Information Science Section (SA Group)

***Sherron Hunter* found the Group's multimedia event enthralling**

Our first event in April provided 26 people with some information and light entertainment as various examples of multimedia were demonstrated by Steve Barnett, Librarian from the Torrens Valley Institute of TAFE and Ian Hayden, Flinders University Multimedia Librarian.

What exactly is multimedia? It is generally understood as the blending together of two or more data types (e.g., motion pictures, slides, video, sound and live action) on one common storage medium, usually CD-ROM. Nowadays it often also includes software to allow the user to control the sequence of text, graphics and sound.

Steve demonstrated a video disk holding 44 000 barcoded dental patient case studies, with detailed charts, xrays and visuals of diseased and healthy mouths, gums and teeth. Other more tasteful discs followed: a Respiratory/Endocrinal video disk used in the training of nurses, the Microsoft MM—Musical instruments multimedia disk and the ENCARTA disk based on a Funk & Wagnells-style encyclopedia with the facility to hear phrases spoken in any one of 60 languages, hearing the sounds of the local people, viewing the scenery and reading about the history of the area.

Ian Hayden demonstrated an interactive CD-ROM called *From Alice to ocean*, then two children's products from Broderbund: *Just grandma and me*, an early childhood Living Book that can be narrated in English, Japanese or Spanish, and *Arthur's teacher trouble*. The products are brilliantly illustrated and animated, brightly coloured and allow the child to explore and extend personal sensory and literacy limits. While learning reading and spelling.

The session ended with an offer to the audience to try the materials for themselves. ■

Qld ACLIS also looked at multimedia, says *Culcin Cribb*

ACLIS (Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services Qld) Audiovisual Subcommittee and the University of Queensland Libraries joined forces to run a very successful seminar on *Interactive multimedia issues: nature & characteristics, distribution formats, design and planning* on 3 May at the University of Queensland. The seminar was conducted by David Bearman, the editor of *Archives and Museum Informatics* and former chairman of the International Conference on Hypermedia and Interactivity in Museums.

Proceedings of the seminar will be published as issue N° 21 of *AV Update*, published by ACLIS (Qld) AV Subcommittee. Further information from Gulcin Cribb on (07) 365 3479 or e-mail to avscribg@central1.library.uq.oz.au.

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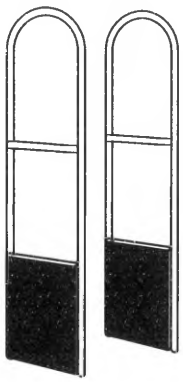

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