

SAIL LAUNCHED



Andy and Julie selecting libraries for the Project

SAIL — Not another America's Cup Challenge, but the acronym for the Survey of Australian Inter-Library Lending which will take place during 1986. This is the long-awaited study of ILL traffic which has been requested as the first step in the development of a national strategy for document supply.

The project was commissioned by the Document Delivery Summit organised by the LAA in November 1984 (*InCite* 14 December 1984). The Summit discussed a wide variety of possible solutions, but decided that no decisions could be taken without data about ILL traffic. So the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission (who had supported an earlier study) funded a feasibility study — to design the traffic study. Andy Exon (R & D Librarian, Western Australian Institute of Technology) was hired for this Stage (*InCite* 17 May 1985).

Stage 1 comprised:

- analysis of existing data, including that collected by the late Professor Mel Weinstock, the AACOBs Census, and the Western Australian PILL Project.
- a survey of ILL practices
- a pilot test of the proposed method in each State.

The responses of 1000 libraries to a questionnaire will greatly assist the selection of those in Stage 2. The analysis of ILL data revealed surprising results, which will provide many hypotheses to be tested in Stage 2. And the Pilot Test gave a chance for the researcher to iron out problems in the collection of data. Andy wishes to thank all the librarians around Australia who helped with Stage 1, not only with their time, and advice, but (in the Pilot Test) with hospitality!

His report recommended a study of all types of libraries in regions of Australia, looking at:

- document requests
- document supply
- ILL policies and procedures

A sample of libraries will be invited to participate in the study between 7 April and 3 May 1986.

These recommendations were accepted by the Australian Libraries and Information Council and Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission, who, with the Schools Commission, have agreed to provide \$46,000 for the study, appointing Andy Exon as Project Director on a part-time secondment; Julie Richards (a recent graduate of WAIT, Library

School) has been appointed as Research Assistant.

Libraries in the sample will be contacted during February, and workshops will be held in each State to show libraries how to fill in the survey forms. The data will be analysed during July to September, and a report submitted to the funders at the end of 1987. It is intended to make the data available for re-analysis.

InCite will publish regular reports on progress, and information about the Project has been sent to State and Section Committees of the LAA and AACOBs.

Copies of the Feasibility Study are available from WAIT:

EXON, F.C.A. A preliminary survey of Australian inter-library lending; a report to the Australian Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission on the design for a national study of ILL traffic. Perth (WA), WAIT Library for CTEC, 1986. ISBN 0-908155-21-2 Price: \$10.00.

FISHER LIBRARY ADLIBS

A \$1 million prime computer is to be installed in the Sydney University Library following the signing of a contract with Prime Computer of Australia Ltd on 2 January 1986.

The Fisher Library automation solution will consist of prime hardware and the ADLIB (Adaptive Library Management and Information System) library software package. The hardware components will consist of the top-of-the-range prime 9955 computer with eight megabytes of main memory and 1.6 gigabytes of disk storage. A prime 25011 machine will be used for circulation back-up. The ADLIB software package, which runs on the complete range of prime hardware, is marketed and supported in Australia by Primary Software Services Pty. Ltd.

The first stage of implementation will begin early in 1986. Initially, 75 terminals and printers will be located in Fisher Library for staff and patron use, with plans for more than 160 terminals to be dispersed throughout the university's 15 libraries. Library computer systems manager, Mr John Pittard, said it was intended for the system eventually to extend to academic offices.

Currently, the library operated on a small computer which could not be expanded. The university chose the prime solution from a tender list of six, after a four-month evaluation programme. Mr Pittard said the prime solution was chosen because it offered a strong application package, with a very large processor and consideration to future expansion.

The Harpers Bazaar ad.

At a meeting of The Advertising Standards Council on December 18, 1985, the Council determined as follows:

Council members considered the advertisement and agreed that the connotations of the image of librarians were somewhat derogatory. Council noted with approval that the advertiser had volunteered to refrain from the use of such imagery in future advertising.

The complaint was UPHeld.

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