



Welcome to Indiana CAR '98

And welcome back to Indianapolis, where the first computer-assisted reporting conference was held in March 1990. CAR was only beginning to come out of its "projects only" phase when Jim Brown of the journalism school here and IRE decided to co-sponsor a gathering.

Since then, CAR has become an accepted technique in most print and broadcast newsrooms around the country. This conference reflects that revolution. Eight years later we are offering panels, roundtables, special beat sessions and hands-on training for every kind of reporting. We also are paying more attention to how we write and air these stories and how we train people to use these high-tech tools.

We hope you learn (and teach) as much you can over the next four days and that you'll be able to take those lessons back to your organization.

Thanks for coming.

Brant Houston
Executive Director

Sarah Cohen
Training Director

From 9-10 a.m. Thursday, you'll get information to help you get the most out of the conference, including any last-minute changes or additions to the schedule. And you'll get a chance to meet the people who organized Indiana CAR '98.

Panels

Panels are marked as beginning (●), intermediate (■), advanced (▲), or for everyone (◆). Each lasts 50 minutes. We're offering several this year that build on each other and have been scheduled back to back.

Hands-on Training

Sit down at a computer and learn skills you need. Hands-on training is what makes the IRE and NICAR conferences special. This year, we

offer more than 70 classes on the Internet, spreadsheets, database managers, statistics, mapping and more advanced topics. Paid conference participants should have received hands-on classroom assignments in their packets. Some hands-on training will take place in the computer labs at Indiana University. If you go there, watch for signs directing you to board a bus in front of the hotel to make the short trip to the university.

As often as possible, assignments have been made with your skill level and preferences in mind. If you signed up for hands-on training and did not get an assignment sheet, or if it doesn't match your skills, see the classroom coordinator at the IRE regis-

tration desk.

Reprints, Videos, Vendors and Jobs

NICAR brings information and expertise to one location. Demonstrations of new technology, reprints and dubs of great CAR work and vendors show you ways to make your job easier. And for the 2nd time at a NICAR conference we have the Recruiting Center, where job-seekers and employee-seekers meet.

Demonstration Room

The demonstration room will feature top reporters revealing computer-assisted reporting techniques, software secrets, story analyses, researching methods, and more. The demo room will be operating Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Check

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We extend sincere thanks to the people and organizations who made this conference possible. Among them are:

- Indiana University School of Journalism at IUPUI
- Members of the Dispatch Broadcast Group – WBNS-TV, WTHR-TV, and The Ohio News Network.

the program insert for specific times and topics. Some of the discussions include: Programming in FoxPro; How to Build an Access Front End; Using Monarch to Process Print Image Files; Publishing Data to an Intranet; Researching Campaign Financing for State Elections; TRACFED - Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse on-line data service, and more. (Check the insert for a complete listing.) For speakers in the Demo Room, we will have a computer with an LCD projector, VHS, slide projector, Internet access, and computers to have hands-on tutorials for participants. There will also be a computer dedicated to check e-mail. If you are interested in setting up a demo session, please check with a NICAR staff member for availability.

The demo room will also have samples from NICAR's data library. You'll be able to see the datasets we have available and have staff members show you how to analyze them.

Broadcast Training and the Show and Tell Room

This year we're adding special emphasis to broadcast where CAR is rapidly expanding. We have ensured there are not only relevant panels, but hands-on training that can be applied quickly back at the newsroom.

As usual, we also have the Show and Tell Room where broadcasters can show their videotapes, tell how they did the story, and get comments, criticism and support from their colleagues.

IRE and NICAR Staff

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