AUDIOVISUAL APPLICATIONS OF THE MICROCOMPUTER: AN AUDIO-TELECONFERENCE

On 15 September 21 committee members of the LAA School Libraries Section (NSW Group) were linked in an audio-teleconference with four Northern Territory members at Alice Springs and a panel of four resource people at Brisbane: Anne Russell, Chris Wright, Doug Hansen and Rob Neary.

In Sydney the first stage was the viewing of a colour videotape, then a round-table discussion and making a list of issues to discuss with the other eight participants. Next was the audio-teleconference link-up between Brisbane, Alice Springs and Sydney, and finally post-conference discussion in the LAA committee room at Ultimo.

Anne Russell demonstrated the production of overhead transparency graphics and headings, using APPLE MECHANIC and KOALA PRINTER with a koala pad. Dick Cosgrove demonstrated 3D animation and picture graphics programs on the BBC Computer, and the presentation of information as a bar graph printed in colour on an overhead transparency. He also demonstrated the manipulation of computer sounds and music and suggested that students may learn to add sound and graphics to their creative writing on computer. Doug Hansen demonstrated the potential of speech synthesisers in special education. An on-screen slide show, run by the computer, provided a vignette of some educational applications of this audiovisual computer technology. Rob Neary demonstrated technical aspects of the connection of the microcomputer to a video recorder and to other monitors.

The audio-teleconference link-up covered discussion of issues of the processes, educational applications and future possibilities of computer based reprographics and video hookup and recording. On-line we listened to librarians in other states, who have experienced similar problems in resources production and teacher education, and we discussed strategies which have proved to be successful. We also gained useful software and technical knowledge to supplement information which was provided in the audio-teleconference booklet.

In the Sydney discussion and evaluation, it was agreed that the morning's audio-teleconferencing had been successful in achieving the aims of the program, ie.
• to demonstrate the range of audio and visual applications of the microcomputer
• to enable participants to discuss and share various techniques
• to provide participants with experience in techniques of distance communication.

The School Libraries Section (NSW branch) committee is confident of the success of a planned audio-teleconference, which it is proposed will be sponsored by the LAA for the ongoing education of school librarians in 1986. This proposed audio-teleconferencing seminar will enable participants to discuss, and share up to date information about current issues in teacher librarianship.

Beth McLaren is interested to hear from any librarian who wishes to participate in this distance communication technology. (Beth's address: Castle Hill High School, Castle Street, Castle Hill. Ph. (02) 634 1198. Home: 5 The Bastion, Hornsby (02) 476 6450.

Sheila Hawkins

INFORMATION ONLINE 86

Australian Convention Management Services organisers of the first Australian Online Information Conference and Exhibition to be held in Sydney 20–22 January 1986 at the Hilton International Sydney, say that registrations have been pouring in.

Speakers — Australian and overseas — will cover Videotext, electronic publishing, database critiques in business, health, legal, etc searching techniques, microcomputer developments and much more. There will be over 30 product reviews by exhibitors, with the latest in database developments.

Keynote speaker from the US will be Dr Roger Summit, president, Dialog Information Services Inc. Other speakers include Anthony Sharp, Mead Data Central Int. UK, Leigh Baker, manager, Information Retrieval Division, ACI Computer Services and Sarah Dunn, marketing manager, Pergamon Infoline UK. Participating exhibitors include major sponsors ACI Computer Services, CSIRO, Dialog, Orbit/SDC, CLIRS, Pergamon Infoline, Engineering Information Inc and Chemical Abstracts Services.

To save 10% of the fee, register for Information Online 86 before October 30. A block booking has been made at the Hilton International, Cambridge Inn and the YMCA of Sydney for delegates requiring accommodation during the conference.

Special group rates through the official conference airline Ansett will provide a 10% saving on the economy airfare.

For registration or further information contact Kay Paterson, Australian Convention Management Services, GPO Box 3695, Sydney NSW 2001. Phone (02) 332 4622.

PART-TIME STUDY AT WAIT?

The Department of Library and Information Studies, WAIT, would welcome advice from librarians and employers as to the possibility that *school leavers* could be employed and encouraged to undertake the Bachelor of Applied Science (Information and Library Studies) degree at WAIT on a part-time basis. This information would be of help in planning future enrolment and timetabling matters.

Part-time in this context is defined as pertaining to school leavers taking at least three units per semester and completing the course in 5 to 6 years. This involves a commitment of between 7 to 9 hours a week attendance at WAIT plus at least twice this time spent in independent study.

If demand were sufficient it could be possible to programme units to be available after 4 pm.

Any advice and comments on this topic will be very welcome and should be addressed to Peter Maskell care of the department by the end of October.