

May 27, 2008

Colleagues:

Is it really possible that another academic year has passed by so quickly and summer is rapidly approaching? In just a couple of months, our fleet of little IDS boats will once again return to a shared safe harbor for our annual summer conference. This year we'll have lots of space to raft our boats all together right in Lake Ontario! We're holding our annual conference Tuesday afternoon, August 5, and Wednesday, August 6, at the Campus Center on the beautiful lakeside campus of SUNY Oswego.

This will be a big conference. We expect library staff from all our 28 current IDS libraries to be in attendance and from the 6-10 additional libraries joining the IDS Project within the next few months. In addition we will have representatives from all our major project partners, including the NY3R's, Nylink, SUNY's Office of Library & Information Services, Atlas Systems (ILLiad), and OCLC., Inc.

The IDS Project is five years old! We're planning a wonderful birthday party with live music, a special cake and drinks at the Lake Effect Cafe in Oswego's Penfield Library on Tuesday evening! We're also going to take this opportunity to publicly thank our IDS Project mentors, who have done such a great job this year working on-site with each new library joining the project. And we're going to thank each mentor's library director for supporting their mentor as he/she helps other libraries.

Conference Agenda:

Your conference planning committee has been working hard to organize a solid conference program. Attached is a draft agenda for the two days. Please keep in mind that the committee may well be shuffling time slots and adding activities right up to August 5. This year the planning committee is arranging for a faculty and a student panel to discuss what they REALLY want from our resource-sharing operations--not only now, but in the near future. In addition, for the first time, we're planning several break-out workshops covering resource-sharing issues. The topics for the workshops will be determined by your selections as part of your conference registration. And YES, Genie Powell, from Atlas Systems, will once again be participating in the conference and joining the popular ILL staff-only "straight talk" session.

Cost:

For every conference there are four main costs: registration, transportation, hotel accommodation, and food/drink. The program planning committee is fully aware of the poor economic conditions surrounding NY State and our academic libraries. We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to attend the conference. If you have a situation where limited local travel funds are a problem, please contact me directly (585-245-5591, edr@geneseo.edu).

A very special thank-you to the NY3R's Councils for partially underwriting this summer's IDS Project Conference.

Registration Fee:

The registration cost is only \$20. This price will cover snacks, sodas and water throughout the conference. It will also include a continental breakfast Wednesday morning and lunch Wednesday afternoon. Payment in advance is requested and should be sent to Connie Fowler (see registration form).

Tuesday Night Dinner:

This year our special Tuesday night dinner will be held at Patz, a lakeside restaurant at Oswego Harbor. We'll have a cash bar and free appetizers from 5:30 to 6:30. Dinner that evening is a scrumptious buffet that will include a mixed grill of steak, chicken and salmon. An alternative vegetarian meal will also be provided if requested via the registration form. The total cost of the dinner, including gratuity, is \$28.75.

Special Note: At 5:00 Tuesday afternoon a free shuttle bus will start running from our conference to the restaurant Patz and the two nearby hotels. After dinner, the bus will take us back to campus and the Lake Effect Cafe for our very special celebration. The bus will also run from 9:00 pm until 11:00 pm to return people to their hotels.

Lodging:

Now let's talk about hotel accommodations: there are two hotels right on Oswego Harbor and very close to our Tuesday night restaurant, Patz. Unfortunately, because it is the heart of the tourist season, room prices are set accordingly. Hotel reservations need to be made before July 4, 2008 to receive the conference rate at Best Western Captain's Quarters (\$120/night for single; \$130/night for double) <http://www.bestwesternnewyork.com/hotels/best-western-the-captains-quarters/> 315-342-4040 or EconoLodge (\$85.50/night single or double) <http://www.trails.com/all-hotels/hotel-info.asp?hotelid=12488>, 315-343-1600. Be sure to indicate that you are a participant in the IDS Conference and bring a tax exempt form.

For those who want a lower-priced lodging alternative, the Penfield Library local arrangements committee has come up with a good one. SUNY Oswego has recently built a modern air-conditioned residence hall located right near the lake. All our rooms will have a lakeside view. These rooms are being made available to us for a daily price of \$35.00 for a single room and \$23.00 per person for a double room. (FYI: Mary Beth and I will be staying in that residence hall and we're hoping many others will join us.)

To reserve a room in the residence hall, please email Nancy Louis at nlouis@oswego.edu or call her at 315-312-2938, Monday-Friday between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Transportation:

Many of you will be driving to the conference. Given the price of gasoline we are trying to assist those of you who would like to carpool. We will be listing the name, college, and email address of each person as soon as they sign up for the conference on the IDS website (IDSProject.org) under "2008 Summer Conference." We'll also ask each person to indicate whether they are interested in sharing a ride to and from the conference.

For those of you traveling by bus, train, or airplane to Syracuse (about 30 miles from SUNY Oswego) we have made arrangements to provide rides to and from the campus. Please indicate on the registration form that you need this shuttle service and the Penfield Library local arrangements committee will be in touch with you.

Parking:

Free and in close proximity to the Campus Center, Riggs Resident Hall and Penfield Library.

Note: We'll be getting campus and city maps up on the conference website soon.

How to Register:

Go the following url: <http://idsproject.org/registrationform2008.aspx>

Just answer all the questions and hit the submit button. You should receive a confirmation email.

If you have any questions regarding the conference please contact:

Connie Fowler	fowler@oswego.edu	315-312-4233
Debra Graham	dgraham@oswego.edu	315-312-4232
Mary Beth Bell	mbell@oswego.edu	315-312-2724
Donna Howe	howe@geneseo.edu	585-245-5591
Ed Rivenburgh	edr@geneseo.edu	585-245-5591

Please register for the conference and your lodging as soon as possible. This will help us a great deal in planning all the conference logistics.

IDS 2008 Summer Conference Planning Committee:

Beth Posner, CUNY Graduate Center
Donna Dixon, NYLINK
Shannon Pritting, SUNY Oswego
Dorothy Sayer, Upstate Medical
Harriet Sleggs, SUNY Geneseo
Mary Beth Bell, SUNY Oswego
Sonja Landes, SUNY Geneseo

We are very much looking forward to our fleet gathering once again for this summer's IDS Conference on August 5 & 6.

Ed Rivenburgh