

New library systems in Tasmania

Robyn Collins anticipates greatly enhanced access to information

The State Library of Tasmania is installing a new automated library system. This will replace an existing system and is one element of a program instituted by the Department of Education and the Arts (Tasmania) to establish a statewide catalogue and circulation network covering all the libraries administered by the Department. The new system will link all the service outlets of the State Library Service, that is, all public libraries in Tasmania, the State Reference Library, the Launceston Reference Library, Tasmaniana and the Crowther Library and the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Art. The network will also include

the TAFE College libraries, Senior Secondary college libraries, the larger school libraries and will be offered to the 14 libraries currently serving government agencies.

The Department has accepted a tender from DYNIX to install the main on-line network. Small school and public libraries will have PC-based local circulation systems and access to the major catalogue via regularly-updated disks. OASIS successfully tendered for the stand-alone system for the small libraries.

As part of this project the catalogues of the State Reference Library, the Tasmaniana Collection, the Crowther and Allport Libraries will be converted to machine-readable

records. Access to these records will be available on-line via OPAC terminals in a network of public and school libraries. These records are also being added to ABN.

The OPAC will provide access to the lending collection catalogue statewide and also to the Reference Library catalogue, the CD ROM network and special indexes such as the Tasmanian Index of Community Organisations (TICO). Self-issue terminals will be installed in major lending libraries.

This project will give Tasmanians greatly-enhanced access to information. It is expected that the major installations will occur before the end of 1993. ■

A busy year for CAL

Nine and a half million dollars have been collected and paid to authors and publishers

The Copyright Agency LTD (CAL) will distribute 9.5 million dollars this year in its Annual Payment to authors and publishers. This is \$3.5 million more than in 1992. The growth demonstrates the growing contribution of copyright based industries to the Australian economy. A recent report by the Australian Copyright Council shows that copyright-based industries grew at an annual rate of 4.2% over the five years to 1990-91, compared with 2.7% per annum for the total gross domestic product.

The payment represents the fees collected by CAL on behalf of authors and publishers for photocopying of their works by educational institutions and churches. Writers and publishers of textbooks and educational materials will be major recipients of the monies distributed, as theirs are the works chiefly copied by educational institutions.

CAL has now begun to collect copying fees from Commonwealth government departments and will distribute the first of these monies in its next Payment. ■

Free Library exchange, anybody?

Hal Tarr, a librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia, a major metropolitan public library, not far from New York City and Washington DC, wishes to exchange positions with an Australian librarian for a period of one year beginning in 1994. My partner would work in a variety of positions during the year. The Free Library owns 10 million items, has 12 specialised departments, 49 branches and uses 45 databases. Items are classified according to the Dewey system. Write to Hal Tarr, PO Box 30638, Philadelphia PA 19103, USA for further information or ring me at home (215) 985 9741 or at work (215) 685 2154.

Megafloppy puts a gallon in print pot

Five megabytes on a single PC floppy disc

The EIS Megafloppy Electronic Publishing System enables the user to analyse or interrogate large reference documents electronically. To prove their point, EIS have issued the whole of the King James Bible, 4.2 Megabytes of text, on a normal 3.5" high-density disk, including the indexes and search software.

Information can be searched by word, part word or logical groups of words (using *and* and *or*) or strings of words: ie. phrases, clauses, sentences etc. It is quick and simple: the instructions printed on the diskette or envelope. Text can be viewed on the screen within seconds of loading the disk—no training or instruction book is necessary.

These Megafloppy discs are compatible with any MS-DOS-

based PC, running MS-DOS 3.3 or higher, and only requires 180 kilobytes of memory to run.

This innovative Australian firm is now using its remarkable publishing technology to produce the *Electronic law book*. There are several services already, in fields such as Corporation law, Trade practices, Telecommunications law and Family law.

New services are being added all the time, and with the equivalent of about 3 000 pages on a single floppy this is an extremely space-saving development, quite apart from the highly-efficient search capabilities.

More information can be obtained from EIS directly on telephone (02) 878 5111, or via fax (02) 878 4171. ■