

CLANN Cataloguing Coup

July 1987 marked a significant day for CLANN. This was the day that the network began offering online cataloguing services from its own computing resources. Prior to this time, CLANN used the online cataloguing system provided on a bureau basis by a commercial company.

The changeover was a major one for the network which has 30 library sites cataloguing a 65 dedicated terminals. Some 350,000 current acquisitions of books, serials, films, music etc are catalogued each year. In addition, several members are carrying out major retrospective conversions and 100,000 holdings associated with such projects are added each year. The CLANN database now stands at two million holdings and about 600,000 MARC records.

The software now being used for cataloguing the MARC Record Management System (MRMS) module of the Geac integrated library package. In 1985 CLANN successfully installed the Circulation and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) modules of this system on two 000 computers linked by a high speed facility called 'the dual'.

The move to inhouse cataloguing was achieved in two phases. The first, which extended through July, saw libraries using this MRMS software on the OPAC computer. The OPAC computer was able to handle the trans-

actions as most library users were enjoying their semester break at the time.

In early August, CLANN took delivery of a third 8000 computer to process the full cataloguing load. This implementation has involved a major training program for over 100 cataloguing staff in the network. The existing telecommunications network of leased lines was significantly increased to incorporate the additional terminals required for cataloguing. In addition, many of the libraries required recabling to allow for the new Geac MRMS terminals to be connected to the multiplexors already in place for circulation and OPAC.

This changeover was a significant challenge for all concerned and a true test of co-operation. The fact that it was achieved so smoothly is a testimony to the adaptability of the Geac system and to the professionalism and commitment of librarians and library staff at all levels in the network.

The move to cataloguing on its own system rather than using the bureau has been a very positive one and has been overwhelmingly endorsed. The libraries will benefit by not having to manage two different systems and the users of the libraries will have improved access to current material.

Rona Wade
Executive Director

AEI Shindig

The Australian Education Index (AEI) celebrated its 30th birthday last month. To mark the occasion all past librarians-in-charge of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and others involved in production of the AEI were invited to a union to coincide with library week. Over 60 people including the staff of ACER and visitors attended morning tea on 16 October in the ACER library.

Catherine Gigante (Dwyer) introduced the idea of the index during the 1950s to meet the need for a centralised source of information on Australian education. A specimen issue as produced in October 1957, modelled on the Wilson index. Frances McPherson (Amor) the first librarian employed at ACER in 1945 worked as editor.



Photo:(left to right) Elspeth Miller, Catherine Gigante, Olive Battersby, Bronwyn Hay, Julie Badger, Isobel Robin, Frances McPherson, Mary Carrick, Liz Oley.

During its first ten years the index was a co-operative venture with contributions coming from departments of education and teachers centres in all states. In 1978 the AEI became available as an online service through AUSINET and was then modelled on the ERIC system. The 'ERIC Thesaurus of Descriptors' was used for indexing initially. Since 1984 the Australian Thesaurus of Education Descriptors has been used. Production methods have changed over the years going from typed 3 x 5 inch slips filed in shoe boxes to modern word processing and data transfer by modem. An external mainframe now generates index processing and bromide production.

AFTRS — looking outward

The Australian Film, Television and Radio School's Library will stay open Tuesday evenings for a three-month trial period.

The library's staff and resources will be available until 7.00pm but, at this stage, material can only be borrowed by the public on interlibrary loan.

The trial extension of the library's hours to cater for external users is a flow on from a major review of AFTRS' activities. A key finding in the review was the need to encourage the public, people in educational institutions and particularly industry, to make better use of AFTRS' facilities in line with a new focus on advanced professional training and industry development.

The AFTRS will be relocated, early in 1988, to its first permanent home. The new building, adjacent to Macquarie University, is currently under construction. It has been planned with the industry in mind. Professional filmmakers and broadcasters will be able to experiment with ideas and technology using the studio space and facilities, and they will have access to the building for regular screenings, seminars and meetings.

The library, one of the best in Australia for production-based resources on film, television and radio, will be at the core of AFTRS' service to industry.

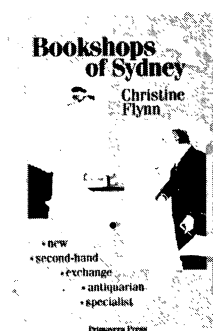
The library holds about 15,000 volumes and over 200 overseas and Australian periodicals, and the extensive press clippings service provides a daily diary of industry news and developments. The audiovisual collections include prints of over 600 student and other films. The 3,000 videocassettes in the collection include student and purchased productions as well as resource material produced by the School for teaching purposes. There are over 1,000 sound cassettes in the music collection.

For more information about the library, contact Peter Wagner, Library Manager, (02) 887 1666.

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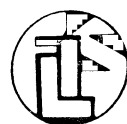
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