

# Internet Cafes

One of the many growth areas in the Internet world is in Internet cafes. These are usually set up in or adjacent to an existing cafe, with a number of Internet terminals and an atmosphere where the customers can eat and drink and cruise around the Net. If you want to know more about them, have a look at <http://www.easynet.co.uk/pages/cafe/ccafe.htm> where you can find out more about the concept and get a list of many of the Internet cafes around the world.

The National Library opened its cafe (in the Brindabella Bistro on the 4th floor) on 15 May, with two PCs running Netscape. The response from the users has been very positive, with most asking when there'll be similar facilities in the Reading Rooms. At present, users can only browse WWW text and graphics, and access to e-mail and Usenet news is not provided.

Another cafe experience is the Netcafe in Acland Street, St Kilda, where the computers are in a small room above a deli. Gavin Murray, the owner of Netcafe says that he put the equipment in as a means of attracting more business to the deli, which it has done very successfully. There's at least one more Internet Cafe in Australia, at Remo's in George Street in Sydney.

## Asia Pacific WWW Conference

The Asia Pacific WWW Conference '95 - *Changing the way we work, learn and play* will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour from 18-21 September 1995, in conjunction with the Australian Unix Users Group 1995 Conference. The WWW Conference is the next in the series of 'official' WWW conferences, at Geneva and Chicago in 1994 and Darmstadt in April this year.

ALIA members will be able to register at concessional rates. Further information is at: <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/conference/information.html>

## To see ourselves as others see us

Most of us have been on training courses and been subjected to instruments — not fiendishly-shaped stainless steel implements, but batteries of questions designed to reveal your inner self. Now, you don't have to look further than your Web browser.

At <http://www.gse.rmit.edu.au/~rsedc/keirseey.html> you'll find an on-line version of the Keirseey Temperament Sorter, a personality test which scores results according to the Myers-Briggs system. You're given a series of 70 questions, and the answers are analysed by the system which then indicates which of the 16 types you are, and lists other people and fictional characters who fall into that category.

## Junk mail?

There's been some discussion on PACS-L recently on what constitutes junk mail — a question that will become more relevant as the Internet continues to expand. It started with someone complaining that his address had been extracted from a list and used in a 'product announcement' mailing. It was pointed out that you can hide your address from a casual inquirer by setting your subscription options to 'conceal'. The system administrator can see your address, but it won't be displayed by someone using the 'review' command.

A further thread concerned whether job announcements amounted to junk mail, especially on a global list where many people would not be eligible for consideration. This was countered by the argument that such announcements are very important for those looking for a job, and also that they often give an indication of the projects that are being carried out in some institutions. The consensus was that the announcements should remain, but they should be clearly flagged as such in the subject line.

## Another Canadian search tool

Champlain is a WWW based tool for scanning Canadian government databases for information using keywords. It contains an index of most of the information contained in the Internet databases of over 50 federal, provincial and municipal agencies — representing the entire Canadian government presence on the Internet. You'll find it at <http://info.ic.gc.ca/champlain/champlain.html>

## SYSLIBS Archive

Steve Thomas runs the Syslibs list at the University of Adelaide for systems managers and people with an interest in library au-

tomation. He has now provided WWW archive of Syslibs at <http://library.adelaide.edu.au/m/syslibs/> including messages from 1993-1995, and the contacts list containing details of subscribers.

## NISO standards information

The Faxon WWW server now hosts the full 1995 National Information Standards Organization (NISO) catalogue of standards and standards-related publications. You can find this information and links to a number of other standards organisations at <http://www.faxon.com/Standards/StandardsMenu.html#StandardsOrgs>

## USIA online

The United States Information Agency has just put its own WWW and gopher sites online to help explain and advocate US policies in terms that are credible and meaningful in foreign cultures, and to bring the benefits of international engagement to American citizens and institutions by helping them build strong long-term relationships with their counterparts overseas.

Resources include information about the Fulbright Scholar programs, student exchanges, international broadcasting, press announcements, and a foreign media reaction section. American and overseas scholars seeking short and long-term grants will find it especially useful for learning about opportunities for travel abroad and travel to the US.

The URLs are <http://www.usia.gov> and <gopher://gopher.usia.gov>

## TAFE libraries List

Diana Harrison from RMIT has announced the formation of the TAFE Libraries electronic discussion group. It was established by the National Working Group for TAFE Library Services in April, to 'stimulate research, interactive discussion, assistance and the sharing of exemplary practice by members of the TAFE library community'. The target group is really anyone in the vocational education and training sector who is interested.

To subscribe, send the message:   
subscribe tafelibs-l to   
majordomo@asbestos.lib.rmit.edu.au

## Infofilter

One of the most pressing and frequently identified needs on the Internet has been for quality control, especially on the Web. A group of librarians are attempting to address this challenge through the *Infofilter project*. The purpose of this project is to develop criteria for evaluating Web resources and to use that criteria to evaluate carefully selected home pages. The group intends to select the most useful pages in particu-



Utilising the Internet facilities of the Café Internet at the National Library of Australia

lar subject areas and evaluate them much as librarians now evaluate reference sources. The eventual goal is to be a kind of *Choice* for the WWW.

To see what's been done so far, look at <http://192.135.229.51/interval.htm> for the 'official' home page or <http://www.usc.edu/users/help/flick/Reviews/index.html> for the working page.

### New Australian Government networks

The Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) has provided information on its server at <http://www.deet.gov.au/> about a major initiative, the establishment of a comprehensive education network service, Education Network Australia (EdNA). EdNA will deliver educational services and products across the nation and contain the costs of accessing interactive information networks for education users.

Another network is the Community Information Network (CIN) operated by the Department of Social Security at <http://www.cin.gov.au>. CIN is up and running now, operating in five areas of Australia — the State of Tasmania, Elizabeth and Salisbury in Adelaide, Nundah and Chermside in

Brisbane, the Gympie/Kingaroy area in south-east Queensland, and Canberra. Within these areas, you can access the network for free through some 300 Local Access Points (LAPs) in community centres, libraries, local government offices and other community sites.

### More on HYTELNET

Peter Scott of the University of Saskatchewan Libraries has developed a Web page which gives all kinds of information about HYTELNET: how to get it, gopher/web versions, mailing list commands, etc. It's at <http://www.lights.com/hytelnet/>

### New Edition of Internet Journal Directory

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) has announced publication of the 5th Edition of the hard-copy standard reference work for serials on the Internet: the *Directory of Electronic Journals, Newsletters, and Aca-*

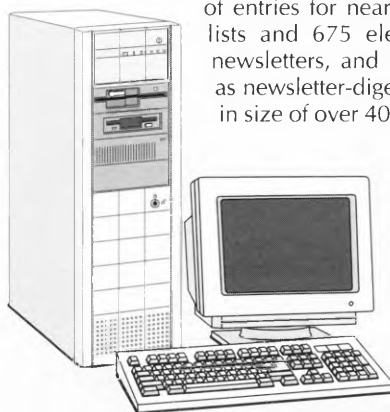
*demical Discussion Lists*.

The new edition is a compilation of entries for nearly 2500 scholarly lists and 675 electronic journals, newsletters, and related titles such as newsletter-digests — an increase in size of over 40 per cent since the 4th edition of April 1994 and 4.5 times since the 1st edition of July 1991. The *Directory* provides instructions for electronic access to each publication.

The cost of the *Directory* is US\$62.00. For further information, contact Ann Okerson at [ann@cni.org](mailto:ann@cni.org)

### WAIS and AOL

The acquisition of WAIS Inc by America Online has been announced. This is clearly part of AOL's strategy to enhance its expertise in delivering information content to the Internet, and is seen as a parallel to Microsoft's development of the Microsoft Network, to be sold in this country as *On Australia*. ■



Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Kerry Webb at [k.webb@nla.gov.au](mailto:k.webb@nla.gov.au), or via the ALIA National Office

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## Australian Library and Information Association

### Election of Vice-President 1996

(President-elect 1997)

#### Call for nominations

In accordance with Division J Regulations, nominations are now called for the position of Vice-President 1996 (president elect 1997). Nominees must be individual financial members of the Association. Candidates and nominations should read the relevant regulations carefully. Please note that nominations must:

- be in writing;
- be signed by two financial members of the Association;
- include the consent in writing of the nominee;
- be accompanied by a current curriculum vitae (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a statement of professional concerns. The curriculum vitae should be arranged under the headings of Present Position, Previous Positions and Professional Activities. The curriculum vitae and the statement of concerns should each **not be more than 100 words**.

A passport style photograph will also be required.

Nominations close at **5pm on 1 September 1995** and should be sent to the Executive Director, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600.

### Nominations

This is the time of year that we ask our members to nominate colleagues for some of the important positions that make up the Association.

Nominating a colleague, or indeed accepting nomination is not something that is done lightly. These positions are ones of responsibility; they require hard work and persistence. However with all this, they offer even more in return: a greater knowledge and understanding of the broad concerns and interests of our Association.

The knowledge that the Association and profession as a whole can have a positive impact on our workplaces and goals.

We would encourage you to nominate those colleagues who you believe have a role to play in the continued development of our Association. If you are asked to accept nomination, please consider the important input you can make as an office bearer.