

Next year NBD = ABN + CJK

The Australian CJK system is still a year down the track but taking giant strides forward, writes *Linda Groom*

The National CJK Technical Committee, chaired by Chooi-Hon Ho of Monash University, has now compiled the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the national CJK (Chi-

nese Japanese and Korean) library system, assisted by consultants RMG/CAVAL. On 11 October this RFP was issued to over 20 library automation companies in Australia, North America and Asia.

The Source will dry up in 1994

David Jones announces retirement from long-running commitment that has delighted thousands

David has written to warn us that he will be unable to continue *The Source* after the end of 1993.

'It has now been over sixteen years since the column first saw the light of day', says David, 'and it has indeed been a source of considerable satisfaction to me to draw items to that attention of fellow librarians and readers first of the *Australian library journal* and more recently of *inCite*, and to receive such consistently positive feedback from your readers.

'I feel, however, that the time has come for a change, and I'd like to quit while I'm ahead. There are a number of research interests which will be occupying an increasing amount of my time over the next few years, and it would be difficult for me to continue to give to *The Source* the amount of time which it absorbs and deserves.'

David has expressed thanks to those who have given their assistance and encouragement over the years, including successive Editors and other ALIA staff and office-bearers, to the publishers who have kept the column brimming over since its inception, and above all to 'the readers who have endured some excruciating puns, quite a few hobby-horses, and even a couple of phantom publications, in their search for enlightenment.'

The news is already leaking out. Alan Bundy has written from the University

of SA, 'Pressed to name a well-known librarian I suspect that many readers of *inCite* would sail past the Hortons and Crooks of our professional world, straight to the locker of one David J Jones, author of *The Source*. He is now relinquishing the helm of *The Source* after a memorable passage of seventeen years. I, and I am sure all *inCite* readers, appreciate that sterling contribution, and say to him *Thank you*.'

Certainly, this Editor, looking back over the fifty issues of *inCite* for which he has been responsible since 1990, would like to add his own sincere thanks for David's splendidly reliable columns—always on time, always the right length and always immensely readable. It was hardly surprising that in the *inCite* readers' survey last year *The Source* turned up among the majority favourites.

What next? We shan't try to repeat *The Source* format without David. But we shall still review books that seem likely to be of professional interest to our readers. So publishers, please continue to send us news of the books that librarians will wish to read, or reference works that we may all want to stock. And if you would like to be on the list of possible reviewers for future issues, drop *inCite* a line describing your fields of interest. No pay, but you do get to keep the book! ■

The system, due to be installed in late 1994, will allow CJK scripts to be used in searches and displays, will provide copy cataloguing containing CJK scripts, and will establish an online national union catalogue for CJK material.

The complex issue of the CJK system's relationship with the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) has been resolved by agreeing on a strategy of no regular cross-updating between the ABN and CJK databases, and a minimal overlap between the two databases. The National Library has offered to fund NBD-style costs of the national CJK system as it does for ABN.

The relationship between the ABN and CJK systems will be discussed further at the February meeting of the ABN Network Committee. It is clear, however, that the familiar view of the National Bibliographic Database and the ABN Database as being the same thing will soon be replaced by a new equation: NBD=ABN+CJK.

The relationship of the CJK system to the National Document and Information System (the name to be given to ABN after 1996) has not yet been determined. The CJK system may migrate to the NDIS, or may continue as a separate system, whichever is technically and economically preferable. In the meantime, ABN users will be able to access the CJK system through a gateway.

The project is funded by grants from DEET and the participating libraries. In due course operational costs should be recovered through user charges.

The National CJK Steering Committee will evaluate the responses to the RFP by February 1994 and will announce the selected library automation package in late February or March. ■

AT LAST!

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