

PDQ

Carol Kenchington

CE, PD, T & D...

At its last meeting, the Board of Education decided to change the name of the PD Committee to Training and Development Committee. This change is designed to emphasise the breadth of the committee's interest. With the focus on 'skills' in the Training Guarantee climate, the committee is keen to emphasise that knowledge and attitudes are also most important, for all members of the library and information workforce.

In the meantime, 'continuing education', 'professional development' and 'training and development' will be regarded as synonyms in this area of rapid change.

One of the initiatives of the National Committee of the Education for Library and Information Services Section is the proposal that ALIA set up a database of Training and Development activities throughout Australia. This will encompass not only ALIA Divisional activities but those of the library schools, commercial ventures and of related associations. This database will provide Divisions with the means for sharing PD ideas, for publicity, and for planning and review. The Board of Education has accepted this proposal and as the first step towards implementing it, ALIA has purchased database software. ■



Norma Tovey, of Triad Data Magic, discussing the Inmagic database software with Carol Kenchington, ALIA's PD Officer. Triad has generously provided the software to ALIA at cost, to assist in the production of the Professional Development database.

Parliamentarians survey

Do you know the whereabouts of primary research material about a former Federal politician?

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Library is compiling a guide to personal papers, interviews and manuscripts relating to former Federal parliamentarians.

They have written to many libraries and archives throughout

Australia requesting details of holdings but would also like to hear from any other sources about relevant material.

For further information on the details required for the guide write to Brenda McAvoy at the Parliamentary Library, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600, or telephone the compiler, Carmel McInerney on (06) 235 0149. ■

Interlibrary Loans continued from 1...

three small regular users of the present voucher system, together with representatives from the National Library of Australia, the State Library of NSW, CSIRO, Telecom and AARNet. The meeting was chaired by the then Vice President of the Association, John Levett.

Presentations were made by representatives of the Association, the State Library of NSW, the National Library of Australia, the State Bank of South Australia, and electronic data interchange and electronic funds transfer experts from Telecom and AARNet. The presentations included an outline of the present system of payments, the possible alternatives for EDI and EFT offered by the State Bank of South Australia, efficient electronic alternatives through ILANET and ABN and the possible role of Telecom in future developments.

The NLA and the State Library of NSW had discussed their joint position beforehand. Both said they would be prepared to develop a mechanism through which ABN and

ILANET ILL transaction data could be made available to a payment agency as the basis for settlement.

The meeting then discussed at length the possible development of new electronic payment systems. However, detailed assessment of the suggested alternatives was hampered by the lack of reliable data about the size of the interlibrary loans traffic, and hence the size of any future system. In addition, concerns were raised about the need for caution with the development and operational costs of the alternative systems, the ongoing development of EDI standards in the wider community, and the fact that not all libraries were in a position to take advantage of benefits offered by the various networks in communications technology.

It was generally agreed that further research in the area of ILL traffic in Australia would be needed if the profession were to make an informed decision on the alternatives available. A cost benefit analysis of EFT/EDI operations would also be necessary before the Association was able to reach a decision on this issue.

The participants believed that the discussions had provided a useful opening to

the debate on alternatives for ILL payments. The following resolutions were passed:

1. It was resolved that ALIA, the National Library of Australia and the State Library of NSW be requested to hold discussions to explore the possible use of ABN and ILANET transaction data as the basis for the settlement of interlibrary loan payments; to investigate costs and benefits of this approach; and to prepare proposals for the consideration of ALIA and ACLIS.
2. It was resolved that, regardless of the long term implications of technology for the financial aspects of the interlibrary loan system in Australia, for the foreseeable future the existing voucher system will operate in parallel with whatever electronic developments emerge.
3. It was resolved that John Levett, the 1991 ALIA President take appropriate steps to ensure that Resolution 1 is implemented.

Early in 1991, the Association, ACLIS, the National Library of Australia and the State Library of NSW will begin work on implementing these resolutions. Progress reports will be made through *inCite* from time to time. ■