

Front Line



Averill M.B. Edwards
President, ALIA

Welcome to the Australian Library and Information Association! The new name and new objectives are now in place with the signing by the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, of the new Royal Charter. We have started an exciting new page in the history of the Association and these next years will be full of challenges. You will all have had by now my letter briefly outlining the reasons for the move of the National Secretariat to Canberra and with details of the financial arrangements for the construction of the building.

No start of the New Year by a new President would be complete without acknowledgment of the contribution of the now Immediate Past President and it is particularly fitting that I should acknowledge this in *Frontline*.

Alan Bundy's year as President was full of the sort of challenges that normal mortals would break under but Alan rose to them with an ebullience and dynamism which was breathtaking. The spread of Alan's interests and the richness and variety of his ideas have left us a golden legacy. The Association has benefited by his energy and his commitment to the profession. Alan supplied a much needed national perspective on issues facing our profession and presented new ideas, often uncomfortable, for our consideration. Alan's *Frontline* editorials in particular covered a wide range of topics and provided an instant stimulus to thought. Our thanks, Alan, for your contribution.

As President, I have four specific concerns which I will be pursuing during this year. While these are not placed in any order of priority, they represent issues which I believe are important for the Association.

(i) **The Association and the profession's image.** Librarians have become more assertive in presenting themselves as energetic, innovative and essential managers of information but we need to continue to press this view and

the Information for the Nation Campaign is the major tool by which we will take that image to the wider community. All members need to be involved in this campaign and to support it.

(ii) **School libraries.** School libraries provide the early nurture for the development of information skills and positive attitudes to libraries yet they are amongst the least resourced and least regarded of our libraries. Recognition of the importance of school libraries to the community has to be a continuing high priority for the Association. The Committee on School Libraries which I convene has started a program to address some of the issues and amongst other matters is working on a recruitment brochure for school librarians.

(iii) **International relations.** Following the IFLA-LAA Conference last year the Association needs to be more outward looking, to recognise that as an Association it is secure at home yet lives in a region of many countries with struggling library associations and library systems. The Association's International Relations Committee needs to be revamped to develop a program for more practical international activities to ensure that the impetus of IFLA does not dissipate.

(iv) **The move to Canberra.** It is essential this year in the midst of the changes in staffing and operations that

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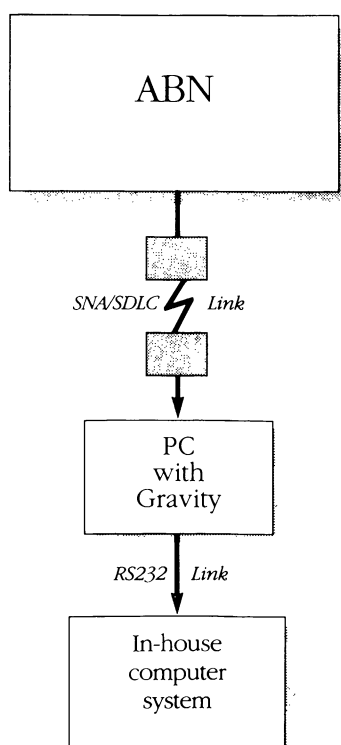
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DLL takes off — a new service from ABN

DURING 1988 ABN introduced a new service to enable its users to obtain MARC records from its large bibliographic database, without needing to wait for weekly tape output.

ABN users purchase about 3 million MARC records each year from ABN and these are supplied on some 1,500 tapes. Accordingly, ABN's new service, called the Downline Loading—or DLL—service, will provide a faster and more reliable service to the network's users, since they will not need to rely on 'overnight' couriers to deliver their tapes. It will also help to contain ABN's costs in conducting its MARC record service.

In late 1986, ABN developed the software needed to enable users to take records from the database and to control the transmission of the records to leased line user sites. The first local system capable of receiving ABN downline loaded records was developed by ALDIS Pty Ltd of Melbourne specially for the University of Melbourne library. The ALDIS system, called GRAVITY, employs PC based software which receives the record in the PC before uploading it into the host computer—in the Baillieu Library's case, a LIBS 100. While in the PC, the record may be modified using GRAVITY's user friendly software.

The Baillieu Library has been downline loading all its data from ABN since April. The Library has also introduced other

changes in its technical processing department so as to capitalise on the immediate availability of records for making its new acquisitions fully accessible to users at the earliest moment.

In the last few months, several other libraries have installed the GRAVITY package, including two public libraries in Victoria—the Eastern Regional Library Service and the Sunshine Melton Library Service—as well as the State Library Board of Western Australia and Murdoch University. The saving of tape delivery time in the case of the two Western Australian libraries is a particularly significant extra benefit. These libraries use different computing systems—the Victorian public libraries use microcomputer—based systems, the State Library of Western Australia uses the AWA URICA system and Murdoch University uses its own local system, ALIEN. The Interface to these systems is provided by the GRAVITY package.

More recently, the Ku-ring-gai Municipal Library in Sydney has installed a DLL facility developed for it by Stowe Computing Australia Pty Ltd. Ku-ring-gai uses the BOOK PLUS Library Management System operated by IBM System 38. In this system all the terminals can access ABN and, if necessary, all can downline load records on demand. DATAPOINT has also successfully tested its DLL facility on its DATALIBRARY, although this has not yet been installed at any user site.

The ABN Office expects that the use of the DLL service will now expand quickly



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as more librarians move to take advantage of its benefits. A recent decision of the ABN Network Committee will encourage this trend. Since DLL requires transmission in the 3770 as well as the 3270 mode, the service is only available to leased line users. In recognition of ABN's objective to assist libraries to improve the speed and efficiency of their cataloguing operations, the Network Committee decided to extend the use of leased lines, and of the DLL service in particular, to libraries which do not contribute cataloguing data to the network.

More information on DLL is available from

- the ABN Help Desk telephone 008-026155 or 062-621531
- ALDIS Pty Ltd telephone 03-6479724
- Stowe Computing Australia Pty Ltd telephone 02-4375511
- Datapoint Pty Ltd telephone 062-470400.

Position Wanted in Australia

Ms Philomena Osazee Fayose, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, is interested in obtaining a teaching position in Australia during her sabbatical leave from October 1989 to September 1991.

She has taught undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University of Ibadan for the past 12 years, primarily in the field of school librarianship and children's literature. Prior to this she taught at a high school for seven years.

She is interested in working at a University, Teachers College, Research Institution or Children's Library.



Ms Fayose may be contacted at: The Department of Library Studies, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

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the services to members continue and the transfer to Canberra is achieved with the minimum of disturbance. Work with the architect, Philip Cox and with the Building Project Manager is necessary to ensure that we get the building we want which will work best for the Association.

Sue Phillips, the Assistant Executive Director has resigned to become Secretary of the WEA after 17 years at the Association. Widely known to the members, Sue has delivered energetic and dedicated service to this Association as Secretary to the Board of Education, Membership Services Manager, as Assistant Executive Director and as Director of the IFTN Campaign. We thank you, Sue, for your contribution, delivered with such charm and flair, to the work of the Association and to the profession and we give you every good wish for this new position.

The year is likely to be full of changes. Change is always uncomfortable but I ask members to accept this discomfort in sure knowledge of a better and brighter future.