

Online & On Disc

Over 1300 delegates converged on the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre at the end of January for *Information Online & On*

Disc 95, making it the biggest Online conference to date.

The conference provided an ideal opportunity to showcase the importance of libraries and information professionals in the development of information technology to delegates from all areas of the business community.

Speakers from a wide range of areas provided a smorgasbord of tempting topics ranging from the integration of computers, educational and library services, to making the best use of CD-ROM and online database resources. The conference committee should be congratulated for their efforts in putting together such an interesting and informative program.

The biggest online and on disc information services trade display in the southern hemisphere was held in conjunction with the conference with over 60 companies represented.

Delegates had the opportunity to take guided tours through the display with the *Information trails* program or to take time for a more informal stroll. The ALIA stand was kept busy with a steady stream of delegates enquiring about becoming members, picking up brochures, leaflets, and copies of various ALIA publications, and finding out more about ALIA's almost-ready internet service.

A highlight of the confer-

ence was the inclusion of an Internet centre, sponsored by ILANET, at which delegates were given instruction on the use of the Internet and the opportunity to browse the information available to them beyond the walls of the conference building. Many delegates took the opportunity to check their e-mail, participate in formal demonstrations of Netscape, Mosaic and gopher, and enhance their networking skills with other users.

The success of *Information Online &*



On Disc 95 bodes well for the organising committee of *Online & On Disc 96*. Watch *inCite* for dates and program details. ■





National Libraries go online & on disc

The chief executives of the National Libraries of Australia and New Zealand unveiled plans for the National Document and Information Service (NDIS) project last week at the *Information Online and On Disc* conference.

Warren Horton, Director-General of the National Library of Australia, and Peter Scott, the National Librarian of the National Library of New Zealand, unveiled the behind the scenes planning of what has been labelled the most advanced library system being developed in the world today.

The project, developed jointly by the two National Libraries, will provide on-line access to libraries and database systems in Australia and New Zealand, with gateways to overseas services. It will expand, improve and replace the services currently of-

fered by the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN), Ozline, the New Zealand Bibliographic Network (NZBN) and Kiwinet.

The project provides an opportunity for the National Libraries and the library communities of Australia and New Zealand to exploit the latest advances in technology and to take a leading role in the emergence of the global information superhighway.

The NDIS will not only improve current services to the library community, but also provide new services to all Australians and New Zealanders. People will be able to access the user friendly system from their home, office or place of study to search for and order information.

The NDIS is being developed for the National Libraries by CSC Australia, integrating products from IBM, Oracle and Novell. ■

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