

INFORMATION ONLINE 88

Now that the dust has well and truly settled after the Third Australian Online Information Conference and Exhibition, Information Online 88, let us review some of the highlights.

The program was very successful once again, with a difficult choice of interesting papers. Many have praised the streaming this year and the depth and high quality of the papers presented.

In particular, we were very fortunate to have such a stimulating array of keynote speakers bring us up-to-date with their part of the online world — Mr George Maltby, Professor Martha Williams, Mr Charles Hildreth, Dr David Batty and Professor Masahiro Kawahata. Barrie Stern's paper on the ADONIS project, the document delivery trial in which the National Library is a participant, was also widely acclaimed.

The Best Presenter Award, sponsored by Australian Airlines, Conrad International and Jupiter's Casino, was won by Katie Blake of Enterprise Information Management for her fascinating paper on the 'Smart Book'. The Made in Australia stream was particularly well received and will certainly be continued in future years to give exposure to the exciting developments taking place in this country.

Of the other streams, the Business/Finance stream and business exhibitors so impressed one of our speakers Paul Nothman, Manager of the Research Department of the Australian Stock Exchanges, that he has offered the Exchange's help in promoting next year's conference.

The Exhibition was once again strongly supported by information service providers, with an increasing emphasis this year on the information needs of the business sector. One of our major sponsors Disctronics Optical Storage Systems announced the release of their first CD-ROM product at the Exhibition, and have very generously offered to produce a CD-ROM copy of the conference proceedings.

In other Exhibition events, ADDA and AUSINET co-sponsored the launch of the WORKLIT database of employment and industrial relations; IP Sharp announced its new software package PC MAGIC and the Reuter Textline Service; and the Australian Bureau of Statistics announced an agreement with Space-Time Research to manufacture a CD-ROM-based census product, CDATA 86, and the associated SUPERMAP software.

The business sector services reported particularly strong interest at the Exhibition, with several commenting on the high quality of visitors and the good business leads they produced.

A number of very successful satellite events were also held around the conference. Over 200 were attracted to the OPAC Update seminars in Sydney and Melbourne, co-sponsored by the Information Science Section, NSW Cataloguers and CAVAL and featuring Charles Hildreth. Others attended the Emerging Technology Seminar hosted by Inspec, Predicasts and Derwent; the British Database Day; and the Engineering Index User Group meeting with EI president Herb Landau, who

also presented two papers at the conference!

On the social front, the conference dinner was again a memorable evening. LAA President Alan Bundy presented Georgina Kane (ASCIS) with the LAA Library Manager of the Year award. Conference Treasurer Enid Roberts once again demonstrated her skill in handling the largest two-up game in Sydney. And who could forget the sight of Barrie Stern and a prominent ISS identity carering around the dance floor at breathtaking pace.

Finally, it's all on again in 1989 — not just more of the same but an even more exciting program. Information Online 89 will be held on 17-19 January next year at the Hilton International, Sydney. A call for papers is included in this issue of *InCite*. Those wishing to present a paper should contact Kaye Foda of ACMS on (02) 332 4622 — the deadline is 16 May!

See you all again next year!

Andrew MacKenzie

IFLA/LAA Conference Functions

We expect that there will be quite a number of unofficial or private functions taking place during the IFLA/LAA conference — receptions, company or institution parties, book launches, alumni gatherings, and so on. We would like to spread these functions throughout the conference period, to avoid clashes with major official activities, and to avoid wearing out our more social delegates!

So if you are planning to hold a function, please contact Sue Phillips at LAA House to discuss the most appropriate time. Phone: (02) 6929233 or (008) 22 1481.

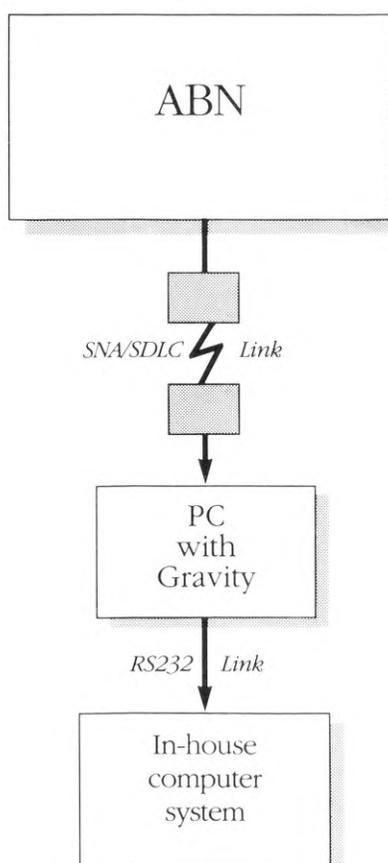
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