

BIASLIC^{*} WORKSHOP

ONLINE DATABASES, ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES AND WEB SITES: from the user education perspective

led by Joan Baron

The purpose of the workshop is:

- To provide participants with the opportunity to study and discuss a particular online database, online information service or web site
- To consider this information product/service from the perspective of their own particular users needs
- To consider ways in which professionals would educate/train their users to use the particular information product/service
- To identify ways in which the product could be improved to improve user education
- To provide feedback to the information service/product provider

The workshop will begin with a short presentation (5-10 minutes) by the Workshop Coordinator highlighting:

<p>1. Types of users and their varying needs, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academics• Researchers• Students• Consultants• Commercial• Age groups• Nationality	<p>2. Varying abilities of users, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical abilities• Information skills• Language skills• Computer skills	<p>3. Various aspects of online databases, information services, and web sites, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• User-friendliness• Online help• Manuals• Links• Indexes• Thesauri• Search operators• Languages
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Participants will then divide into about eight pre-designated groups:

- Each group will be led by a member of BIASLIC
- Each group will spend 50-60 minutes reviewing one online database, online information service or web site, and compile a draft report on their findings
- At the end of the review session, a representative from each group will report back to the meeting (about 5 minutes each)
- A copy of each review/report will then be passed/sent to the publisher/provider of the information service/product, as appropriate

^{*}British and Ireland Association of Science Libraries and Information Centres (BIASLIC)