

inFIRE Conference 2000

Fire Information in the New Millennium: Challenges and Opportunities

Conference Program

MONDAY, MAY 8

- 8:00am - inFIRE Committee Meeting - Janet Green,
5:00pm Gwen Schagrin, Lian Ruan, Martha
Gunnarson, Mike Culhane
- 6:00pm - Reception at the Lord Elgin Hotel, Lady
8:00pm Elgin Room (all attendees)

TUESDAY, MAY 9 Session Chair: Nora Jason

- 8:15am - Registration
8:45am
- 9:00am - Welcome and overview of IRC and the Fire
9:15am Risk Management Program - Russ
Thomas, Director.
- 9:15am - Conference opening and introduction -
9:20am Janet Green, inFIRE Chair
- 9:20am - "Getting to know you" roundtable
10:45am 3-5 minutes each to introduce yourself,
your library, and your major work-related
issues of the past year.

BREAK

- 11:00am - "Consideration of Reliability and
12:00pm Performance of Fire Protection Systems in
FiRECAM", Dr. David Yung, NRC/IRC
- One of the few fire risk-cost assessment models that are being developed in the world is the National Research Council of Canada's (NRC) FiRECAM™ (Fire Risk Evaluation and Cost Assessment Model). The NRC model assesses the expected risk to life of the occupants, as well as the fire protection costs (capital and maintenance costs) and expected fire losses, in residential or office buildings, by simulating the dynamic interactions of fire growth and spread, smoke movement, occupant response and evacuation, and fire department intervention. These interactions are affected by the reliability and performance of the installed fire protection sub-systems, such as fire alarms, automatic sprinklers and smoke

controls. A more reliable fire alarm system or a more reliable and effective automatic sprinkler system can increase the level of safety to the occupants in a building. This presentation briefly describes FiRECAM™ and how the reliability and performance of sub-systems are considered.

LUNCH

- 1:00pm - "Mapping Multiple Vocabularies for Better
2:00pm Subject Access to Fire Science Materials",
Lian Ruan, Librarian, Illinois Fire Service
Institute, USA

A number of problems arise when several subject vocabularies have been used in a catalog because of acquired cataloging. One of the solutions to this problem is to map the systems involved and move from one vocabulary's term to the approved terms during the validation process. Since August, 1999, a project to map the Library of Congress Subject Heading (LCSH), Medical Subject Headings from the National Library of Medicine (MeSH) and other fire vocabularies systems has been carried out at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Library (FSI Library), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Named as FireTalk, this map will become a printed, as well as a web-based electronic thesaurus. In the FSI Library's Online Public Access Catalog, LCSH, MeSH and other terms will be linked, thus enhancing retrieval of relevant bibliographic citations and facilitating multiple database searching.

- 2:30pm - Tour of CISTI -The Canada Institute for
4:30pm Scientific and Technical Information.

A discussion and question/answer session will follow.

- 4:30pm - Return to hotel. Rest and rejuvenate!
6:20pm

- 6:45pm Conference Dinner at Wilfred's in the
Chateau Laurier. (Meet in the Lord Elgin
lobby at 6:20 and we can walk over
together.)

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 -
Session Chair: Ann Kelly**

8:30am - Arrive at IRC
8:45am

9:00am - "An Automatic System for Monitoring and
10:00am Mapping Forest Fires, Scars and Smoke
from Satellite", Robert Fraser, Canada
Center for Remote Sensing, Natural
Resources Canada.

This paper introduces an extensive and end-to-end GIS-based system for fire related applications developed at the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing. The system consists of three components: monitoring fire hot spots, mapping burned scars, detecting fire smokes. They are applied to individual AVHRR daily images, 10-day clear-sky composite images and a combination of the two types of images. During the fire seasons in 1998-1999, the system has been run successfully to obtain and disseminate daily fire information across Canada a few hours after the data reception. So far, 6 years (1994-1999) of across-Canada AVHRR 1-km data have been processed.

BREAK

10:30am - Tour of IRC's fire facilities.
11:00am

11:30am - Tour of the IRC library and group photo.
12:00pm

LUNCH

1:00pm - A Field Study on Photoluminescent Signage
2:00pm Used to Guide Building Occupants to Exits
in Complete Darkness", Dr. Guylène
Proulx, Institute for Research in
Construction, NRC.

A field study was conducted in an office building to assess the effectiveness of photoluminescent material to facilitate occupant evacuation. The office building's four identical stairwells were set with different conditions; one had full lighting, one had reduced lighting, another had reduced lighting with photoluminescent wayguidance signs and one had photoluminescent wayguidance signs with no other lighting output. Non-informed occupants evacuated through the 4 stairwells. Speed of movement recorded using video cameras showed a similar speed of movement when considering the different density of the 4 stairwells.

2:00pm - "Electronic Libraries: Challenges to
3:00pm Bibliographic Instruction at the Institute for
Research in Construction", Ian Henderson,
Information Specialist, Institute for
Research in Construction, NRC.

This paper discusses the concepts of bibliographic instruction at the Institute for Research in Construction, National Research Council Canada. The introduction of a Virtual Library, including top scientific databases, journals and electronic current awareness tools, offer IRC's engineers access to a variety of bibliographic and full-text information. While LIS (Library and Information Services) at IRC has always provided these services for engineers in a mediated fashion, the Virtual Library affords IRC librarians an opportunity to introduce a Bibliographic Instruction process to improve the self-sufficiency of users for their research. With a combination of 1/2 day group training courses and one-on-one training sessions, LIS is accommodating user needs at IRC. The paper covers the challenges of writing a manual for instruction in a Virtual Library, client diversity and skill, results of the training, and the issue of subsequent technical support. Finally, the paper examines future challenges in terms of continuous, effective Bibliographic Instruction at the Institute for Research and Construction.

BREAK

3:30pm - "Creating a Virtual Library at the National
Research Council of Canada", Scott Mellon,
Project Coordinator, Canada Institute for
Scientific and Technical Information
(CISTI), NRC.

The NRC Virtual Library is a collection of networked resources available on the desktops of all staff of the National Research Council of Canada, who span a 5000 mile range from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. This paper will discuss the history of and rationale for the creation of a Virtual Library; the technology which is required to make it work; the scope of the content which we have made available; the impact which the Virtual Library has had on the evolving roles of library staff; and a discussion of why we believe that our Virtual Library is successful; and finally, what we hope to do better in the future.

Dinner on your own, or as a group

THURSDAY, MAY 11

(Note the early start time!) -

Session Chair: Mike Culhane

8:30am - "Protective Clothing for Firefighters -
9:30am Research at the National Research
Council of Canada", Dr. David Torvi,
Institute for Research in Construction, NRC.

Recently, the Fire Risk Management Program began a research project to develop improved methods of estimating the useful lifetime of firefighters' protective clothing. Firefighters are interested in the performance of their clothing over its entire lifetime, and are very interested in when they should retire their turnout gear. Currently, most guidelines for the retirement of protective clothing are based on simple visual inspections and economic analyses. From the point of view of the fire service, improvements to these guidelines are needed. In this presentation, research being conducted to develop improved guidelines for the retirement of firefighters' protective clothing will be discussed.

BREAK

10:00am - "Teaching Fire Science and Fire
11:00am Protection Engineering to University
Engineering Students", Dr. David Torvi,
Institute for Research in Construction, NRC.

In this presentation, fire protection engineering courses and programs currently offered in Canada and other countries will be briefly described. The process for selecting material for this particular course will then be discussed, along with the final course syllabus and methods of evaluation used. The importance of videotape, fire test data, laboratory tours and the internet will be discussed, including the role of fire libraries and information centres. The presentation will also include the results of student and instructor evaluations and suggestions as to how to improve the course in the future.

11:00am - "inFIRE - A Short History", Nora H. Jason,
12:00pm Manager, Fire Research Information
Services, Building and Fire Research
Laboratory, National Institute of Standards
and Technology (NIST), USA

As inFIRE enters the 21st Century, it is interesting to see how it evolved late in the 20th Century. From its humble, indirect beginnings at the first Annual Conference on Fire Research at the National Bureau of

Standards (now National Institute of Standards and Technology), inFIRE is now a truly international community of fire information specialists and fire information users. Photographs and antidotes are used to illustrate the evolutionary process.

LUNCH

1:00pm - "The Canadian Fire Service - Overview",
2:00pm Gary Richardson, Ottawa Fire Chief

An overview of the structure, organization, and activities of the Canadian Fire Service by Ottawa's fire chief.

2:00pm - "Fire and Emergency Services - A
3:00pm Snapshot of Western Australia", Elizabeth
Hides, Manager, Information Resources,
Fire & Emergency Services Authority of
Western Australia
and

"A Customer-Defined Library Service for
Emergency Services Personnel", Jill Don,
Librarian-in-Charge, Dept. of Emergency
Services, Queensland, Australia

The Fire & Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia was formed on January 1, 1999. It consists of an amalgamation of Fire & Rescue Services, Bush Fire Services, State Emergency Services, Emergency Management Service, Volunteer Marine Rescue Service, and the Unexploded Ordnance Unit. Elizabeth will speak to the challenges in providing an information service to such a diverse group.

Jill will give us an update to her paper originally presented at the 1998 inFIRE Conference in Melbourne, which discussed the challenges of providing information services to emergency services personnel.

BREAK

3:30pm - "'Virtually Yours': Searching the Web", Ann
4:30pm Kelly, International Association of Fire
Chiefs; Chris Dahms, Nuclear Service
Organization, USA

The web can be both friend and foe to the information professional. Many of us have favorite search engines and sites that help us find the information we need. Every week we learn about another great resource and add yet another bookmark. This roundtable presentation gathers favorite Web sources to share with inFIRE attendees.

Dinner on your own, or as a group.

Optional Activity:

For those interested, the National Gallery of Canada - a ten minute walk from the hotel - is open until 8:00pm Thursday evening. Free admission.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

9:30am - Tour of the Library of Parliament (Meet in
10:30am the Lord Elgin lobby at 9:00am and we can
walk over together.)

10:30am - Return to NRC.
10:50am

BREAK

11:15am - Business meeting (all attendees)
12:30pm

LUNCH

CONFERENCE CLOSE

List of Attendees

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