

The School Libraries Section

The School Libraries Section of ALIA has particular interests in library, resource, and information provision for all members of the school community. Issues and topics of interest to the Section include access to information for students, teachers, school administrators and parents; current developments in education at all levels; child growth and development; resource-based teaching and learning; information skills; children's and young adult literature; literature and resource promotion; and education for teacher-librarianship. Among the members of the Section are teacher-librarians and school librarians, library technicians and library aides working in school libraries, students in teacher-librarianship courses, academics, educational administrators, and computer software developers. Activities of the Section include conferences, continuing education seminars and workshops, lobbying and publishing. The Section currently has state groups in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia (which has the national headquarters in 1994).

The Children's and Youth Services Section

Through meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences, the CYSS provides a communication link for children's and youth librarians, encourages the exchange of ideas and the discussion of topics of mutual interest; promotes continuing education programs and professional development; and creates an interest in current issues in children's and youth librarianship locally, nationally and internationally. The Section arranges social functions for members and guests, initiates, organises and participates in sectional and community group activities relevant to children's and youth librarianship locally, nationally and internationally, promotes and supports children's and youth libraries, librarians and librarianship; and recommends standards relating to status and appropriate staffing formulae for children's and youth libraries. State groups of the children's and Youth Services Section operate in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. The National Headquarters of the Section is in Victoria in 1994.

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- coordinate workshops in which teachers and librarians from the participating schools discuss and demonstrate how they have integrated these services into their classrooms and libraries;
- visit each school on a weekly basis over the duration of the pilot to help generate ideas, act as a resource for staff at the school and provide support to staff at the schools wishing to integrate ACTEIN services into their programs.

The pilot is scheduled to 'go live' on the 16 May and continue through until the end of the third

teaching term in late October. Those of you with access to AARNet will be able to track the project by accessing the ACTEIN Gopher server yourself on freenet.act.edu.au or by emailing any of those participating in the project.

There is a great feeling of excitement amongst those participating in the pilot. Those involved will no doubt realise direct benefits from this program. Perhaps of greater importance is the opportunity to raise awareness of the potential of networks in the education and information delivery process. ACTEIN provides the potential to shape attitudes and

behaviour by enabling educators and librarians to re-examine the educative process, and the role of the library within that process, given the context of current technological developments.

A national strategy for public access to networked information has yet to be formulated but hopefully regional initiatives, such as ACTEIN, will help shape the future that we would wish to see as information professionals. I am looking forward to the next six months of ACTEIN, to see what impact such an initiative can have on education and public access to networked information services within the ACT. ■



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