

OZLINE news

The Attorney General's Information Service (AGIS) database has been mounted on the OZLINE network. This major Australian law database will complement the CINCH and APAIS and other databases already available through OZLINE.

AGIS currently has over 46 000 records from 1985 to the present. It indexes and abstracts over one hundred legal journals with emphasis on Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region. Major law journals from other countries are also included. All aspects of law are covered including administrative law, copyright law, criminal law, banking, companies and securities, constitutional law, environmental law, family law, human rights, international law, legal aid and trade practices.


Information about this file or about how to access OZLINE can be obtained by writing to OZLINE at the NLA, or by calling 008 020002. ■

Government Public Service Gazettes now available

The Department of Veteran's Affairs Ballarat Office has a complete (or nearly complete) set of Commonwealth Public Service Gazettes dating back over the past twelve years. The Public Service Gazettes (50 issues per annum) contain notices concerning administrative matters, including examinations, vacancies, transfers and promotions within the Australian Public Service and the Services of the Australian Postal Corporation, and Defence Force appointments.

The Department is offering the back copies, free of charge to any organisation that may wish to acquire them, paying only the cost of freight.

Further information from Margaret McGregor on (03) 284 6266 no later than 31 March 1993. ■



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IT skills—keep up or perish

Accountants, not librarians...but does the message apply to us as well?

Frances Bluhdorn calls attention to a recent Australian report prepared for the International Federation of Accountants (IFA).

The report, *The Impact of Information Technology on the Accountancy Profession*, says the value placed on professional accountancy qualifications will be considerably diminished unless greater emphasis is placed on information technology skills. It recommends that professional accountancy bodies define the minimum levels of competency required in information technology.

'The professional accountancy bodies must either undertake an aggressive campaign of upgrading the minimum standards required of members of the profession (both new and existing members) or establish new levels of accreditation for members who have acquired skills which meet client/employer/government expectations,' the report says.

The report argues that information technology is not the ex-

clusive domain of the computer scientist or information technology professionals and should be considered part of the overall information management role.

Professional accountancy bodies have generally clung to traditional definitions of the accountant's function, ignoring the wider information management function, the report says.

'Consequently, those members of the profession who are adapting are increasingly seeing themselves as working outside the profession, even though they may retain their membership with the professional body. By maintaining a narrow definition of the role of the accountant, the professional bodies are marginalising many of their more forward looking members.'

This doesn't sound like ALIA (does it?)—but what happens if you replace the word 'accountant' with 'librarian' in the above excerpt from *New Accountant* 1992 3 September 1992? ■