

OECD documents for Australian libraries

As soon as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) began making its documents and statistics available online to users outside Paris, it became possible for Australian users to access the information within hours of its release. The OLIS network which distributes the information locally is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The DFAT Library downloads all the electronic documents and files of data, lists and indexes them, and makes them available to Australian users through Keylink. Individual users dial in and electronically transfer the documents of their choice into their own mailboxes. The DFAT Library maintains a machine-readable archive of OECD documents released since October 1989 and supplies copies of archived documents to users. Departments and agencies pay for the documents they transfer.

At the moment only the OECD is making its documents available in this way. Should the documents of other international agencies such as the United Nations and GATT become available electronically, then a mechanism exists for distributing them quickly and economically to other government users.

Rosemary Bell

Thai visitor at Defence Information Services



Kat with Pat Reilly, the Manager of DIS Training and Online Services.

Defence Information Services in Canberra (DIS) is hosting a visit under the Defence Cooperation Program by the librarian of the Military Research and Development Centre (MRDC) in Bangkok, Kanokporn Rattanamongkol. Kanokporn, who prefers to be called Kat, holds the rank of Squadron Leader in the Royal Thai Airforce.

Kat's particular interest is library

automation. She is planning to computerise library processes on her return to Bangkok, and during the 5 months with DIS she will spend a period of time in each section gaining familiarity with various aspects of library processes. DIS staff are greatly enjoying Kat's company, her sense of humour and lively interest in all aspects of librarianship. Pat Reilly

Board of Education

A report on its June meeting

The Board of Education held its second meeting for 1991 in Melbourne on 25/26 June prior to the ELISS Conference 'Educating for Change'. Unlike previous meetings, the agenda was divided into two sections: on day one the Board dealt with confidential matters such as course recognition visits, Fellowships and other Awards, and on day two with non-confidential matters which allowed the meeting to be open to observers. Several people took this unusual opportunity to see the Board at work and to participate in the discussion.

Items discussed were:

Introduction to Education Statements

Twenty responses were received from schools of librarianship and divisions to the redrafted Introduction to the Education Statements. A second draft accommodating a number of the suggestions in the responses was considered by the Board and approved with minor changes. The proposed new Introduction, which was analysed in detail

by the President in *inCite* No. 7, assigns to librarians the tasks of evaluating and packaging information. Using this major change as a basis, the Board will now begin reworking the Education Statements themselves.

Graduate Destination Survey

In early 1990, a survey was undertaken of 1989 graduates from librarianship courses in almost all Australian library schools. The data has now been aggregated and the national results published. Among the interesting trends revealed by the survey was the fact that most new graduates were highly satisfied with their jobs but that many were dissatisfied with their level of pay. Individual schools of library and information science will be sent the results relating to their own schools and a copy of the report. The report on the national survey results is available from ALIA. The Board plans to replicate the survey in 3-4 years time. A similar survey of library technician graduates will be undertaken in early 1992.

Publicly advertised positions in the information industry

A report from Mairéad Browne of the University of Technology, Sydney, on Phase 1 of the survey of publicly advertised positions in the information industry was received by the Board. Information was gathered and analysed from newspapers around the country six times between December 1989 and October 1990. The outcomes include lists of job titles, tasks/functions of information workers, qualifications/skills/attributes sought, number of positions advertised, salaries, and the nature of the employment available during the survey period. The Board plans to continue the survey for the next 2 years as originally intended.

Training and development

Two teleconferences held in late May/early June provided the Board with much information about the focus of the Association's Training and Development Officer and the T & D Subcommittee

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