AWA aids AIDS fight

AWA Computers' hardware and custom-made software are being used in the very advanced AIDS monitoring program operated by the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in Western Australia.

AWA Computers was able to develop a new AIDS monitoring program from specifications provided by the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. Using the existing blood analysis system which recorded basic details of donors the newly developed AIDS Detection Program enables the Service to keep precise details of each of its 65,000 donors on file.

The program enables the Service to keep track of what units of blood are coming from which donors and also to know where the unit goes and to whom, even though the Service takes in 1,000–1,500 units each week which are sent all over the world.

The Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service is operating 15 country centres throughout Western Australia, and for field work is intending to use an AWA Corona personal computer with further plans to introduce a telex package to enable the sending of information without manual involvement, thus further minimising delays.

BARR SMITH LIBRARY REMODELLING

The Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, will be engaged in extensive remodelling of its main Library building from October 1985 until the end of 1986. Because of the disruption, we shall often not be in a position to respond quickly to interlibrary loan and other information requests. I should be very grateful if libraries regularly borrowing from the Barr Smith Library would direct requests during this period to other locations, if they are available. We shall, of course, continue to supply where we are the sole Australian location, and shall endeavour to deal as rapidly as possible with all requests received. However, any help through redirection during this period would be greatly appreciated by our heavily overloaded staff.

Eric Wainwright,
University Librarian

The Annual Meeting of the National Executive of the Library Technicians Section of the Library Association of Australia will be held on Thursday, October 24, 1985 in Room E22, TAFE Library, Canberra College of TAFE, Constitution Avenue, Reid, A.C.T. at 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Phone (062) 66 4352 for information.

Book supply — reports on unfilled orders AS2807–1985

The poor standard of reporting by Australian agents of overseas publishers, and consequently by Australian booksellers, has been quoted often as one of the reasons librarians go to country of origin booksellers, and Australian library suppliers, in their efforts to compete, avoid Australian representatives of some overseas publishers.

Now an Australian standard has been produced, published by the Standards Association of Australia. *Reporting outstanding orders (in the Book Trade)*, AS2807–1985, ISBN 0 7262 38260, price $6.00 (according to SAA Victorian Office).

The standard was developed by the Australian Book Trade Committee which represents the interests of the LAA, Australian Book Publishers Association, and Australian Booksellers Association. (The standard itself does not use apostrophes, so I have followed that.) The recommendation is that it be used by Australian library suppliers, Australian publishers and agents of overseas publishers. There can of course be no compulsion to follow the standard, but librarians and library suppliers can expect improved service from those who do. (It should also improve communications between parent publisher and Australian representative.) We have often mentioned our objections to an *inefficient* closed market — the standard could be a major contribution to improved efficiency.

Experienced acquisitions librarians will have some idea of the content of the standard, but many librarians are unaware that, for example, 'not yet published' has often meant 'published by our parent company but we have no stock in Australia yet'. 'Out of stock' particularly, but also 'out of print' have been used to cover a multitude of possibilities, all of which tended to make it difficult for the librarian to give useful reports to requestors. An important clause refers to several reports which may be used by libraries of education institutions as evidence that a copy of a title cannot be obtained within 'a reasonable time', as required under the Copyright Act 1968 (as amended).

This standard is important to all librarians who have dealings of any kind with the book trade. Schools of Librarianship can use its clauses in discussions with students as it forms a very useful introduction to the hazards of book supply and the structure of the book trade in Australia. The ABT Committee is to be commended. It is gratifying that the SAA wished to publish it, and copies, of course, may be purchased from the SAA.

Elizabeth Carvosso
Bennett-Ebsco Subscriptions
Melbourne Office

New DIALOG Seminar
Beyond the Basics

Beginning this month, this all-new, full-day Beyond the Basics seminar for experienced DIALOG searchers will be available. The new course is designed for searchers who have been searching for some time and need a brief refresher on features and techniques and for those who would like to enhance their search skills through knowledge of the more advanced DIALOG features. The course fully incorporates the new techniques available with DIALOG Version 2. Hands-on practice time is included in the seminar fee of $160, and attendees are encouraged to bring search topics to work on during the practice breaks.

Inquiries to Insearch Ltd. DIALOG (02) 218 9790.