

WELCOMING REMARK

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1. EUSIDIC

EUSIDIC, the “European Association of Information Services”, was founded in the 1970s as the “European Society of Information Dissemination Centres”, when the online information industry emerged.

EUSIDIC acts as an umbrella association of different groups with a common interest.

The different groups represent information users, such as knowledge managers, corporate information managers, university librarians and representatives from the information industry - information producers, providers and aggregators. In addition to the main objectives of EUSIDIC are communication between members and support for effective access to information resources. EUSIDIC differs from most other information associations, because of the nature of its members - users from corporate, government and university libraries as well as information providers. This fact makes EUSIDIC a unique meeting platform.

Our members are either information users or information producers, providers or aggregators, as well as software suppliers/facilitators in this area.

EUSIDIC acts as an umbrella organisation for different communities of shared practices. These communities or groups, represent corporate and academic users of information, information and content producers, aggregators and distributors. See also our Strategic Plan 2003-2005, which presents and discuss our present and future activities.

One of challenges is to serve

Meeting opportunities, discussion platform notably for users and providers, information exchange, reviewing information policies and lobbying.

Our website (<http://www.eusidic.org>) is being re-designed and will become an even better tool for demonstrating member benefits, such as:

- + activities
- + conferences
- + directory of members
- + news and press releases (ready for e-mail distribution)
- + members news
- + monthly member profile (Member of the Month)
- + special offers to members: discounts, etc.
- + member tips:
 - = URLs, publications, other meetings (professional information)
 - = Recommended restaurants, and other trivia.

EUSIDIC’s Annual Conference will take place in Helsinki from 17 – 20 October 2004 and its theme is The Content Battle – content/information ownership versus platform ownership.

Information about the conference can be find on the EUSIDIC website www.eusidic.org

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2. Where is the information and knowledge management community going?

Publishers, information providers and information and knowledge managers have to make strategic decisions over positioning their electronic products and services in global or niche markets.

New players will enter the market who will combine IT skills with expertise in the area of data and knowledge management. All will be forced to re-orientate in order to support scientists and managers to do their job more efficiently and effectively.

Taking into account that approximately 85% of all scientists use scientific search engines, although only 6% of the estimated number of 800 million web-sites are characterised as being scientific, we may conclude that web search engines are not able to provide world-wide searching needs: they are only a first step.

In the past, users of information were concerned about content but now they have to assess a variety of platforms with the same content as well. Some issues here are: the quality of the interfaces offered by aggregators, the choice and quality of content and its metadata. Outsourcing gets more and more important. Providers and users are concerned about new business models, such as pay-per-view. Management capabilities have gained importance and some skills are now indispensable; negotiation, co-operation and knowledge of consortia and virtual communities. A new area is the integration of the library and knowledge management function at R&D establishments, universities and large corporations.

Intermediaries which provide value-added services to its users will survive and notably corporate information services have a critical role to play in the real-time enterprise, as enterprises/R&D establishments become more and more knowledge-centric organisations, which require information delivery at the moment of the information request. A user who will be able to get the same information online will not use a physical library unless that library offers him some combination of higher quality – for example, better metadata, more quantity - but less fragmentation and more aggregation, a comfortable environment and all that for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (24/7).

operations. It allows constantly improve the microfiche digitizing and to correct procedures of quality assurance of carried out operations for maintenance of a preset degree of works quality.