

**General Outline
ASIDIC
Association of Information and Dissemination Centers**

**OSS ' 94
November 8, 1994
Session: Interest Groups and Displays
Participant J: 11:00 to 11:50**

**Maureen C. Kelly
ASIDIC President**

Information about ASIDIC:

- *What it is.
- *How ASIDIC fits into the Information Infrastructure.
- *How value is added in the information infrastructure
- *How / where money changes hands in the information infrastructure.
- *How it serves its members.
- *Case studies of how it has influenced the business of information processing, distribution, and use.

What can ASIDIC do for you?

**Maureen C. Kelly
VP Document Analysis
BIOSIS
2100 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1399**

Association of Information and Dissemination Centers:

ASIDIC was founded in 1968, with the objective of bringing together organizations involved in the production, distribution, and use of electronic information products and services.

ASIDIC is an organization of organizations. Its membership is made up of some 77 organizations, both national and international, representing business, academia, and government.

ASIDIC members are part of what Robert Steele refers to as:

The "open source smorgasbord" that
"now delivers to the consumer a flood of open source material."

**ASIDIC is not about the scholarship of information science.
Rather it is about the business of delivering information content.**

**ASIDIC members range
from:**

American Economic Association
American Institute of Physics

through:

Defense Technical Information Center
Dept of Energy Office of Scientific & Technical Information,
Derwent, Inc.
Dialog Information Services, Inc.

to:

University of Tulsa - Petroleum Abstracts
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

How ASIDIC fits into the Information Infrastructure:

To understand what ASIDIC members do, it is useful to consider what is sometimes referred to as the:

"Infrastructure of Electronic Information Delivery"

Three Slides:

- 1) The Information Superstructure, showing the objective of moving information from its creators to its users.
- 2) Infrastructure for Printed Information, showing the traditional roles of Conferences, Printed Journals and Books, and Libraries.
- 3) Information Flow From Creator to Consumer Through the Information Infrastructure, showing current paths through which print and electronic information travel en route from creator to consumer.

Functions Performed by ASIDIC Members:

1. Build electronic databases, both bibliographic and factual.
2. Distribute electronic databases both online and on portable electronic media such as CD-ROM.
3. Supply tools, such as retrieval software, that facilitate access to electronic information.
4. Deliver the primary, printed documents that back-up the electronic databases.
5. Administer compliance with copyright.
6. Distill, repackage, and redistribute information from electronic databases.
7. Use the information retrieved from electronic databases.

ASIDIC Member Services:

Spring and Fall Meetings, plus a Newsletter.

Formal program addressing current topics incl:

New technology and its product implications; standards and regulations, business trends and developments.

Lively forum for candid, side-by-side discussion of the views and insights of electronic information producers, distributors, and users.

ASIDIC Spring 1994 Program:

Took an in depth look at the new electronic information retrieval tools that allow users to prepare their search questions using natural language.

ASIDIC Fall 1994 Program:

Focused on changes in the information business, incl:

- *changing players: new roles.
- *changing technology: new capabilities.
- *changing users: new expectations.

Indirect Membership Benefits:

In addition to the formal side of its meeting program, ASIDIC places a premium on the informal side of its meetings and works to ensure ample time for interaction in small groups.

ASIDIC supports members by bringing together a mix of industry players. In this environment:

- 1) Members with new content can find options for packaging and distribution.
- 2) Members with existing information products can find options for repackaging, partnering, and sales.
- 3) Members with product plans can find options for premarket feedback
- 4) Members who are users can find opportunities for influencing the development of products.

By enabling such discussions and interaction, ASIDIC supports its members in surviving and profiting in a time of change.

There is no question that the information business is undergoing profound change. That change began in the early 1970's with the advent of publicly-available electronic databases.

However, nothing in that early period seriously disturbed the economic model supporting the creation and delivery of information. Information creation was largely funded indirectly via industry, government, and academia support for research and analysis. In contrast, information delivery was, for the most part, paid for directly by its users.

In spite of the advent of electronic information tools, print publishers and libraries continued to operate largely in their traditional roles throughout the 1970's and 80's.

It wasn't until the 1990's that we began to see major changes to the old model, including changes that are destabilizing to the economic underpinnings of the information infrastructure.

Theories abound as to how it will all turn out. Most every day there are new indicators to be interpreted. Each participant has his own of the future, his own reading of the tea leaves.

It would be nice if we could accurately predict the future, but even the weathermen get it wrong sometimes. When major changes are in the offing, we welcome all the help we can get in forecasting and reacting to that change. It is times like these when organizations such as ASIDIC can be of particular value. Current information, key participants, and a forum for candid discussion serve better than reading the tea leaves in the bottom of your cup.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on NATIONAL SECURITY & NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS: OPEN SOURCE SOLUTIONS Proceedings, 1994 Volume II -

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[Next](#) [ASIDIC Perspectives, and Its Contributions to National Competitiveness, by Ms. Maureen Kelly, President, Association of Information and Dissemination Centers \(PART TWO\)](#)

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