

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
Rosemary Peck
Yuan Peng
Jacqualine Poole
Natalie Radomski
Prakash Reddappa
Craig Smith
Lynnette Taylor
Elizabeth Walkley



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