MINERVA
— continued from page 1

he State Library's optical character recognition computer, the Kurzweil Reading Machine, can dump text into an Apple II for transmission via MINERVA.

MINERVA has a number of competitors capable of performing loan request and messaging tasks. TELEMEMO, VIATEL and ACIMAIL appear to be the main contenders. Careful selection of versatile hardware, especially modems capable of a number of speed configurations, provides for multiple system access.

At this stage of electronic mail development, OTC's MINERVA is the only one to offer such a comprehensive library package. Whichever system gains precedence, it is important for Australian libraries to overcome the impositions of distance, nationally and internationally, through the judicious use of new communications technology.

John K. Wright
Inter-Library Loans Librarian
State Library of NSW

WA GIFT TO DEVELOP ABN PROGRAM

The Library Board of Western Australia has given $25,000 to the Australian Bibliographic Network to develop a more direct way of getting cataloguing information from the Network database.

'This is a great initiative', the Director-General of the National Library, Mr Warren Horton, said. 'The Board's generous contribution will help us develop a special program for members of the Network.' He said that libraries across Australia use the computerised cataloguing network, which is operated by the National Library on their behalf.

The new system, called down-line loading, would let a number of the participating libraries get information they need immediately. Today, most libraries using ABN regularly receive updated catalogues of their holdings on microfiche. Other libraries, using their own computer systems to enter catalogue data into the database and to control loans, can get their records on magnetic tape from ABN, which are then loaded into the libraries' own systems.

Either way, there were delays in these methods of returning updated catalogue information to the libraries, Mr Horton said. The material was physically handled at some stage and sent out from Canberra by road, rail or air. 'Down-loading will allow a number of the larger libraries, such as the State Library Service in Western Australia, to update their catalogues swiftly, using national data communication links,' he said.

Mr Horton said that the ABN system operates with software from the US Western Library Network. National Library staff have developed many enhancements to the system since it was installed in 1979, responding to the needs of ABN users.

'Now, with this magnificent contribution from the Library Board of Western Australia, we are employing contract programmers to develop down-line loading for the Network's large Fujitsu computer,' said Mr Horton. 'We expect the new facility to be operating early next year and it is quite likely we will develop future programmes the same way, if similar financial assistance can be provided by our Network members.'

Library Association of Australia

HONORARY AWARDS

H.C.L. Anderson Award

The General Council may confer the H.C.L. Anderson Award on any person who is a professional member of the Association or who holds an overseas qualification in librarianship or archives which is recognised as a professional qualification by a library association or archives association in the country concerned, and who has rendered outstanding service to librarianship or to the library profession in Australia, or to the Library Association of Australia, or to the theory or practice of librarianship.

Redmond Barry Award

The General Council may confer the Redmond Barry Award on any lay person who is not eligible to be a professional member of the Association and who is not employed in a library who, in the opinion of General Council, has rendered outstanding service to the promotion of a library or of libraries, to the Association, to the theory or practice of librarianship, or to an associated field such as bibliography.

Ellinor Archer Award

The General Council may confer the Ellinor Archer Award on any person employed or who has been employed in libraries, who is not eligible for Associateship of the Library Association of Australia, who has rendered outstanding service to a library or libraries, the promotion of a library, or libraries, to the theory or practice of librarianship or to an associated field such as systems, conservation, management or bibliography.

Letter of recognition

The General Council may on the recommendation of the Honorary Awards Committee present a Letter of Recognition to a person or an institution or organisation who/which has rendered a significant, specific service to a library or libraries, to the Library Association of Australia or to the promotion or development of libraries or library science or who has over a period demonstrated significant service well over the call of duty in these fields.

Nominations

Members of the Divisions of the Association may make a recommendation that an honorary award be conferred by writing confidentially to Convenor LAA Honorary Awards Committee, C/- LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007.

Confidentiality

It is essential that nominees should NOT be aware that they are being nominated for an award. Nominations are considered by the Honorary Awards Committee and Council **in committee**, and details are published only when the nomination is successful.
Divisions of the Association particularly are asked not to note nominations in their agenda papers or minutes. Disclosure of such details can prejudice a nomination.

Nomination Forms

Nomination forms for each of the awards may be obtained from the Acting Executive Director, Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007.

Nominations for the H.C.L. Anderson Award, Redmond Barry Award and Ellinor Archer Award close on **Friday 14 February 1986**. Nominations for Letters of Recognition may be made at any time, and will be considered at the first available meeting of the Honorary Awards Committee.

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