

**The North American Region and Sport Information Activity:
A Report to the IASI Presidium and Executive Committee,
at the Annual Meeting
Barcelona, March 14-18, 2002**

1. North American Sport Library Network (NASLIN) Activities

**8th NASLIN Conference,
hosted by Nike, Inc., Beaverton, Oregon, Aug. 10-11, 2001**

As in past conferences, the organizing committee for this latest NASLIN conference attempted to develop sessions that appeal to a wide range of sport information interests. Sessions included technological enhancements for sport information, library vendor and online selection for librarians, important sports archival work, digitization of sport serials, enhancements to SIRC's services and SPORTQuest database. The inclusion of a sport bookseller (OP books mainly) added also to each participant's affection for the printed word and popular sports. Another important aspect of the conference were the many opportunities to talk with colleagues in various social and conference settings and discuss each other's sport information work and projects. A fulsome report on this conference was published in the e-newsletter *NASLINE*, No. 18, September 2001. For the FTP'd fulltext version of the report on the 8th Conference see:

<http://www.sportquest.com/naslin/>

NASLIN Steering Committee 2001-2003

The NASLIN Steering Committee held a brief meeting to elect officers. Steering Committee members re-elected Gretchen Ghent as Chair, Steve Gietschier (Sporting News) as Treasurer. Steering Committee members are: Shirley Ito (AAFLA), Henriette Heiny (U Oregon, IISHP), Dave Kelly (Library of Congress), Jim Gates (National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum), Cindy Romaine (Nike) and Jean Michel Johnson (SIRC)

The Steering Committee discussed the possible venues for the next conference and suggested investigating a joint conference with an organization that might welcome our sessions.

NASLIN Membership and Distribution List

The NASLIN distribution and membership list has increased its numbers somewhat as more university libraries list staff with subject or liaison responsibilities for sports sciences. Of the 385 US universities and colleges with sport sciences programs (mainly masters and Ph.D.), 205 librarians have been identified (195 last year) and are on the NASLIN distribution list. There are also 17 invitations to join NASLIN awaiting a reply at this time. For the 38 Canadian universities and colleges, 33 librarians are now on the list (31 last year).

Nasline

<http://www.sportquest.com/naslin/>

As reported in previous years, two issues of NASLINE were compiled and edited by your reporter: No. 18, September 2001 and No. 19, February 2002. In addition to distributing these issues electronically to the NASLIN members and IASI-L, this issue was sent to other lists including SportHist. The NASSServ computers at Boston College will not handle a large attached document, so NASSServ members are notified when NASLINE is available on the SIRC's SPORTQuest website.

To find topics of interest for each issue, a number of sources and procedures are utilized. The task of checking the MOMSpider reports for URL changes on Scholarly Sport Sites takes one into some very interesting sections in the related websites. Surveying of the UC Library's current issues of the sport periodicals also assists in finding news of interest, as does the search by subject of current imprints, online documents and websites reported in WorldCat. And, of course, that all-important communication with colleagues elicits many items of interest.

2. Activities of Sport Librarians and Libraries in North America

The university, public and special library collections/services and database producers in North America provide the ongoing support to the sport sciences research of faculty, students, and other sports researchers. With the very dynamic Interlibrary Loan activities among North American libraries and the growing availability of online resources, sport sciences researchers find faster and more comprehensive access to needed information.

In the past year a number of libraries and one librarian should be mentioned for their promotion of sport information. They include:

National Collegiate Athletic Association's Education/Outreach

At the NASLIN Conference in August 2001, Mary Johnston, Librarian at the NCAA reported on the digitizing work being carried out at the NCAA to provide NCAA members and other researchers with a wide range essential NCAA documents and serials, both current and historical. Two serials have been digitized and made available on their website (<http://www.ncaa.org/>), the *NCAA News* from 1964 to date, and, recently the *NCAA Register*, June 3, 1996-May 4, 1998. This register, discontinued in 1998, is a monthly publication containing reports of interest to the membership. Further digitizing projects are underway. The Education Services Group where the NCAA Library resides in the organizational structure has recently provided more fulltext documents, reports and information on scholarships, gender equity, anti-gambling initiatives and other important topics.

Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles

In the February 2002 issue of *NASLINE*, a fulsome report on digitizing activities in the sport and Olympic history were outlined. In addition, the acquisition of the

National Track & Field Research Collection, formerly owned by USA Track & Field, and the Ralph Miller Golf Library will add further depth to an already extraordinary collection. As mentioned in earlier VP reports, the depositing of AAFLA's cataloguing records into the large union catalogue, *WorldCat*, assists immeasurably in furthering information about resources in sport sciences and history.

Preservation of Sports Archival Resources

The National Baseball Hall of Fame Library and the Springfield College Library also should be cited for their successful pursuit of outside funding and grant monies that will be used to preserve sport historical resources. Through these additional funds photographic and print resources will be made available to researchers in their libraries and also on their websites.

Current Sport Bibliography and Essays

One very active and dedicated reference librarian (and NASLIN member), Suzanne Wise, at the Belk Library, Appalachian State University Library, in Boone, North Carolina, organized a special issue of the periodical, *North Carolina Libraries* (v. 59, no. 2, Summer 2001). She asked a number of colleagues to write essays that reflect various aspects of American sports information. For this issue entitled, *Sport: The Liveliest Art*. Suzanne was the guest editor for 13 essays, "webliographies", and bibliographies. These essays covered topics on publishing of baseball books, sport archives, importance of sport museums, using the Internet for sport information, sport books important for all level of users and other topics. A complete table of contents and information on how to purchase a copy of this issue can be found in *NASLINE*, no. 19, February 2002. Suzanne is noted for her bibliographic work and has published: *Sports Fiction for Adults: an Annotated Bibliography of Novels, Plays, Short Stories, and Poetry with Sporting Settings*, (NY: Garland, 1986) and also, *Social Issues in Contemporary Sport: a Resource Guide* (NY: Garland, 1994).

3. Updating Scholarly Sport Sites: A Subject Directory (SSS)

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/library/ssportsite/>

Sections updated and/or reorganized over the past year include the Photographs/Audiovisual section where a section called Photographic Collections – Print & Digital was added and, for the commercial photographers, a Stock Photographs section was created. The URLs in the Serials section, always in a constant state of flux, had to be updated as publishers re-arrange their websites frequently. Also the Associations section needed attention and the Coaching subsection was re-arranged. Many newly identified North American coaches associations were added along with other associations who now have a web presence. The International Sport Federations section was greatly downsized and now contains links to the IOC website for all three categories of IOC approved and related associations. The only IFs left on SSS are those other non-Olympic international federations, e.g. dragon boat racing, darts, kite surfing.

In October, the search engine on SSS and other University of Calgary (UC) subject directories ceased to function. UC information technology managers contacted Google who gave us permission to use their search engine. Google allows educational institutions free use of their search engine. So now on the SSS search page, a user has two choices with Google, search SSS sections only or search the worldwide web using Google.

Work is still ongoing in the National Sport Structures section with an update to the South Korea listing. It was recently discovered that the Korean government department for sport has its website accessible in Korean and the English language as does an important sport documentation center. The United States section's essay was also updated as the PEP Act had been passed by Congress (Physical Education for Progress Act) and the citations to this legislation in the US Code were greatly changed at the Cornell University Law School website where the fulltext US Code is available. In the past year it seems that many government departments representing sport have changed and the websites are regrouped and revised.

4. Contributions to the SPORTDiscus

Dr. Henriette Heiny, Director, International Institute for Sport and Human Performance, University of Oregon responsible for the microfiche collection of sports science theses, *Microform Publications of Human Movement Studies*, submits over 220 theses titles to SPORTDiscus per year. Your reporter added 79 periodical articles and 40 books of Canadian and US imprints since the last VP report. Shirley Ito, Reference Librarian at the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles added 1165 articles from Sports Illustrated. In accordance with the new indexing policy from SIRC, records from all three indexers included at least a short descriptive sentence in Abstract field (the theses records from IISHP have always been long and descriptive). In the past, *Sports Illustrated* and *Macleans*' magazine articles usually did not have abstracts. While his change adds to the amount of time it takes to index an item, it will assist greatly in retrieval of information for other non-DE key words, concepts, and names can be included.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Ghent, Librarian Emeritus
(VP for North America & Publications Officer for the International Association for Sport Information & Chair, North American Sport Library Network)
C/o The University of Calgary Law Library
2500 University Dr. NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4
Tel: 403-220-6907 FAX: 403-282-6837 Email: gghent@ucalgary.ca
NASLIN website: <http://www.sportquest.com/naslin/>
Scholarly Sport Sites: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/library/ssportsite>