which

followed the advice that ICOLC gives to presenters to avoid a general sales-pitch and concentrate on specific benefits offered to consortia. The questioning from consortia representatives likewise tried to get answers to specific questions. We do not gather people from across the globe just to get the pat answers we could get without leaving our offices!

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(representing JISC at ICOLC)**