

An Internet overview

Asia/Pacific Open Systems review is a journal directed at the IT community, dealing with Open Systems such as Unix, and related matters. As a prelude to a regular Internet section of the journal, the November 1994 issue contains a good non-technical summary of 'the modern Internet'. Of particular interest is a discussion of Internet Relay Chat and how it was used in the January 1994 Los Angeles earthquake.

Following this article is an interview with Microsoft Australia's Daniel Petre, which describes Microsoft's plans to set up a service which appears to be a rival of the Internet.

Internet resources for cataloguers

A new version of the guide *Library cataloguing: Internet resources* in electronic format has been announced. The guide covers description and location information of cataloguing-related Internet resources in six sections: LC systems and related documents; National bibliographic utilities catalogues, information servers, and e-mail lists; Local library systems information servers and e-mail lists; Professional associations servers and publications; Cataloguing tools and training re-

sources; and Cataloguing-related software.

The URL for the guide is gopher://una.hh.lib.umich.edu/00/inetdirsstacks/libcat:sha or Gopher to University of Michigan Libraries, follow the path: Contents of ULibrary Gopher Keyword Search (Type 'SUBJECT ORIENTED') Subject-Oriented Internet Resource Guides (UMich) Guides on the Social Sciences Library Cataloguing. Comments, suggestions, additions, and modifications to the guide are welcome and should be sent to Vianne Sha at tang@law.missouri.edu.

CIRG - the government awakes

In this column in the November 1994 *inCite*, there was an item about Australian government activity on the Net. Since then, the Commonwealth Internet Reference Group has been formed and had its first meeting. The Group comprises a number of Commonwealth Government agencies with an interest in the Internet, some (like ERIN and the NLA) that you would expect, and some surprises (such as the Department of Social Security which is planning to use the Net to distribute information to clients).

The first activities of the Group will be a survey of projects and plans of

Commonwealth agencies, and a set of guidelines to assist organisations to get started in the provision of Internet services. For more information, contact the convenor of the Group, Ian Barndt from the Department of Finance at Ian.Barndt@finance.ausgovfinance.telmemo.au or phone (06) 263 3539.

New version of Hytelnet

HYTELNET is a utility which gives the user instant-access to all Internet-accessible library catalogues, FREE-NETS, BBSs, WAIS, and Gophers. A new version (v6.8) of the PC-based software is now available by anonymous ftp from: ftp.usask.ca/pub/hytnet/pc/latest subdirectory. It is listed as [hytnet68.zip](http://ftp.usask.ca/pub/hytnet/pc/latest/hytnet68.zip). The URL for the software is [ftp://ftp.usask.ca/pub/hytnet/pc/latest/hytnet68.zip](http://ftp.usask.ca/pub/hytnet/pc/latest/hytnet68.zip).

Version 6.8 is a major upgrade, with much redundant information having been deleted, and errors corrected. Also all the new/updated files created since Version 6.7 have been incorporated.

The UNIX/VMS version, created by Earl Fogel, is available for browsing by telnet to access.usask.ca login with *hytnet* (*lower case*). For more information on this version contact Earl at fogel@herald.usask.ca.

New library list in WA

Peter Green of Curtin University has created a new list to serve the needs of the library and information profession in Western Australia. WAIN (Western Australian Information Network) has three primary purposes: to allow dissemination of information about events of interest to members of the profession; to discuss issues that are of interest to a broad cross-section of the profession; and to advertise positions that have become available.

To join the list, send a mail message to listproc@info.curtin.edu.au with the following message in the body of the mail SUBSCRIBE WAIN yourfirstname yourlastname.

Democracy and the Net

The Network Observer (TNO) is a free on-line newsletter about networks and democracy. Since January 1994, it has been a source of practical information, informed commentary, and a discerning selection of pointers to network resources. TNO is now available on the World Wide Web at <http://communication.ucsd.edu/pagere/tno.html>.

You can also receive TNO by electronic mail by subscribing to the Red

ALIA on the Net

Starting early in 1995, ALIA will have a full Internet connection, available to all members. It is a joint project funded by ALIA ACT Branch and National Office and will eventually provide a full range of Internet services to all ALIA members.

The computer system to be installed at National Office will have World Wide Web software, electronic mail, and other services to link to the vast resources of the Internet. These services will be free to all members. Initially, members will use the Internet to link to the ALIA server, but the long-term plan is to have dialup

(phone-in via modem) access from many parts of the country.

The WWW server will have the full text of many important ALIA documents such as the Handbook and Vital Link, and reports from General Council and the Board of Education. It will also have pointers to other sites and services that should appeal to ALIA members.

A planning and implementation committee for the service has been formed, comprising Linda O'Brien [lso@libserver.canberra.edu.au or (06) 2015004], Kerry Webb [k.webb@nla.gov.au or (06) 2621535], Ivan Trundle and Emma Davis-Bell [both at alia@slim.slnsw.gov.au or (06) 2851877].

