In a previous essay, I gave a practical assessment of the current state of information science education.[1] I noted that the young discipline had matured enough to be accepted by academia. Indeed, more than 90 schools in North America now offer graduate programs in information science. Yet the field is still young enough to allow for a diversity of opinion as to what should constitute a typical information science curriculum. Such a "universal" curriculum is still being shaped by the current generation of information science teachers.

I don't have to belabor the importance of good teachers in career development. As in all disciplines, teachers of information science can be the most important factor in the development of the field. Since I am well aware that citation analysis will not tell us enough about the impact of teachers, I wanted to find a way to encourage teaching as a career for information specialists. How can teachers of information science receive some special recognition? We approached the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) with the idea of establishing an award that would be sponsored by ISI®.

When I wrote my essay on information science curricula, I was able to report that nominations were being accepted for the first annual ASIS Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award. The nominating process produced a list of outstanding candidates, and all of them may be renominated in the future. But now I am pleased to report that F. Wilfrid Lancaster, professor of library and information science, University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science, was the winner of the 1980 award.

The new award carries an honorarium of $500, donated by ISI, and is administered by the ASIS Education Committee. Candidates for the award must have been directly involved in the teaching of information science on a continuing basis, though not necessarily in an academic setting. Lancaster was selected by an awards jury appointed by the ASIS Education Committee and chaired by Trudi Bellardo, University of Kentucky's College of Library Science. I should mention that I was not consulted by the jury while they were considering the candidates. Lancaster received his award on October 8 at the Society's annual meeting in Anaheim, California. I was pleased to attend especially since I have known Wilf Lancaster for some years.

The award certificate presented to Lancaster cites his contributions as an instructor. It notes, "He has written a series of outstanding texts which serve as the basis for courses in information retrieval, vocabulary control, measurement and evaluation of information services.... He has inspired many students to share his commitment to research and evaluation. His impact as an infor-

mation science teacher reaches far beyond the University of Illinois."

Lancaster, a native of Great Britain, graduated from the Newcastle-upon-Tyne School of Librarianship in 1956. For 14 years thereafter, he held a number of positions in private industry and public libraries on both sides of the Atlantic. In 1969, he became a Fellow of the Library Association of Great Britain. The next year, he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois as an associate professor. He was named professor in 1972.

Since joining the Graduate School of Library Science at Illinois, Lancaster has been instrumental in shaping the curriculum there. When he arrived, the school offered just one course in infor-

mation storage and retrieval. Lancaster has since developed such new courses as vocabulary control of information retrieval, measurement and evaluation of library services, and online information systems. He is currently developing a course devoted exclusively to bibliometrics. When offered, the new course will deal with statistical methods in information research and the use of citation analysis in document collections policies, among other things.

Over the years, Lancaster has authored more than 75 articles, book chapters, special reports, and monographs on various aspects of information science. A check of ISI's *Social SCISEARCH®* data base shows that his publications have received 358 citations since 1972. Perhaps most notable among Lancaster's works are five books he has written. Three of these books have won the ASIS Best Information Science Book Award, and a fourth won the Ralph R. Shaw Award of the American Library Association.[2] Lancaster's books have had a real impact upon research and the teaching of information science, and a number of schools have adopted them as textbooks. They are well suited for the task, since most of them emerged directly from his teaching.[3] A list of the books authored by Lancaster is presented in Figure 1.

Lancaster has extensive international teaching experience. He has given courses, often under the auspices of

Figure 1: Books authored by F. Wilfrid Lancaster.

　　Lancaster F W. *Vocabulary control for information retrieval.*
　　　　Washington, DC: Information Resources Press, 1972. 233 p.
　* **Lancaster F W & Fayen E G.** *Information retrieval on-line.*
　　　　Los Angeles: Melville (Wiley), 1973. 597 p.
　** **Lancaster F W.** *The measurement and evaluation of library services.*
　　　　Washington, DC: Information Resources Press, 1977. 395 p.
　* -------------------. *Toward paperless information systems.*
　　　　New York: Academic Press, 1978. 179 p.
　* -------------------. *Information retrieval systems: characteristics, testing, and evaluation.*
　　　　New York: Wiley, 1979 (1968). 381 p.

　* Winner of ASIS Best Information Science Book Award.
　** Winner of the ALA Ralph R. Shaw Award.

UNESCO, in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Norway, and Poland. He has delivered guest lectures in a number of other countries also. In all cases, Lancaster has made a lasting impression upon his students and earned for himself a reputation as an excellent instructor. As Herbert Goldhor, director, University of Illinois Library Research Center, put it in his letter of nomination to the awards jury, "Students vote with their feet in signing up for his courses. He has the great ability to make clear and simple what so often appears to be complex and difficult."[4]

This is not our first experience in sponsoring new awards. ISI and Annual Reviews, Inc. are cosponsors of the James Murray Luck Award for Excellence in Scientific Reviewing.[5,6] The award is presented yearly by the National Academy of Sciences to honor outstanding authors of scientific re-

views. In April 1981, the third James Murray Luck Award will be presented at the Academy's annual meeting in Washington, DC.

We at ISI are gratified by the results of the first Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award, and we look forward to sponsoring the next. ASIS will soon begin soliciting nominations for the 1981 award. Information about the award and how to nominate will appear in the February 1981 issue of the *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science.* In addition, anyone who wishes a copy of the award criteria can write to: Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award, ASIS, 1010 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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