

# Bibliography on Women and Gender

## Progress Report

In January 1985, a meeting was held in the National Library of Australia to discuss the need to create a database covering items related to all aspects of women and gender. Dr Lenore Manderson of the Australian National University had expressed her view to the National Library that such a database was needed and outlined her concept at the meeting. Most of those present favoured the idea.

A report was distributed to a wide range of people interested in the subject or who held material which should be included in the database. Most comments received were supportive and some libraries offered to contribute data. In particular, the State Library of South Australia, the Library of Murdoch University, and the Library of the University of Adelaide have indicated their interest in participating in the project.

After further discussions regarding the substance of the database, it has been decided that, initially, the base will include literature related to areas such as:

women in the workforce; the sexual division of labour; patterns of employment; equal employment opportunities; affirmative action; children; fertility control; domestic violence; feminism; feminist theory; women's liberation; women and the law; women in trade unions, in science and technology, in business, etc.; gender formation and identity; women and multicultural education.

The database will cover scholarly and popular periodical literature, reports of govern-

ment departments and agencies and voluntary associations. In the first instance, the material will be confined to Australian publications, with the emphasis on maintaining a comprehensive contemporary file. At a later stage, it is the aim to include books, pamphlets, and mimeographed and related ephemera, but even in the first stage there should be 3000-3500 items to be indexed and abstracted each year.

A database could be created either as a centralised, partly centralised or totally decentralised operation. In pursuing these options, it became clear that the most practical way would be to come to an arrangement with an organisation already engaged in database creation in a related area.

The Institute of Family Studies replied to our original letter expressing interest in concretely assisting with the project. The Institute already produces a database 'FAMILY' which includes relevant material, the database is available online through AUSINET and a hard copy version of quarterly updates is available. It was thus an ideal organisation with whom to discuss the project. The Institute has agreed, subject to sufficient funds being raised, to create a women and gender database within its FAMILY database, initially covering items in Australian periodicals. The database would be made available for online searching via AUSINET.

Thus the project can now proceed, and it is anticipated that work will commence early in 1986. Effort is now being concentrated in obtaining sufficient funds for a four year trial, a reasonable period for the usefulness of the database to be proven. It is estimated that the project requires \$150,000 in funds over the four years, i.e. \$35,000+ each year. Funds will be used to cover the salary of a librarian to be

located with the Institute of Family Studies, the costs of contract indexers and online database storage, update and maintenance costs.

Federal and state government departments, the ethnic community, the tertiary and secondary education sector, business, commerce and industry as well as the library sectors are the markets for the database, and it is hoped that financial support will come from these.

Assistance by providing finance or in fund-raising for this project would be greatly appreciated.

For further information contact:

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PARKES ACT 2600.

## Following the Sepik

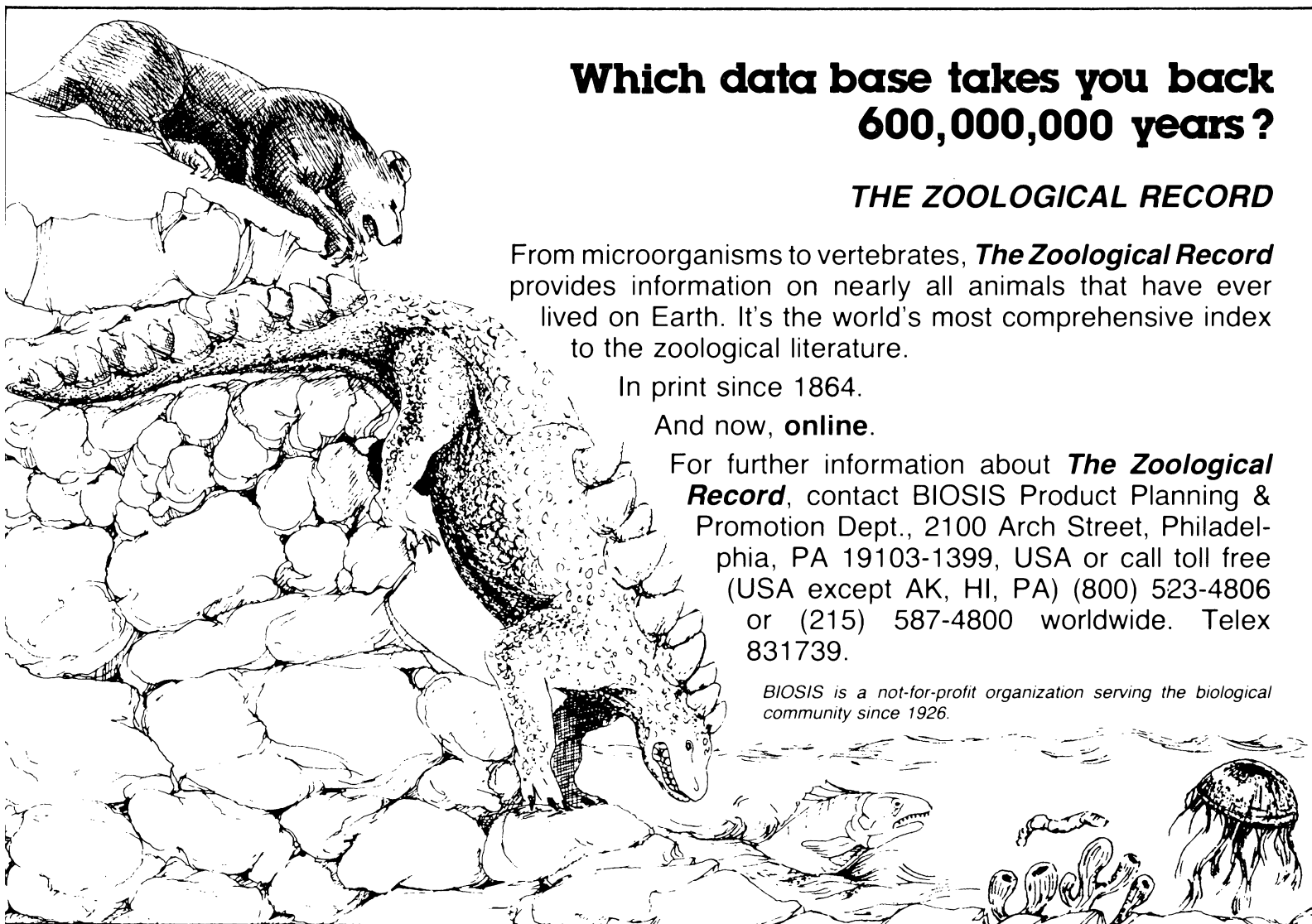
A magnificent book passed briefly across the desk of the Publications Officer as this issue of *InCite* was going to press.

Although outside the usual area of books to be reviewed in *InCite*, this one is so outstanding that a review will be sought for an early edition of *InCite* in 1986.

In the meantime some brief information. The book is called *Sepik Diary* and is the work of talented Australian artist Frank Hodgkinson, whose work has been exhibited in many of the world's major museums and art galleries.

The illustrations are magnificent and a necessarily brief examination suggests that the text is in perfect harmony with them. More details later!

The book costs \$75 and enquiries should be directed to the publishers, Reid Books, 1/100 Kururaba Road, Neutral Bay.



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