

...the advantages of providing access to scholarly information in digitised format on an as-required basis.

and are already having, on the way the work of these sectors is done.

While this has not been a comprehensive review of all that was covered in one day of multi-faceted presentations and discussions, it does serve to highlight some of the interesting aspects of developments in scholarly publishing.

One participant quoted the view of an acquaintance who says 'if it's not on the Internet, it's not information'. That is certainly the direction in which we are headed and it is increasingly 'the push' being exerted by the end users.

The North Americans have responded to developments in electronic publishing by forming a number of organisations to influence developments, especially from the perspective of the library and information professional.

In addition to Ann Okerson's Unit, the Coalition of Networked Information recently has been established and AIMA organised a visit by Paul Evan Peters to many Australian cities during August. He too addressed many of the problem areas. But overwhelmingly the picture that is emerging is exciting.

Now that the first Round Table is over, the significant task is to assess the outcome and determine the most effective next steps. ■

Joint venture brings new lease of life

In a drive to market information services into Asia the NSW State Library has taken a major step forward by signing a major business deal with Lend Lease.

The agreement, between the library's Asia Focus Pty Ltd and Lend Lease Corporate Services will see the formation of InfoPower Lend Lease Asia Pty Ltd.

The State Library and Lend Lease are equal partners in InfoPower Lend Lease Asia, which is planning a joint business venture in China with the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information or China (ISTIC).

Lend Lease has committed \$366 000 over two years to the venture, with the State Library providing the network software expertise, staff time and expenses over five years to a total equal to the Lend Lease investment.

The proposed range of business activities of the Chinese joint venture includes:

- An information consultancy service providing customised information packages including market research, company and industry profiles, company searches and demographic analyses.
- A broad range of market research services.
- Development and sale of information technology products within China and for export.
- Development and management of a database of Chinese enterprises and companies.
- Provision of training activities associ-



Going into Asia: Janette Wright and Shanping Wang

ated with the information consultancy service and information technology products.

InfoPower Asia also is having talks with other parties within China to provide information services.

Director of Public Library and Networking Services for the State Library Ms Janette Wright says the signing of the agreement with Lend Lease made it possible for negotiations with the Chinese to be finalised.

She stressed that the appointment of Mr Shanping Wang as executive director of InfoPower Asia is a further important step for the venture, as he has extensive experience in information technology and international trade and marketing in both Australian and China.

Based in Beijing, he will play a valuable role in communication between the Chinese and Australian partners and in developing a Chinese interface for Australian software as well as planning and supervising software installations and training staff. ■

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