

EUROPEAN MODERNISM AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Informing the Present, Understanding the Past

Friday, May 6 - Sunday, May 8, 2005
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Conference Objectives:

Towards the end of the Nineteenth century and during the first half of the twentieth century, a loosely knit group of European intellectuals were deeply committed to exploring ways in which knowledge might be better organized and disseminated in order to promote the progress of science, social welfare, and new international institutions.

The "information" interests of the key figures involved reflected what we might label a modernist European Knowledge Project in that those involved were committed to a modernist belief in rationality, planning, standardization, the value of the scientific method and the inevitability of scientific and social progress as they conceptualized and attempted to solve "information " problems. For a list of some of the figures of interest go to: *Cast of Characters and Their Work*.

The objectives of the conference are:

- to explore some of the ideas, institution building activities and disciplinary practices underlying the "modernist European knowledge project;"
- to assess their implications for concepts of a radically transformed globalized "post modern" information society that is regarded as having arisen from relatively recent developments in communications and other information technologies.

Our hope is that the conference will be of interest to scholars concerned with aspects of social history, the history of architecture, urban planning, philosophy, museology and library and information science and other disciplines relevant to the themes of the conference

(Papers/Contributors) (Organizing Committee)