OCEANS FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE:
International Cooperation
in
Marine Science Information Transfer

EDITOR
Carolyn P. Winn

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INTRODUCTION

The International Association of Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers held its thirteenth annual conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia from the 5th through 9th of October 1987. The theme of the conference was OCEANS FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN MARINE SCIENCE INFORMATION TRANSFER and dealt with planning for the management and transfer of regional and global marine science information in support of international research programs. Use of computers and satellites as well as other advanced technologies for collecting, analyzing, and archiving large quantities of observational data on a global scale is producing massive databases to which marine science libraries and information centers must provide access.

The first session provides an overview of international marine research programs and planning for marine environmental information management from the global/international down to the national/local level. The keynote session was followed by many interesting presentations on CD/ROM, electronic mail, cataloging and classification, automation, on-line searching, preservation and local marine bibliography of particular interest to IAMSLIC members. The conference ended with a stimulating session on the importance of archives for the documentation of the history of marine science, from the perspective of the historian, the archivist and the librarian.

I wish to acknowledge the work of Anna Oxley of Scotia-Fundy Regional Fisheries Library and Elizabeth Sutherland and Elaine Toms of Bedford Institute of Oceanography, and everyone in Halifax who worked on local arrangements. The accommodations were excellent and the social events were outstanding! I particularly would like to express my gratitude to them for providing logistical support for the technical program at the Halifax-end of this transcontinental venture. My thanks also to the session moderators, speakers and all those who participated in and attended the conference for a job well done. Finally I would like to thank Carolyn Winn, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for volunteering her time and energy to the task of editing these proceedings.

William Goff
Program Convenor, 1987
Vice President/President Elect