

Our electronic publishing venture

Peter Clayton, University of Canberra

It's now over three years since ALIA Press began its first venture in electronic publishing, *Bibliographies on disk*.

The idea was simple enough: instead of printing a small number of copies of specialist bibliographies, for which demand will always be small, why not produce them 'on demand' on computer floppy disks?

That was the proposal a trio from the Library and Information Studies Program at the University of Canberra library put to ALIA Press. So, has it worked?

For a start, it hasn't turned out to be a quick way to make a fortune. Sales of the eight bibliographies so far produced have been steady but

small, and with each bibliography costing \$60 (\$50 if purchased on standing order) only now is the project clearly in the black.

Top sellers are the most recently published bibliography, Maxine Combridge's *Violence Against Aboriginal and Islander Women*, and one from 1992, Joan Jensen's *Australian Tertiary Libraries*.

It seems likely that some of the other titles such as Kath McLean's bibliography of Tasmanian poet Gwen Harwood need to be more widely publicised.

The three editors work on each bibliography. Peter Biskup and Peter Clayton actively seek new proposals, with Peter Biskup then

responsible for ensuring the bibliographies reach a uniformly high standard.

Susan MacDougall prepares the disk, in three formats: Microsoft Word for MS-DOS, ASCII for MS-DOS, and Microsoft Word for Macintosh. Peter Clayton then produces printed material to accompany each disk in a folder, so library readers can decide if the bibliography is what they're looking for.

Peter also prepares and distributes publicity material, while Susan duplicates the disks and handles order fulfilment and accounts. The editors say that sharing the work this way has had many advantages, especially since it has had to be fitted

Wanted: top uni teachers for \$25 000 fellowships

If you're a top-flight practising university teacher and would like to literally broaden your horizons, the National Teaching Fellowships may be right up your street.

Funded by the Federal Government through the Committee for the Advancement of University Teaching, the unspecified number of fellowships are worth up to

\$25 000 each and are awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to teaching and learning in Australian universities.

The aim of the fellowships is to enhance the teaching and learning skills of the successful applicants by allowing them to plan and undertake a domestic and international program focussing on best practice. On

return, they will be expected to share their new knowledge through various dissemination activities.

The fellowships are competitive and need the endorsement of applicants' vice-chancellors. If you're interested, take your first steps through your university. But remember, applications close on 23 September 1994. ■

Vital link changes

Childrens And Youth Services Section

National group contact: Ms Sue Parkinson, Public Libraries Division, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Ph: (02) 230 1523 Fax: (02) 230 1615

General Council

Vice-President: Ms Jan Gaebler, Librarian, Bank SA, GPO Box 399, Adelaide SA 5000

ACT Branch

President: Ms Linda O'Brien, Ph: (06) 201 5004
Secretary: Ms Sue Brudenall, Menzies Building Library, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200

QLD Branch

Secretary: Ms Jan McNicol, Library & Information Management Service, GPO Box 134, Brisbane QLD 4001

Mid North Coast

President: Mr Shawn Leary, Fax: (065) 84 1461

Education For Library & Information Services

NSW Contact
Mr Peter Smith,
Ph: (02) 413 0900 Fax: (02) 419 5272

ALIA Branch Local Offices

There is no one in this position at present.

Queensland Branch Newsletter Editor

Ms Jane Edinger, Kinhill Cameron McNamara, PO Box 1197, Milton QLD 4064

Public Libraries Section

Queensland Section is acting as National Section

How it's going and where it's going

into scarce and valuable spare time. So far they've had no disagreements!

Where to next for *Bibliographies on disk*? There's an obvious need for some directory-type information to be made available in this way — perhaps *Directories on Disk*?

In the longer term, floppy disks will inevitably give way to CD-ROM, but the bibliographies are too small to fill a CD-ROM on their own and would need to be combined perhaps with other ALIA databases, when these are developed.

Another avenue is to databases on file servers available over a network, which raises questions of cost recovery and electronic copyright.

Meanwhile, bibliographies will soon also be available in either Inmagic or ProCite format on a trial basis.

The latest *Bibliography on disk* is to be launched at the 1994 ALIA/NZLIA Joint Conference in Wellington: Moira Bryant's *The Australian guide to consumer health information 1994*.

Print (ALIA Press) and electronic versions of this will be published simultaneously, so that general practitioners and other health care professionals will be able to choose the format that best meets their needs and the electronic version will be able to be updated annually at minimal cost. ■

In the public interest?

A recent article in Queensland's *Sunday Mail* accused Mount Isa detectives of scanning the local public library's records to obtain the names and addresses of people who had taken out books on Satanism and witchcraft.

Police later said in a letter to the newspaper that they did ask the library how they could obtain a list of such people as part of an investigation in a house break-in, where a satanic sign had been drawn in the hallway. They had been referred to the local council but had then decided not to pursue this line of questioning, although no reason was given for this decision.

It is understood that the Libraries Board of Queensland will be looking into the matter further. But the question remains: are inquiries of this nature in the public interest; to what extent do they infringe an individual's right to privacy; and to what other uses will information be put once a particular investigation is completed?

An individual may have an academic or general interest in Che Guevara's *Guerrilla warfare*, or Adolf Hitler's *Mein kampf*. The interest may even be sinister. But should the public interest take precedence over that individual's civil liberty rights of privacy and confidentiality? ■

ALIA welcomes new members

We welcome the following new members who joined the Association in August and hope that they will speedily become involved in our activities:

New Associates

Diana Barrett
Kerry Doblo
Mark Gilbert
Giles Martin
Julie McClelland
James Packer
Phyl Williamson
Zita Youens

New Technicians

Georgina Vandenberg
Anne Wood

Members

Young Ahn
Kutira Bandte
Carey Benier
Saxon Brenton
Rozel Brown
Nhon Dang
Margaret Drury
Carol Ely
Robyne Flippence
Somsri Henderson
Anna Holasek
Nhan Le
Collett Orchard
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Jacqualine Poole
Natalie Radomski
Prakash Reddappa
Craig Smith
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