Traversing the trellis work of the Internet

Electronic document delivery seminar at IO & OD 95

Jim Coleman from RLG and Martha Whittaker from UnCover have been two of the pioneers in document delivery over the Internet, and they'll be speakers at a seminar on electronic document delivery to be held in conjunction with the Information Online and On Disc 95 Conference in January. The seminar will focus on technical aspects of document delivery, and will also feature Tony Barry from ANU and Sue Orchard from UMI. It will run from 1–5 pm on Monday 30 January and the registration fee is $80.

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NLA information — at your service

The National Library installed a pilot Web server early in 1994, and has recently formalised the project as the NLA Information Server. It provides national and international access over the Internet to information produced by the NLA and to information held by others which is required by NLA staff and clients.

Its primary purpose is to publish information about the Library, its collections and services, but there is also information about Australia and Australians, and matters of special interest to Australian libraries. There are pages relating to the NLA's co-ordination activities, such as the DNC, the NPO and ACLIS, and pointers to various services, directories and guides to the Internet.

The server is being used to disseminate important Australian government publications on the Net. The government's cultural statement *Creative nation* was put on the server shortly after its launch, and other documents include the ASTEC report *Networked nation*

Kerry Webb about to embark on a journey down the information superhighway during Library Week celebrations at the National Office
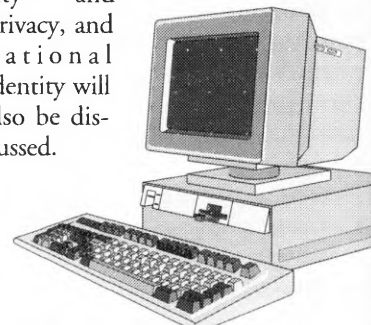
and the interim report of the Broadband Services Expert Group. There is also an extensive list of pointers to documents on these topics produced in other countries. One important feature will be a Lynx public access Web client, which allows users character mode access to the Web by telnetting to the server.

The URL for the NLA Information Server is http://www.nla.gov.au and to access the Lynx client, telnet to www.nla.gov.au and enter nlaweb for the login and password. For further information contact Diana Dack at ddack@nla.gov.au.

The global network

There is a growing awareness of the global impact of the Internet — now we can do something about it.

CPSR-GLOBAL is a moderated Listserv for uniting people all over the world who want to discuss the decisions made in the USA about the national information infrastructure (NII) that will affect the rest of the world, making it an effective GII (global information infrastructure). Computer developments in language processing, international security and privacy, and national identity will also be discussed.

A path to CD-ROM searching

Introductory CD-ROM searching: the key to effective on-disc searching is a very useful introductory book for people wanting to search CD-ROM databases. Written by Joseph Meloche, it is organised into two parts — the first 45 pages providing an introduction to CD-ROMs in general, basic searching techniques and microcomputers, and the rest describing specific text-based CD-ROM products with detailed information on how to search them.

In the first part, each of the four chapters takes the reader easily through the concepts and ends with a summary of the chapter and a series of review questions, designed to ensure that the diligent reader has understood what has been explained.

The second part explores eight products which are of particular interest in libraries — DIALOG, SilverPlatter,

WILSONDISC, UMI, Compact Cambridge, AUSTROM, Grolier Encyclopedia and ISI Citation Indexes.

For each product, the content of the database and its origin is described, with step-by-step instructions on searching. This is the most useful part of the book as it not only provides instruction but also comparison of the various products.

Appendices comprise a glossary and a list of major CD-ROM products arranged by subject area.

Although it may be considered out of place in such a basic book, some explanation of the various search engines used in the products would complete the coverage of the topic and help guide users familiar with one product to try another which they could use easily.

However, that is a minor quibble with what is overall a very good book on the subject. From Haworth Press, RRP $39.95.

Kerry Webb