

# FEED BACK

## Acquisitions Section

### NSW Group

David Toll, Principal Librarian, General Acquisitions and Cataloguing, in the National Library of Australia addressed the ALIA Acquisitions Section (NSW) meeting on 27 June on the topic ANB/ABN: current & future.

He began by explaining the National Library's bibliographic planning strategy, the objectives of which include maximising access to bibliographic and holdings information, sharing cataloguing effort, minimising record duplication, enabling flexible record selection, and preventing unnecessary collection duplication. The priorities for achieving these bibliographic objectives are:

- investigation of the feasibility of redeveloping ABN in order to achieve a more efficient, flexible and cost-effective national system;
- large-scale retrospective conversion of NLA collections, including non-book materials;
- reassessment of the national bibliography. Issues include the desirability of integrating the various components of national bibliography data into a single product, the most appropriate means to deliver national bibliography given the technology available, how comprehensive should the national bibliography be, currency of national bibliography data, and the idea of decentralised contribution to the national bibliography.

Probably the most significant recent initiative for acquisitions librarians is ABN Supersearch which allows improved access to data and data retrieval (including pre-publication records) from the NBD. ABN is becoming a more powerful bibliographic tool, providing early notification and verification of materials. Its use will become increasingly valuable for acquisitions and collection development purposes.

#### Inserts in this Issue:

- Election Paper
- ALIAppointments
- Continuing Education for the Information Professional — NSW & ACT only
- Professional Development Survey

## DOS at Sydney

### Special Libraries Section NSW Group

NSW Specials are holding an Introductory DOS Course on 7 November 1990 — at Sydney University, part of their commitment to the provision of on-going practical professional development activities for members.

Most librarians have access to computers and are highly skilled in online searching, and in dealing with library management packages. However, when it comes to moving around the computer outside these 'safety zones', many librarians have to rely on the company computer boffins to help them out. This course is

intended to impart enough 'DOS' literacy to enable the operator to manage IBM compatible PCs with some confidence.

Our tutor, Graham Whittall, will be covering such areas as naming files, creating and removing directories, printing the screen, explaining DOS commands, use of Batch Files and much more.

The course is hands-on — with one terminal per person in a computer lab situation. Hence our numbers are limited to 20 max. If we have a huge response we will happily run the course again early next year for those who miss out on the initial cut. So the message is — be early.

Lunch and morning and afternoon tea will be provided.

The course is designed to be very inter-active. If you have specific questions about DOS — please let me know before the course, so that our tutor can be fully prepared to answer them on the day.

Contact: Kay Parker, Brainwaves(02) 303 963.

## Dewey 20 — 1-day course

### Cataloguers' Section Victorian Group

ALIA Cataloguers' Section (Victorian Group) in conjunction with the RMIT Department of Information Services held a successful 1-day Dewey 20 workshop on 18 July.

Under the guidance of Cherryl Schauder from the RMIT Department of Information Services and members of the Cataloguers' Section, 30 participants

were introduced to a variety of aspects of Dewey 20. Two streams, advanced and introductory, enabled participants to select their own level of involvement. A detailed workbook gave practical examples (and possible answers) to aspects of Dewey, including specialist subject areas of literature, computer sciences and public administration.

## Oops!

- A couple of typos managed to sneak past a phalanx of proof readers in the Annual Report (an insert included in *inCite* Vol 11 No. 13): on p 6b the Overhead Expenses from Appendix C should have read \$1,009,955, and AYA at the bottom of p 7a was really ALIA. Don't blame the auditors: the gremlins were closer to home.
- In *inCite* Vol. 11 No. 14, Picket Line

referred to a Professional Officers' Association proposal that library technicians be included in the lower pay level of the common professional stream. The article incorrectly stated that this proposal was accepted, which was not the case.

- On page 9 of *inCite* Vol. 11 No. 15, the article 'Conserving our Culture', by Jan Lyall of the National Library of Australia, was wrongly attributed to President Lynn Allen. Our apologies to both Lynn and Jan.

## Stop press...

## Enquiry into Australia as an Information Society

The House of Representatives Standing Committee for Long Term Strategies has just begun this enquiry, advertised in the newspapers around 22 September. Further information is available from the Secretary of the Committee at

Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

The matter has been referred to the ALIA General Council for a decision on whether ALIA will prepare a submission (closing date 25 October), and if so, along what lines.