INFORMATION ABOUT IASIS AND CIM

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS
and
ANSWERS

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PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT: TO PRESENT FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES TO THEM

A. QUESTIONS ABOUT ORGANIZATIONS

Q1.

How can I find out more about IASIS?

A1.

i) A Summary Document. There is a one-page summary document titled **"The Institute for Advanced Study in the Integrative Sciences (IASIS)"** which is available from IASIS, Room 217 Thompson Hall, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. Last update Feb. 16, 1990.

This document gives:

- The location and name of the director
- The purposes of IASIS
- The Knowledge Base that IASIS draws on
- IASIS publications
- Current research focus

ii) Activity. There is also a two-page document titled **"IASIS Activity"** which gives some background on the kind of activity carried out by IASIS. This document is dated September 19, 1989. This document is also available from the above address.

iii) Annual Report. There is a 58-page document titled **"IASIS Annual Report for 1989"** produced in February, 1990, which gives a brief history of IASIS and CIM, describes IASIS publication activity, IASIS external interactions, IASIS campus interactions, and an overview of the research program results. This document is narrowly distributed, but can be read by visiting IASIS, 217 Thompson Hall, George Mason University.

Q2.

How can I find out more about the Center for Interactive Management (CIM)?

A2.

i) Summary Document. There is a two-page summary document titled **"The Center for Interactive Management"** which is available from IASIS at the address given above in A1. This document gives:

- Past location (the Center no longer exists)
- Directors
- Purposes
- Knowledge base drawn on
- Uniqueness
- Clients (numbers and kind of service provided)
- Replication (what other places have such centers)
- Service (clients that were served)
- Higher Education (classes that were offered)
- Interns (who came to CIM for special training)
- Prospective Replications (places considering starting such an operation)
- Literature (availability of reports developed in CIM)

That document was last updated February 16, 1990.

ii) **Project Impact.** There is an 8-page document titled **"Major Impacts from Recent Applications of Interactive Management {April 1983-March 1989}"** which gives information about 44 projects conducted by CIM. The information includes, for each of the projects:

- Client/Broker
- Report Title
- Report Date
- Major Impact of the work

This report is also available from the address given above.

B. QUESTIONS ABOUT PUBLICATIONS

Q3.

What research publications are available that discuss the work of IASIS and/or CIM?

A3.

The research that has been done relevant to the work of IASIS and (formerly) of CIM is heavily documented. Mainly the documentation is found in these categories:

- Two books
- Two annotated bibliographies
- Many papers
- Many reports
- One summary document

i) The summary document. There is a 30-page summary document that is intended to give an overview of the research results. It is called: **"John Warfield's Work and Related Topics"**. It was

last revised in January of 1990. This document identifies, on page 9, books that have been published by others about this work.

ii) Two books. Warfield has published two books that integrate much of the work. They are identified as follows:

Societal Systems: Planning, Policy, and Complexity, New York: John Wiley, 1976 (reprinted in 1989 by Intersystems Publications, Salinas, CA, in paperback)

A Science of Generic Design: Managing Complexity Through Systems Design, Salinas, CA: Intersystems Publications, 1990 (in paperback)

iii) Two annotated bibliographies. Warfield has produced two annotated bibliographies that identify most of the papers, and which show how copies of the papers can be obtained through interlibrary loan. The titles of these are:

Interpretive Structural Modeling and Related Work: An Annotated Bibliography, Fairfax: IASIS, 1990 (first printed in 1980, updated in 1990)

Generic Systems Design and Interactive Management: An Annotated Bibliography, Fairfax: IASIS, 1990 (preliminary versions printed in 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989)

This document is currently in the final publication stage, but an earlier version (May, 1989) is available until this document is published.

iv) Reports. There is a 3-page document titled **"Center for Interactive Management: List of Publications, Fenwick Library, IASIS File"** This document also is available from the address given above. It identifies by title 41 reports produced by CIM during its operations at the University of Virginia and at George Mason University, the first report being dated April 20, 1983, and the last one being dated September, 1988.

v) Papers. Most of the published papers and reports are indexed in the IASIS File in the Reserve collection. Visitors may access this file directly, with Library permission. Documents contained in this file may be accessed through Interlibrary Loan. Instructions are contained in both of the annotated bibliographies mentioned above.

C. QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSES, DEGREES, AND SEMINARS

Q4.

Are there courses, degrees, or seminars relating to the IASIS activity?

i) <u>Degrees</u> and <u>Courses</u>. To the best of our knowledge, no institution offers a **degree program** either in generic system design or in interactive management. However there are several institutions that teach **courses** based on this work that may be applied to a degree. For detailed and up to date information, write to the institution involved. The institutions and contacts that we know of are:

- **University of Tokyo**, Department of General Systems Studies, Dr. Ryo Hirasawa, Chair of the Department.

- **University of Hokkaido,** Sapporo, Japan, Department of Electrical Engineering, Professor Azuma Ohuchi.

- **Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, (ITESM)**, Monterrey, N. L., Mexico, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Roxana Cárdenas, Chair of the Department.

- **City University of London**, Department of Systems Science, Mr. F. Ross Janes, Senior Lecturer.

- **University of Southern California**, Department of Systems Science, Professor Peter Gardiner.

- **Vanderbilt University**, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Professor Kazuhiko Kawamura.

- **Wright State University**, Department of Management Science and Information Systems, Professor Li Da Xu.

- **University of Northern Iowa**, School of Business, Professor William Wood.

- **George Mason University**, Department of Communications, Professor Benjamin Broome.

ii) <u>Seminars</u> IASIS has offered seminars for the past several years that are open to faculty and students.

iii) <u>Graduate</u> <u>Research</u> <u>Activity.</u> Some students have carried out research in IASIS or CIM that was found acceptable by other parts of George Mason University for credit in their degree programs.

iv) <u>Programs</u> <u>of</u> <u>Individualized</u> <u>Study</u> George Mason University offers degrees in individualized study. In the past, Dr. Warfield has worked with students who are getting such degrees, and very likely he will do so in the future as well.

D. QUESTIONS ABOUT VIDEOTAPES

Q5.

Is it true that there are some videotapes that show work being carried out in the CIM situation room?

A5.

Numerous videotapes were made while CIM was operating at George Mason University.

i) Total Project Tapes. Some of them were videotapes of entire project activities, extending over several days.

ii) Short Edited Project Tapes. Some of them were short (typically 15 to 20 minutes) edited tapes of projects, designed to give an overview of the project.

iii) Seminar Tapes. Many of the IASIS seminar talks were taped, and one tape of Warfield's talk on generic design to a TRW group was taped by TRW and furnished to IASIS.

iv) Informal Meetings. Some informal meetings were taped, because they involved informal instruction of interns in how to facilitate Interactive Management sessions or questions about the generic design science.

These tapes are mostly kept in IASIS, pending adequate library-type "cataloging" descriptions. Later they might be placed in a university library for accessibility.

E. QUESTIONS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT

Q6.

Does IASIS employ staff?

A6.

In the past IASIS has employed staff, but at the present time the entire IASIS staff consists of Professor Warfield (full time) and Professor Broome (1/4 time). No clerical staff are presently employed.

It is possible that IASIS will have a position open in the future, but at the present time it does not. Persons who think they might be interested in employment in the future can write to IASIS, indicating the nature of their interests and what they believe their abilities might add to IASIS.

F.   QUESTIONS ABOUT NON-PAYING INTERNSHIPS

Q7.

Does IASIS accept interns who can provide their own support?

A7.

In the past, IASIS (or its predecessor organizations) has had several interns who, with two exceptions, were self-supporting (this usually means supported by their home organization) during their stay with IASIS.

The places from which the interns came and the duration of the interns' stays are as follows:

- Great Britain, one year
- Kent State University, one month
- India, six months
- Venezuela, six months
- India, six weeks
- California, six months
- Greece, one year

IASIS has also hosted numerous visitors who came for one or more days.

No assurance can be given that interns can be accomodated in the future, but inquiries should be sent to IASIS and will be answered as soon as possible.

G. QUESTIONS ABOUT CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE IASIS PROJECTS

Q8.

What are the sponsored projects currently active in IASIS?

A8.

As of this date, IASIS has no sponsored research projects, although it administers accounts related to editing the journal Systems Research (our editing will end later in 1990) and the ninth International Multicriteria Decision-Making Conference (being done to assist another faculty member).

Q9.

What projects might be sponsored in the future, especially those that would require some new staff (either full-time or part-time)?

We are involved in numerous discussions that may produce sponsored projects at various future times. Some of the persons or organizations that we are talking with include the following:

i) <u>Defense Systems Management College.</u> Discussions suggest that we will be contracting for a 3-year program of education and training related to defense systems design and acquisition in the next few months. The DSMC intends to install a decision support activity in the College which, in its initial version at least, will resemble the Center for Interactive Management. This project is being developed as a result of several earlier projects carried out successfully for DSMC by CIM.

ii) <u>Ford Motor Company.</u> We recently completed a small project with Ford Motor Company. Because this went very well, we are hopeful that we may become involved in at least a one-year project with them related to their "quality is job 1" activities in Ford, specifically to improving their process of "quality function deployment" currently implemented with the aid of their TIES software.

iii) <u>Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (the "MIT of Mexico").</u> For several months we have been collaborating with the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering of ITESM. This Department expects to install a Center for Interactive Management (possibly with a different name) at the Institute. They are expecting to have assistance from IASIS in doing this. Other discussions involve a tripartite arrangement between ITESM, IASIS, and the Ford Motor Company, which has plants in Monterrey and in San Luis Potosi, where the "quality function deployment" system is being used (as it is in Ford's other plans as well). Sponsorship may come both from ITESM and from Ford.

iv) <u>Ecuador Project.</u> For several years, IASIS has been corresponding with researchers in Ecuador about a potential cooperative project called "Distrievan". The aim of this project would be to improve governmental administration in Ecuador, and especially the economics of the country. Sponsorship is being sought from international banking agencies. If achieved, some of the participants would be the Central University of Ecuador and faculty from the Department of Econometrics at the University of Geneva, as well as the Center for the Study of Market Processes at George Mason University. Timing on this project is unpredictable.

v) <u>Other Possibilities.</u> Several large corporations have recently become aware of the developments in generic design science and interactive management and, especially, with their potential application in design and quality control. Some of them are presently investigating these topics further, and may initiate contacts in the future.