Show and tell in Victoria

The Health Libraries Section (Victoria) Show and Tell meeting held during Library Week at the Royal Children's Hospital was attended by 40 people. Many libraries contributed samples of their publications for display.

The first speaker for the evening was Helen Newton from the University of Melbourne who explained the stages involved in training medical students in library use. From rules for library use in first year, to introducing the Internet in fourth year. Orientation classes are kept to 15 people, last about one hour and are not compulsory. There is some problem demonstrating the need for good library skills to some of the students and some academics do not like giving their class time over to library education, but at least by the time students have reached hospitals they are well grounded in the resources available in libraries.

The second speaker was Stephen

Due from Geelong Hospital who discussed Medline/CINAHL training for users. Training is in two parts, an introductory lecture and then hands on. The lecture provides an overview of searching methods, MESH and thesaurus construction, the bibliographic database is explained and common sources of errors highlighted. Hands on training is limited to 4 people per class using individual PCs in a special training room. A concern is that many users think they know what they are doing when it is obvious they don't.

Jenni Rusciano from Fairfield Hospital explained what HealthNet Australia is all about. The service was set up in October 1994 by Fairfield Hospital to provide WWW access for general practitioners. HealthNet has its own Web home page and functions as an information provider for such topics as epidemiological data and reference material. HealthNet is also an information facilitator Fairfield can set up home pages on the WWW. The

service also provides access to CD-ROM databases at a cost of 50 cents per minute for Melbourne users and 75 cents a minute for others. There is no joining fee.

The Internet address is http:// hna.ffh.vic.gov.au. Contact Jenni on (03) 9280 2222 for details.

Special thanks to Judy Stoelwinder for organising the catering and display.

L-R: Harendra Sing, Wangaratta base Hos and Judy Stoelwinder, President Victorian He Librarians Section

Synergy in Sydney

Managing error

'The Information Age involves the democratisation of knowledge and about applying that knowledge to create information as a tradeable commodity', says Clive Graham, a keynote speaker at the *Synergy in Sydney* conference.

Clive Graham as managing director of The Centre for Working Futures is vitally interested in our working futures and is currently working on enterprise job redesign, introducing quality strategies and process engineering. From his extensive consultancy and writing Clive Graham believes that 'the key to future work is to understand miniaturisation. Radio and television have miniaturised the globe by spreading knowledge to all people who tune in. Quality has miniaturised management by spreading decision-making and the knowledge that underpins it to the workforce. Technology has miniaturised the manipulation of knowledge by making the necessary tools (computer and software) accessible to us all.'

Clive's keynote address on *Social impact of technology* launches the last day of the conference: 'The new information technolo-

Clive Graham

gies offer great opportunities for libraries to work differently and think innovatively and to create advantage for their clients and themselves. This address shows how re-engineering, brainstorming and trend-bending can be used to escape the mindtraps that inhibit change in order to build an exciting future now.'

At a final session for the formal program the keynote speakers will address questions submitted throughout the conference in a panel session.

Beyond the 'trees'...

Professor Mickie Voges believes that in the rush to move to the 'virtual library' and to maintain 'computer literacy', it is easy to lose sight of the goals and mission of the information centre, the products that it delivers and the market for its products. It is easy to get caught in the technology as a solution in itself, rather than as the tool it should be. Using the example of the highly electronic Legal Information Centre at Chicago Kent, there are useful lessons that apply to many libraries and information centres. There are also warnings about changes which must occur in order to survive in a world beyond the 'trees'.

Mickie is a key speaker at the *Synergy* conference and of special

interest to law librarians and to those interested in an electronic library. She is Director, Legal Information Centre, and Professor of Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinios.

Mickie Voges

Mickie has written and lectured extensively on automated legal research, computer law, intellectual property, legal issues in information science and legal issues relating to artificial intelligence.

Performance in a time of change is the theme for the last day of the conference and Mickie's paper with that of Clive Graham's will promote thought and discussion about our working futures in electronic environment.

Don't miss the biggest and best health, law and specials conference yet. Conference registration brochures are available now from ACMS, phone (02) 332 4622 or fax (02) 332 4066, email wfoda_acms@interconnect.com.au.

Janet Hansen,
Marketing Convener