

ALIA on the net

Work is continuing on the ALIA Internet connection (the equipment is ordered, and the cables are being laid), which should be operational early in March. In the meantime, an ALIA home page is set up on the National Library's Web server at <http://www.nla.gov.au/alia/alia.html>.

AARNet developments

On 12 January 1995, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) announced that it is evaluating the possibility of Telecom undertaking the operation and future commercial development of AARNet, the principal gateway to the Internet in Australia. This announcement followed speculation in the media and on the Net about the future of the AARNet organisation following the departure of some technical staff at the end of 1994.

The AVCC said that the decision would have no immediate effect on commercial customers and academic users but that in the long run, both would benefit significantly from the extra capacity and reach that Telecom would be able to provide.

Telecom has not demonstrated much interest in the Internet so far, and Australian Net users will watch closely to see whether its involvement will go further than just the opportunity to sell a few more communications lines.

Netiquette for all

The Net can be a joy to explore... if you just follow a few simple rules. There's a good list of hints on how to be a good Net citizen, compiled by Arlene Rinaldi at Florida Atlantic University. It's organised into sections for electronic communications, ftp, telnet, discussion groups, and so on. It's at <http://rs6000.adm.fau.edu/faahr/netiquette.html>.

Especially useful is the suggestion that whenever replying to mail (especially when the mail comes from a List), check the address to which you're sending the message. It can be very embarrassing to have a private message inadvertently transmitted to an audience of thousands.

What's happening at ANU

Tony Barry is one of the great figures of the Australian Library Internet scene. He's also a master of the cute acronym. For those who have wondered why ELISA is snazzy or who snipped Matilda, he's supplied the following explanation.

The Australian National University is expanding its activity on the Internet. Under the general label of ANU Online (at <http://www.anu.edu.au>) a number of

projects have been started in addition to:

- The Campus information system (<gopher://cis.anu.edu.au>)
- The Library's ELISA service (<gopher://info.anu.edu.au>)
- The Centre for Networked Access to Scholarly Information within the Library (<http://snazzy.anu.edu.au/CNASI/Default.html>)
- The virtual libraries at the Coombs Computing Unit, Research Schools of Social Sciences & Pacific and Asian Studies (<http://coombs.anu.edu.au>)

The new initiatives include:

- The Centre for Networked Information and Publishing (CNIP) (<http://www.anu.edu.au>) which is a joint project of the Library and the Computer Services Centre and aims to provide support for the many networked projects starting up at the grass roots level on the campus
- The establishment of the Coordinating Centre for the Committee on Australian University Teaching Centres on Teaching and Learning and specific centres to support law and the visual and performing arts
- An electronic outreach service within the library to promote the use of library electronic services
- Access to the wide range of databases being made available via the CAUL datasets policy and also over 60 CD-ROM based services

ALIA Victorian Branch goes global

Jo Marshall, the President of the Victorian Branch reports that the Branch now has a WWW home page courtesy of Vicnet on the State Library of Victoria's server. It's at <http://www.vicnet.net.au/vicnet/slv/alia.html>.

The service was launched in late January and it will contain details of all Victorian ALIA activities. These developments result from the move of the Victorian Branch Office to the State Library of Victoria in January 1995. The e-mail address for the Victorian Local Presence Office is alia@slv.vic.gov.au.

Oz Lit reaching out

Australian Writing Online is a small press distribution service which is aimed at helping Australian magazines, journals and publishers to reach a much wider audience through the Internet. It's beginning by posting information and subscription details for a number of magazines and publishers to a number of discussion groups and lists. Eventually they will build up a large e-mailing list which will include as many libraries as possible. Anyone having ideas about lists or discussion groups which may be worth posting to please send a message to

M.Roberts@unsw.edu.au.

The first posting contains details of the September and December 1994 issues of *Southerly*, together with subscription information.

Standards on the Web

There was a time when the Standards organisations (national and international) were quite antipathetic to the Internet. An example can be found in Carl Malamud's book *Exploring the Internet: a technical travelogue*, where a proposal to put a whole series of communications standards up on the Net was stopped by the bureaucrats of the International Telecommunications Union. Of course, these organisations had made a significant investment in the OSI standards, which have largely been ignored by the user community in favour of the TCP/IP protocols used in the Internet.

Well, things are changing. The International Organisation for Standardisation (whose acronym is for some reason ISO) has announced the opening of ISO Online at: <http://www.iso.ch/welcome.html> (in English); <http://www.iso.ch/welcomef.html> (in French).

The service provides:

- The Catalogue of all ISO International Standards including drafts, with ordering information.
- Complete lists of ISO members and technical committees.
- General background on ISO, its structure, the scope of responsibility of each technical committee.
- Facts on the ISO 9000 Forum, the information service on ISO 9000 which is the series of International Standards for quality management.

Interactive map-making

The University of Virginia Social Sciences Data Center and GIS Lab has developed an interactive package to create on-demand county maps of the state of Virginia. Users can select a county, select features to be displayed (like roads, rivers, railways, airports and hospitals) and generate a customised map in around a minute. Zoom and text label features are included in the system.

To access the service, try: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/socsci/>.

While it's not a service to appeal to many Australian users at present, the potential of this type of technology (perhaps to your in-car computer with its mobile phone link to the Internet) is great.

Running a WWW service

The handbook *Running a World-Wide Web service* has been written by Brian Kelly of the University of Leeds, in a project funded by the Advisory Group

On Computer Graphics (AGOCC). The printed version runs to more than 70 pages and costs £50, but it's also available on the Web in html (130Kb plus images) and postscript (1.5Mb in compressed form) formats.

You can find it at a number of sites: <http://info.mcc.ac.uk/CGU/SIMA/handbook/handbook.html>; <http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/handbook/handbook.html>; <http://www.hcc.hawaii.edu/handbook/handbook.html>; or at <http://www.arnes.si/books/www-handbook>.

It covers a good range of topics, including browsers, servers, html, graphics, and legal and ethical issues. It's worth a look.

New version of Ozlists

Ozlists is a compilation of those electronic mailing lists or discussion groups that are based in Australia and may have more relevance to the Australian scene. It is maintained by Linda Heron at Griffith University. The new version (from early January 1995) can be found at http://www.gu.edu.au/gint/ozlists/ozlists_home.html. It's a very useful resource for Australian Net users, and especially librarians.

New training list

The AVCC's National Priority (Reserve) Fund is responsible for a number of projects for the development of Library Infrastructure. One that has just started is a list called net-training, managed by the Division of Information Services, Griffith University.

The purpose of this list is to provide a forum for feedback and comments about the development of computer facilitated training packages for services available via AARNet and the Internet.

The project has three main areas of focus:

- identification and evaluation of existing computer facilitated training packages;

- analysis of the network training needs of the university community; and
- identification of appropriate learning and training models.

Further information

about this project is available at <http://www.gu.edu.au/alib/iii/iii-home.htm>. To subscribe to this list, send a message to listproc@gu.edu.au and include the following in the body of the message: subscribe net-training firstname lastname. For further information about the Network Training Materials project, please contact Sue Pace at S.Pace@gu.edu.au.



Online/CD-ROM 94 in San Francisco

It's hard to keep track of the various Online conferences — London, Sydney and this one, which rotates around the larger US cities. In 1994, it ran from 24-26 October in San Francisco, in conjunction with a conference on Multimedia in Schools, with a total of 1 500 registrants. It was the format that you'd expect, with keynote sessions, parallel sessions, industry announcements and around 120 exhibitors in the Exposition.

There were a few other signs of the times — the proceedings will come out on CD-ROM following the conference, there was an Internet room where small groups were given demonstrations of Gophers and the World Wide Web (lots of interest in the cat 'Socks' on the White House home page), and a couple of PCs were provided for those who wanted to read their e-mail (but you had to book in advance).

As for the conference itself, there were a few highlights. Walt Crawford from RLG (his column 'The trailing edge' appears in *Library hi tech*) told us that 'computers are tools, not a way of life' and then rhapsodised over his 90 MHz Pentium, which was running 15 minutes after being unpacked, but took three days to connect to his

LAN. He had plenty of good advice, though: 'As computers become cheaper, do more with them, don't spend less'. His co-presenter, Becky Lockwood Grossman of SilverPlatter provided a lot of good information on the current state of CD-ROM technology in the US (double-speed drives are standard and quad-speed drives will soon be) and what's coming down the road (three Gigabyte disks from Philips).

The most memorable session was the last. While the Australian Online conference finishes with a rousing address and an exhortation to go forth and do great things, this one was wrapped up (as usual) with an informal session chaired by Barbara Quint (editor of *Searcher* magazine), and featuring speakers who are all experts in online searching. It was a lively affair, with plenty of opinions expressed from the podium and the floor. It was clear from the speakers that the scene was changing rapidly, and that major players were seeking new services and some very aggressive pricing was imminent — especially with subscription-based charges for searching and document delivery.

Online/CD-ROM 95 will be in Chicago around the end of October. It would be worth a visit.



SEARCH TECH
for
PICTORIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
single screen Digital Systems
(20,000 images per gigabyte)
or multi screen Video Disc Systems
ON SITE IMAGE CAPTURE
**Windows Compatible Display Programs and
Integration of Image Display with
your existing Library Management System**
Search Tech Pty Limited
6 John Tipping Grove, Penrith, NSW 2750.
Phone (047) 21 1613 Fax (047) 32 3439 ACN 003 417 374

image TM **III** INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Image II provides complete information management for corporate and government information centres and special libraries

- Online catalogue & other databases
- Comprehensive searching (with pull down menus)
- Acquisitions
- Circulation
- Serials control
- Communications
- Images & graphics
- Multi authority files
- Report generation
- Full integration of modules

contec
data systems
A.C.N. 055 235 857

Contec Data Systems (Aust) Pty Ltd
PO Box 1570, Tuggeranong ACT 2901
Phone/Fax: (06) 231 6923 Mobile: (015) 483 503
e-mail: 100356.277@compuserve.com
PO Box 892, Neutral Bay NSW 2089
Phone/Fax (02) 948 4280 Mobile: (015) 483 504