

# TURN ON . . . TUNE IN

The February 1980 issue of the *OCLC Newsletter* carries an interesting story about a development in the Columbus area, Ohio, USA.

Marketed as Channel 2000 with the slogan 'Turn on, tune in, find out' a computer-based home information service has been introduced using the OCLC computers and data files from other sources and providing, via an ordinary television set, a telephone banking service and an on-line encyclopaedia, library catalogue and community information source. The idea will be test marketed in 200 homes in the Columbus area, where OCLC is situated.

Specifically, the home information service will provide three types of services to users in their homes:

Financial services, such as bill paying and account information available from Bank One of Columbus;

Access to the Academic American Encyclopaedia;

Access to computerised catalogues of the public library of Columbus, Franklin County and Denison University.

To use the system a special adapter unit designed by OCLC is required. It is presumed this is similar to the Teletext system developed in Britain.

This appears to be the first interactive home banking service to be tested in the United States and also the first multi-volume general encyclopaedia to be made available via a computer to remote terminals.

The home information service will also provide access to a service call 'Comptility'. This is a data base of public information for the Columbus area which is provided by a non-profit organisation, Computer Utility of Public Information. The information included in this data base will include material relating to government meetings, various views on current legislation and extracts from Ohio laws.

It is suggested that other data bases of sources of information could be added later on. Weather, sports, news, community calendars, computer assisted instruction courses, shopping via computerised ca-

talogues, are some of the things that have been mentioned.

Tom Harnish, who is a research scientist in OCLC's Research Department and manager of the home delivery of library services program has commented that the 'home information system will provide citizens with a "gateway" to the steadily increasing number of automated information services . . . libraries will become information clearing houses and the variety of information services that libraries could provide its citizens at home or at the library will expand'.

He also commented that 'in the future the home information system could be expanded to include: public-location terminals (similar to pay telephone booths) and distribution using interactive cable TV instead of telephones'.

From *UNSW Library About Us* no235, 2 April.

## Hobart reorganises

LAURIE BROWN, State Librarian of Tasmania has established a working group of senior library staff to examine borrowing services offered by the Hobart Lending Library.

Commenting on this, Mr Brown said 'I am very much aware of the unsatisfactory nature of our present lending services in Hobart. Public and staff dissatisfaction are well known. Our ability to deal adequately with requests and overdue items are an embarrassment to staff and an annoyance to readers'.

It is expected that computerisation of borrowing procedures, shortly to be introduced, will much improve services. This system has been in use at the Derwent Regional Library, Glenorchy, since May last year and has proved to be a much more efficient way of controlling book stocks. Computerisation is currently being introduced in Launceston's Northern Regional Library and in time will be extended to cover all of the state.

From *Tas State Library News* 8/80

## AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY WEEK



Patrick White . . . to open Library Week

THIS year Australian Library Week will be held on 19-27 September. The Week, organised by the Australian Library Promotion Council in conjunction with its state library promotion committees, will have as its slogan 'Libraries for Living'. The national opening will be held on 19 September when Patrick White will be the speaker.

For more information about state-wide activities, contact: *New South Wales*: Mrs Thea Meek, 96 The Bulwark, Castlecrag, NSW 2068. *Queensland*: Mrs Desi Lyons, c/o State Library of Queensland, Grey Street, Brisbane; phone (07) 221 8400. *Central Queensland*: Mrs Cheryl Haughton, c/o Rockhampton Municipal Library, PO Box 875, Rockhampton; phone (079) 27 6865. *South Australia*: Mr Colin Lawton, Department of Adult Education, University of Adelaide; phone (08) 22 3433. *Victoria*: Mrs Angela Pye, GPO Box 5233BB, Melbourne. *Western Australia*: Mrs Jo Bryson, c/o City of Nedlands Library, 71 Stirling Highway, Nedlands; phone (09) 386 6230.

### Moonee Valley Regional Library Service REGIONAL LIBRARIAN

This library system requires the services of a senior librarian to take charge of the developing and expanding public library service.

Moonee Valley Regional Library provides library service to the municipalities of Broadmeadows, Bulla, Essendon, Kilmore and Romsey in the north-western suburbs of Melbourne. It services a population of 185,000 over 164,000 hectares. This is an autonomous regional authority which employs its own staff and controls its own financial affairs. The area is mixed urban/rural, and is growing in population. Considerable developmental work is being undertaken. Acquisitions, cataloguing and circulation are computerised and considerable funds are being spent on community information, literacy and migrant services as well as the more traditional library areas.

The successful applicant must hold a qualification in librarianship acceptable to the Library Association of Australia and have had considerable library and administrative experience at a senior level. An ability to think flexibly and innovatively is required to meet the various library needs in the contrasting areas of the region.

**Salary:** \$21,000 negotiable, plus car.

Further details can be obtained from the undersigned with whom applications close on 2 June 1980.

Moonee Valley Regional Library Service,  
762 Mt Alexander Road  
Moonee Ponds Vic 3039. **J.M. Kelly**  
Executive Officer

### Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Central Library

#### LIBRARIAN GRADE 2 Orders and Precataloguing

Position no2130D

**Salary: \$15,552-\$17,984**

This is a senior appointment within the Technical Services Division.

Initially the appointee will work in the cataloguing section and report to the Chief Cataloguer. Subsequently, following a re-organisation, planning of which the appointee will be expected to participate in, the appointee will be responsible to the Senior Librarian, Systems and Technical Services, for the running of the orders and precataloguing unit.

An approved degree or diploma and eligibility for professional membership of the Library Association of Australia are required. Experience in orders and cataloguing preferably in tertiary institution libraries is required. Experience in the supervision of staff and in working with automated systems would both be decided advantages.

Applicants may contact George Eichinski (03) 341 2335 for further information.

Applicants should contact RMIT Staff Branch (03) 341 2337 to obtain schedule of duties.

Written applications should be addressed to the Registrar, Box 2476V, GPO, Melbourne, Vic 3001.

### PEKO-WALLSEND LTD LIBRARIAN GRADE 1

Applications are invited for this newly established position in the company's library.

The appointee will be responsible to the Librarian-in-Charge for the cataloguing of the company's technical reports, maps and associated material in preparation for their commercial microfilming, and eventual storage in an electronic retrieval system.

**Qualifications:** Applicants should hold graduate professional qualifications and experience in a technical library would be an advantage.

**Salary:** \$11,000-\$14,000 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

**Enquiries:** Telephone Mrs M. Riley (02) 498 4566.

Written applications detailing qualifications, experience, personal data with telephone number and references, should be sent to: The Librarian-in-Charge, Peko-Wallsend Ltd, PO Box 217, Gordon, NSW 2072.