

CONFERENCE WELCOME - CAIS 1977

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the Canadian Association for Information Science, I am pleased to welcome you to the Fifth Canadian Conference on Information Science; and for those of you who are visitors, I welcome you to Ottawa during our festival of Spring.

As with past conferences, a unique theme has been selected which reflects and represents the subjects of the papers to be presented. This year's theme "From Sea to Sea: Perspectives of Information Science" has several special dimensions. It can certainly be seen that the subjects of the papers reflect the multi-disciplinary facets of the field of information science. However, in addition, this year we will be able to achieve an understanding of the regional perspective and an understanding of the impact that geographical locations and requirements can have on the information flow and transfer process. For the first time in the history of CAIS, regional trends and developments in information science will be a strong focal point in the open conference.

The theme of this year's conference, to a large measure, as well, mirrors this year's objectives and program for CAIS.

What is CAIS and what are its goals? CAIS is an association which brings together individuals and organizations concerned with the production, manipulation, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information, with emphasis on the application of modern technologies in these areas. It is dedicated to enhancing the activity of the information transfer process, utilizing the vehicles of research, development, application and education. CAIS serves as a forum for dialog and exchange of ideas concerned with the theory and practice of all factors involved in the communication of information.

It cannot be forgotten that CAIS is still quite a new and young organization within the Canadian context, I am speaking both organizationally and conceptually. As a result, the tasks concerned with organizational development and structure are many and absorb a tremendous amount of time and energy from the members and officers of the association.

This year, however, I do believe that new directions for CAIS can be observed. Programs and activities at the national level are being undertaken which reflect the truly multi-dimensional characteristics of the field of information science. For example, a special committee will examine and study the recommendations of the working paper on the copyright revision from the perspective of the information scientist, there is formal liaison with other groups and organizations investigating this issue, organizations such as the Canadian Library Association.

Another interesting development is the request for input from CAIS to the current review of the Role and Objectives of the National Library. We strongly believe that this Association can make a concrete contribution to this review of the National Library from a perspective that is different, yet at the same time complementary to other associations.

The standing committee on Education is an excellent example of the new dimensions ventured upon by CAIS. What role can CAIS play and what should be the nature of the input in the development of a population of information scientists, trained and qualified to meet the requirements of the information marketplace? These questions are being addressed by the Education Committee. It is hoped that with continued and dedicated work by the Committee members, the Association will be able to make a valued and positive contribution to the educational process for information scientists in Canada.

Yet another example of the wide variety of subject interests is the number of formal liaisons with other information-related organizations and associations. To name just a few,

- (1) Canadian Library Association
- (2) ASTED, Québec
- (3) Canadian Information Processing Society; and the
- (4) American Society for Information Science

It may also be of interest to note the initial discussions which are now underway with such associations as the Data Processing Management Association and the Canadian Information Processing Society about the development of an umbrella structure known as CFIPS, Canadian Federation of Information Processing Societies. The realization of such a development would allow the pursuance of common interests such as national conferences, publications and full-fledged national office/secretariat capability.

At this point in time, what is important is not whether CAIS will support or participate in this type of venture, but rather that CAIS is perceived as a viable organization with a mandate to be supported in the information transfer domain.

I mentioned, just a moment ago, that the theme of this year's conference mirrored the objectives and direction of CAIS. I have attempted to identify the diversity of perspectives of information science from the viewpoint of the Association. I sincerely hope that at the conclusion of this conference, after you have heard the presentations and have had the opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas, that the impact of the phrase "From Sea to Sea: Perspectives of Information Science" will be fully realized.

I wish you an enjoyable and enlightening Conference.

Thank you.

Martha Stone
President, CAIS 1976-1977