INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Library and Information Staff Union merges with FMWU

The Library and Information Staff Union, which has represented library and information staff working in private enterprise in NSW since 1983, has now amalgamated with the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union (FMWU).

The merger allows for the establishment of a section committee for library and information staff within the FMWU and representation on the State Council of the FMWU.

Library and information staff will now have access to the services of the FMWU's full-time industrial and research staff. Cheryl Hyde, an FMWU industrial officer, is currently working on the log of claims for library staff working in private enterprise and it is hoped that an award for these people will soon eventuate.

Workers' Compensation

A new system of workers' compensation called 'WorkCover' is to operate in NSW from 1 July 1987. The new workers' compensation legislation abolishes common law rights for workers to sue employers for work-related injuries, increases rates of weekly benefits for incapacitated workers with dependents and increases benefits for permanent impairment and lump sum death benefits. It also places greater emphasis on rehabilitation, for example, all places of employment in NSW in both the public and private sector, will be required to have an approved rehabilitation program in place within 12 months of the enactment of the legislation.

Code of Practice for RSI

Worksafe Australia (The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission), has released a General Code of Practice on the Prevention and Management of Occupational Overuse Syndrome. The code emphasises consultation between employers and employees in the prevention and management of occupational overuse syndrome and sets out the elements which would be included in a prevention strategy.

Louise Lansley
Educational and Industrial
Services Manager.

Community language audio books

A union list of approx 500 audio books in a variety of community languages is available for $10 from the Braille and Talking Book Library in Victoria.

If your library has a community language audio book collection why not send in the details so that your collection can be included in the next edition of the union list. Author, title, English title, imprint, format (ie two-track or four-track cassette) number of cassettes, category (eg adult fiction) details for each item together with a short summary are required. For further information contact: Iris Whittaker, Braille and Talking Book Library, 31-51 Commercial Road, South Yarra 3141 (03) 267 6022.

Minerva and Formsend

The Minerva Library Network (MLN) has experienced phenomenal growth during the past 12 months and now comprises 315 mailboxes representing 249 libraries, including allocations for all state libraries and the National Library of Australia.

During the past year, the State Library of NSW has developed a special disk program called Formsend to enable interlibrary loan requests to be formatted and stored on disk for eventual high speed transmission via Minerva.

This technique ensures that operating costs are reduced to below traditional postal rates. Further benefits result from initial rapid keying in of data and the efficient manipulation of disk stored records.

The Formsend package is now available for $50 and comprises not only the Formsend disk but a comprehensive 16,000 word manual in two parts, explaining operating procedures for both Formsend and the entire Minerva Library Network.

Readers are provided with step by step, illustrated instructions for formatting and requesting inter-library loans using Formsend in conjunction with MLN mail facilities.

Advice is given to those wishing to purchase computer hardware and communications software packages for use with Minerva and other remote services. Record keeping practices, interaction with commercial software, and file maintenance techniques are discussed.
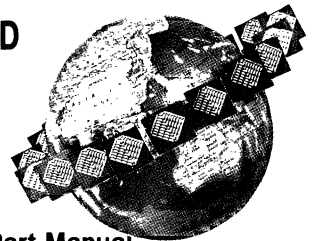
Each item listed on the MLN menu is covered in detail in the second section of the manual. Screen surrounds have been used to clearly illustrate online sessions captured to disk for inclusion in the text. Examples of ALANET and Dialorder connections for overseas ordering of documents, the capturing to disk and sorting of MLN directories, use of word processing programs in conjunction with the MLN, interlibrary loan record keeping, and a whole host of useful information resulting from two years experience with Minerva by the ILL Unit, have been included in the manual.

Formsend operates on microcomputers using the MS:DOS (IBM compatible) disk operating system. The marketed version allows for filing to either single or twin drive microcomputers and the creation of user specified filenames. If the product fails to load on an MS:DOS machine, the State Library of NSW will provide a refund.

For further information contact: John K. Wright, Inter-Library Loans Librarian, State Library of NSW, (02) 230 1485 MLN200000