New ISO Standard for Libraries

The introduction of a new International Standard Published by ISO (International Organization for Standardization), ISO 15511:2003, *Information and documentation - International Standard Identifier for Libraries and Related Organizations (ISIL)* will make it easier for libraries to communicate with each other and share resources with other libraries around the world. The standard is the work of ISO technical committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, subcommittee SC 4, *Technical interoperability*. The new standard uses a unique international identification code that not only can libraries use, but also all kinds of information related organisations, from archives and museums to education institutions and government agencies. Up until now libraries have used several systems for identification that have worked well for countrywide use, but not for worldwide use. This system will tie libraries all around the world. The ISIL Registration Authority (ISIL/RA), which is headed by the Danish National Library Authority, has the responsibility for the overall ISIL system maintenance and administration. ISIL/RA will appoint and oversee the work of the ISIL National Assignment Agencies that will be authorized to assign the ISIL to libraries in their country. ISO has also recently published ISO/TR 20983:2003, *Information and documentation - Performance indicators for electronic library services*, which will help evaluate library's performance in electronic library services such as supply, use, cost and market penetration. This new technical report will help libraries manage their electronic services and resources more effectively and efficiently, providing a better quality of customer service by knowing what services and resources customers use and with what frequency, allowing continual service improvements. As a useful comparative tool, it will help support management decisions such as introducing new services or reducing existing services, reallocating resources, as well as demonstrating the library's performance and its costs to the funders, and the general public. All types of libraries and publishers of electronic resources can use the technical report. For further information on both, the new standard and the new technical report, please visit www.iso.org

ID Cards

The standard size, shape and format of Identity cards (ID), such as credit cards used worldwide are the result of work carried out by ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission). The new standard is the work of ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, subcommittee SC 17, *Cards and personal identification*, working group WG 1, *Physical characteristics and test methods for ID-cards*. ID cards are used for a number of purposes such as identifying customers and their bank accounts or providing access to buildings or other secured areas. With the increasing growth in international trade and travel, identification cards must conform to identical sizes and dimensions for use in international interchange. ISO/IEC 7810:2003, *Identification cards - Physical characteristics*, offers an updated set of requirements to help manufacturers of cards and card readers to comply with the basic requirements of dimensions and properties of identification cards used worldwide. ISO/IEC 7810:2003, has now replaced ISO/IEC 7810:1995. The new standard specifies the physical characteristics of ID cards and applies to all the different ID cards, from the magnetic stripe and optical card to contact/contactless integrated circuit (IC) card. For further information please visit www.iso.org

Security Screening

The British Standard for Security Screening of Security Personnel (BS 7858:2004) has been recently revised by BSI. It is an improvement on the 1996 version. The revision takes into account the Private Security Act 2001 and the Data Protection Act 1998. This code of practice is becoming increasingly important to protect people, goods or property by ensuring that the integrity of personnel is both verified and maintained. This assurance is highly important where particularly staff are involved or are in charge of vulnerable people or valuable assets. It is vital to ensure that security staff have been through rigorous checks. This standard is not only for security staff but can also be used by all organisations for preventing employee theft. Employee theft is estimated to cost the retail industry around £400 million (Source: British Retail Consortium 2000). It is becoming increasingly valuable for all organisations to check their employee's backgrounds, in accordance with the recent codes of best practice. For more information please visit www.bsi-global.com

Babies in China Die from Low Quality Milk

According to a recent report from China, a number of babies in China have died due to being fed inferior quality milk powder. This highlights the problem of counterfeit food products and medicines available in China. It is reported up to 200 babies or more were fed on this fake milk formula that had very little nutritional value. One doctor has been reported to have said that the fake milk was no different nutritionally to drinking water. According to local media, some of the babies developed a condition called, "big head disease" in which babies head appeared abnormally larger than their bodies. It has not been made clear if the fake milk contained toxic ingredients, as some of the babies died after 3 days of being fed on the formula milk. Analysis of the formula was found to contain only one sixth of the required protein and other nutrients needed for a baby's development. The Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao has said that the manufacturers will face 'severe punishment' and State officials have been sent to the city of Fuyang in Anhui province to investigate the situation further. For more information please see BBC news.

Pollution Damaging Ancient UK Plants

Stonewarts are ancient plants that grow entirely under water, and when conditions are favourable can form dense "meadows". They are very sensitive to pollution, and are highly accurate indicators of water quality. According to a recent report this ancient UK plant is struggling to survive due to pollution caused by phosphates from washing powder and nitrogen from fertilisers, which are flooding into their water habitats. These chemicals cause the unnatural speedy growth of other competing species that flourish to the disadvantage of the stoneworts. 17 out of 30 stonewort species found in the UK are now regarded as rare or even extinct. Stoneworts build an external skeleton made of calcium carbonate, and on the basis of fossil records, they have been thought to be the evolutionary origin of land plants. For more information please see BBC news.

Autonomous Team Working

It has been recently reported that employees ideas and opinions can have a great influence on a company's performance. According to the Mini car manufacturers, BMW, their employees have saved the company, £10.5m in the past 2 years. Mini manufacturer's employees at the Cowley site in Oxford, had put forward approximately 14,000 new ideas, and more than three quarters of them were put into practice by the managers. The ideas ranged from saving paper to more complex ideas such as engineering solutions. The Director of the plant, Dr. Tony Heiss, has been reported to say that they have moved from a strongly directive management style to a much more autonomous team-working approach, which places the achievement of improvement targets directly onto employees and this can make a significant difference to a business. Maybe other organisations need to consider this kind of approach to bring about the changes they need to improve their performance. BMW's Chief Executive, Helmut Panke has described the Mini as a UK manufacturing success story. For further information please see BBC news.

Information Stored Electronically

BSI has recently revised the code of practice for legal admissibility and evidential weight of information stored electronically (BIP 0008:2004). This publication provides essential guidance on the requirements for electronically stored information and ensures that information is acceptable in court. With high levels of electronic management systems being implemented, awareness of the evidential weight of electronic information is

vital should a dispute arise. Compliance could have a major impact on information being accepted in a court of law. This revised code of practice helps organisations understand the legal admissibility of electronically stored information and implement best practice in the situation where information is needed for evidential weight. The document provides good practice guidance on the electronic creation, storage and retrieval of information. It provides an up-to-date framework and guidelines including duty of care, records management and audit trails. For further information please visit www.bsi-global.com

Websites Accessibility for Disabled People

A web accessibility study was carried out by a web testing specialist - SciVisum, which examined over 200 websites. According to this study, some top UK website have been ignoring accessibility for disabled people. The majority of the UK's leading web sites are guilty of breaking legislation that are already in place to provide accessible online services for disabled people. Almost 80% of the leading UK web sites tested failed basic compliance checkpoints. 100% of travel and financial service web sites also failed. The best performers were Local and Central Government, followed by high street banks and building societies with about 40% of sites failing. For further information please visit www.scivisum.co.uk