

# BAUDY BITS... COLUMN OF ONLINE NEWS

IN ORDER to fund the acquisition of new databases for AUSINET, the AUSINET Users' Committee has established an AUSINET Data Base Fund.

All members of AUSINET are being requested to contribute \$50 per annum to this fund. (Contribution is optional). Depending on the costs of acquisition, some three to seven new databases may be mounted each year. The first of the databases to which the fund may be applied is the Australian Mineral Foundation's Australian Earth Sciences Information System (see 'Baudy Bits', *AustLibJ* vol28 no20, 7 December).

An online database, LITIR (LITerary Information and Retrieval) has now been developed to cover the vast amount of current Victorian materials. This database corresponds to the hard copy *Bibliography of Victorian Studies*.

The file is a non-profit, non-commercial, independent database designed and developed by Brahma Chaudhuri and is maintained at the University of Alberta.

At present the file is small and until bibliographic data covering a period of at least five years are entered, online searching will not allow any useful results.

However, reference librarians interested in sample online searching to test its capabilities should contact: Brahma Chaudhuri, LITIR DATABASE, Department of English, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E5.

Are you interested in presenting a paper at the 51st ANZAAS Conference in Brisbane, 11-15 May 1981?

Papers are being called for in the following subject areas: *Communication aspects of technological change; Economics of information; Human communication: mass/cultural/organisational; Communication Channels: libraries; Communication between scientists; Communication of science to the public: technical aspects/policy/agricultural extension; Communication in development.*

Abstracts of intended papers must be submitted by 31 June 1980 to: Honorary Secretary Section 33, ANZAAS, Dept of Communication and General Studies, Queensland Institute of Technology, GPO Box 2434, Brisbane.

The SDC Search Service has recently announced that left-hand truncation is now available on their CAS7276 and CAS6771 databases. This will allow great flexibility in compound substance searching and provides a means of chemical substructure searching.

They have also announced that the Federal Index is now available through ORBIT. The Federal Index abstracts the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, the *Weekly Compilation of Federal Documents*, the *Commerce Business Daily* and the *Washington Post*.

Contributions to this column should be sent to Katie Blake, PO Box J36, Brickfield Hill, NSW 2000, (02) 26 6344.

## CRYSTAL BALL GAZING

WOULD you like to take part in determining the future of the Association? This is your chance.

The Futures Committee, set up by the LAA General Council in November 1979 to look at likely changes in the profession and the Association over the next 20 years, has recently sent to all sections of the Association documentation relating to the work of the Committee. If you would like to make some input, why not contact the Secretary of your Section?

The documentation included the following statement on the Committee's course of action and the statement on 'Alternative scenarios' (p181 of the Canberra Conference *Proceedings*).

The Committee intends to proceed in the following way: 'The Futures Committee is to examine current forecasts of the future of society. It will then examine where librarianship, broadly defined to meet the needs of the latter part of this century, fits into that future. It will then seek a definition of what librarianship is, what a librarian is, and what the Association is'.

From this should flow the objectives of that Association, and a consideration of whether these objectives can be achieved within the existing structure or whether that structure needs to be changed.

## Public libraries' submission to Premier

THE LAA NSW Public Libraries Group are organising a submission on public libraries to be presented to the Premier of NSW, Mr Neville Wran.

This follows a suggestion by Mr Wran when he spoke at a meeting of the Group on 21 April.

In his address, Mr Wran said one of the main problems of government was to make the state dollar go as far as possible, and added that there are many groups and interests in the community vying for increased funding. It was not proper to say what was going to be in the budget but he promised that the government would give consideration to public library needs.

The Premier added that it was perhaps nearing the time for another infusion of funds into the public library system. But, he said, the government could not see that the respective percentages spent on public libraries by state government and local government could alter greatly. Under the new federalism the state was at a disadvantage with the local government sector gaining more than the state government.

Mr Wran took questions from the floor after his address. When asked a question about special grants he said he could see the possibility in the future of the special grants providing money for capital expenditure on buildings.

He also expressed interest in an idea put forward by Mr John Ellis, Chief Librarian, Warringah Shire Library, that the government assist in repayment of interest on library buildings.

With reference to provision by the state government of special assistance for construction of regional and central library

buildings Mr Wran said the government was appreciating more and more the idea of co-ordinated building development where instead of individual buildings being erected various functions would be incorporated into one new building. This would be expected to rationalise expenditure.

### Submission

In order to prepare the submission referred to earlier, the President of the Public Libraries Group, Margaret Whittaker, has distributed a letter to public libraries and public library workers.

Ms Whittaker said that the wide distribution of the letter and a notice was a drain on the financial resources of the Group but that the committee felt it was important that *everyone* know about the submission.

The letter reads in part:

... 'At the meeting Mr Wran invited the Group to organise a delegation to visit him to present a submission on the needs and priorities of public libraries in the state.

'We are now organising preparation of the submission and invite you to participate in this preparation by: submitting material, including suggesting priorities, for inclusion in the submission, and/or attending a meeting on Saturday, 17 May at the Function Room, Strathfield Municipal Library, 65 Rochester Street, Homebush, from 2-4pm.

'We anticipate your support in this significant opportunity to help focus the state government's attention to the needs of public libraries at a time when the government is formulating its 1980 budget.

Please send material to Secretariat, LAA, NSW Public Libraries Group, GPO Box 2959, Sydney, 2001, to be received by first mail Thursday, 15 May. *Margaret Whittaker*

## Ned on tour



Possibly the world's first feature film

*CINEMA Australia 1896-1956* is the title of an exhibition which will be touring Japan, Britain and Europe for the next two years. It opened in Tokyo on 6 March.

All the films are from the National Library of Australia, which is managing the exhibition, under the Department of Foreign Affairs' cultural relations program.

Audiences will see *The Melbourne Cup 1896*, believed to be Australia's oldest surviving motion picture, and *The Story of the Kelly Gang* (1906), possibly the world's first feature film.

Other films in the exhibition include *The Sentimental Bloke* (1919), *On Our Selection* (1920), *Forty Thousand Horsemen* (1940) *Smithy* (1964) and *Jedda* (1954).