UNSW libraries

A hard look and a new structure: with specialist services to be maintained

The University of NSW Libraries are consulting the University community about the future organisational shape of services to users.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Niland, has explained that because the Library is central to the academic activities of the University it had been relatively protected in the 1994 budget. The general reduction in funds available for distribution by the University, however, required that the Library seek ways to cut costs while providing quality services. Professor Niland identified spiralling serial costs as a significant factor in the Library's budget. For this reason the Library is asking its primary users to participate in a review of the serial collections and will continue to assess alternative paths to research information.

A Library Working Party is costing options for the reorganisation of services to users. The results, along with submissions from the University community, will be referred to the Academic Board, which has been requested by Professor Niland to recommend a long term plan for the delivery of Library services.

The UNSW Library is noted for the quality of its specialist services to the University community. Such services, which are also highly valued in the wider community, will be preserved in the eventual shape of the Library. No changes will take place in the Library structure until the Academic Board meeting of 6 April 1994 makes recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor.

The Library is concerned to keep the wider community informed and to give assurance that any internal rearrangements will not affect its role in the national information infrastructure. ■

Government Library Services

Kay Winter has presented a submission to Parliament on behalf of FLIN

The Federal Libraries Information Network (FLIN) has just presented a four-page submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Inquiry into Government purchasing policies and efforts to promote the use of Australian made goods and services.

The Federal Libraries Information Network was formed in May 1993 as the result of the Efficiency Scrutiny into Government Libraries and now represents all Commonwealth Government Libraries, some 250 libraries across Australia.

The submission addresses three major issues of concern to libraries in relation to Commonwealth purchasing. Briefly these issues are:

• *Period contracts.* Period contracts for the purchasing of publications and services have been used by the Canberra based Government Libraries for over 10 years and in the last couple of years by all Commonwealth Government Libraries. Over $8 million were spent on these contracts last year and FLIN believes that the Purchasing Australia charge for these contracts should be reduced to encourage the use of Australian Companies.

• *Electronic publishing.* Electronic delivery of information or services by the Commonwealth needs to be actively pursued to provide Australian information for commercial and public use. Government documents need to be made available electronically either through partnerships with industry or as part of a Government enterprise. We recommend that the Department of Administrative Services be given the task of investigating this area.

• *AGPS services.* We recommend that the sales areas of AGPS be reviewed, including invoices, client services and timeliness of supply of material.

inCite will keep readers informed on the outcome of this submission. ■