

## ALIA on the Net

Welcome to ALIANet, ALIA's presence on the Internet. Its URL is <http://www.alia.org.au/> and it's based on a Web server with lots on information about ALIA, its structure, office bearers, National Office staff, and the services it offers to members.

Many thanks to the people who assisted in various ways, including Sun Microsystems, Cisco Systems, AARNet staff, and the technical staff from National Office, the University of Canberra and the National Library.

## IFLA on the Net

Courtesy of SilverPlatter Information Inc and the Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT) Core Programme, IFLA now has its own Web server. <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/> is the URL.

Apart from general information about IFLA and its activities, there is a page on the 1995 IFLA General Conference in Istanbul, featuring registration and tourism details.

## Wired is hot

*Wired* magazine has a reputation for

being a good, pacy read on Net matters, and extracts have been on the Net for some time. Now comes HotWired at <http://www.hotwired.com/> but it's more than just an online version of *Wired*.

You have to register to use it (although no charge is involved) and there is discreet advertising. But there's also a real-time chat area called The Piazza, and other content in text, images, and movies. In the Piazza, guest speakers appear frequently (Neal Stephenson, author of *Snowcrash* appeared in January) and members can ask questions through a moderator.

One of the more unusual Net resources listed in February is the Keirsey Temperament Sorter at <http://sunsite.unc.edu/jembin/mb.pl>, an online questionnaire based on the Myers-Briggs personality test. Try it!

## More on electronic journals

In the September *inCite* the NewJour-L list, dealing with electronic journals was advertised. It's been running since August 1993, but late in 1994 it started crashing.

It's now been moved to the University of Pennsylvania where it runs on Major-domo software.

And the name has been changed to NewJour.

To subscribe send a message to [majordomo@ccat.sas.upenn.edu](mailto:majordomo@ccat.sas.upenn.edu) with a blank subject line and **subscribe NewJour** in the body of the message. Note that you don't put your name in the message.

Former subscribers to NewJour-L will have been re-subscribed to NewJour.

## US newspapers on the Net

In November last year, there was a newspaper strike in San Francisco. Management and unions responded by publishing their own online editions on the Internet. The unions' paper is still there — the San Francisco Free Press at [http://ccnet.com/SF\\_Free\\_Press/](http://ccnet.com/SF_Free_Press/) but its last issue was on 14 November, with the main headline reporting that the strike was over. The other newspapers, the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner* are still being published on the Net at <http://sfgate.com/> with news, columnists and classifieds. The site (known as The Gate) has good coverage of Net matters, with an extended report (in February) of

## Lists, listservs, listprocs, Majordomo or whatever ...

Despite the wonder and power of the World Wide Web and its astonishing range of information, e-mail continues to be the most important Internet application for most people, and while direct person-to-person communication is useful, you'll probably find that discussion lists provide the best way of sharing your views with your professional colleagues or other people with the same interests.

The problem is that there are a few different types of lists, and the commands for one type won't work with others. Without going into too much detail, here are a few general pointers, but the best single tip is to save the information that you get when to subscribe to a list. You'll need it some time.

The simplest type of list is where a collection of e-mail addresses is maintained at a site and a mail message to the 'listname' is propagated to all those addresses. To subscribe or unsubscribe to such a list, you need to send a message to the list owner. Of course, it will probably work if you just end a 'subscribe' message to the list address (the list owner will see it and add your address to the list) but it's more polite to send a personal message. Examples of this type of list are *catlibs*, *circlibs* and *syslibs*.

A more common type of list is known as a Listserv which uses software at a site which may run a number of lists. This software has a number of facilities to manage the membership of a list (subscribing, unsubscribing, displaying membership details) without the intervention of the list owner. To

subscribe to one of these lists, you would typically send a message to [listserv@xyz.com.au](mailto:listserv@xyz.com.au) with **subscribe listname your name** in the body of the message. Similarly to unsubscribe you would send a message to the listserv specifying the listname. Examples of listserv lists are *PACS-L* (and most of the major US lists) and *collibs*.

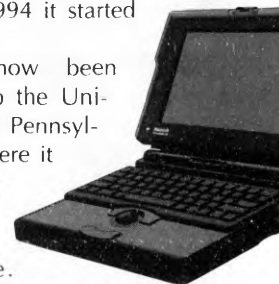
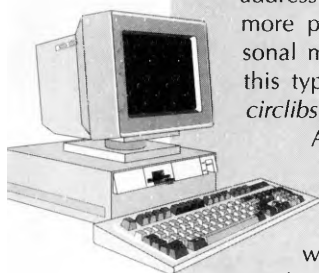
Listproc is software that was based on Listserv and operates in a similar way. The lists operated by the National Library such as *abn-l* and *ndis-l* use Listproc.

Another common system is Majordomo, and it typically operates in such a way that you can send a subscription request to a list address, such as [listname-request@xyz.com.au](mailto:listname-request@xyz.com.au) with **subscribe** in the message. You can also send the message to [majordomo@xyz.com.au](mailto:majordomo@xyz.com.au) with **subscribe Listname** in the message. Whichever method you use, you don't have to specify your name, as the Majordomo software extracts this from the e-mail message.

Many lists at the ANU such as *arlisanz-l* and *asia-www-gopher-news-l* use Majordomo.

(If you'd like to know more about Listserv, Listproc, Majordomo or any other list software send a message to [majordomo@pop.psu.edu](mailto:majordomo@pop.psu.edu) with **get file mlm-software-faq** in the body of the message.)

The best reference source for Australian lists is Ozlists at <http://griffin.itc.gu.edu.au/gint/ozlists/> maintained by Linda Heron at Griffith University. It has detailed instructions on how to subscribe to each list. For US Lists, see [gopher://info.lib.uh.edu:70/00/tools/netinfo/library](http://info.lib.uh.edu:70/00/tools/netinfo/library) the Library-Oriented Lists and Electronic Serials at the University of Houston.



the capture of elusive hacker Kevin Mitnick.

### World Wide Web on the move

The World Wide Web (WWW) was developed at CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Switzerland, but now that CERN has decided to cut back on 'fringe developments', Web development will now proceed at INRIA, the French national institute in computer science and control. The new address for the World Wide Web home page is <http://www.w3.org/> with the host operated jointly by INRIA and MIT.

The WebCore project, as the European activity is now called, will be funded by the Telematics programme of the European Commission with ECU 1.4 million over the next 18 months. Ten to 20 staff will tackle issues such as: up-dating specifications for Web components, development of a reference code, information services on the Web, promotion and dissemination in Europe.

The two permanent members of the WWW-team at CERN are moving. Tim Berners-Lee has already joined MIT, and Robert Calliau, who is still with CERN, is expected to manage the WebCore project at INRIA.

### Internet public library

The University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies is developing the Internet Public Library (IPL), an online, 24-hour public library designed to revolutionise the way the world thinks about library services. Among the first services to appear will be an online reference division; a youth services division; a user education division; and profes-

sional services for librarians.

Scheduled to go online in the beginning of March, the IPL will announce its services through the IPL Listserv. To subscribe send an e-mail message to [ipl-update-request@sil.s.umich.edu](mailto:ipl-update-request@sil.s.umich.edu) with **subscribe** in the message. Note that you don't have to specify the list name or your name.

### OPAC systems samplers

If you want to try an OPAC before you buy, try Hytelnet. Through it you can get telnet access to many library catalogues on the Internet. Through a menu option, you can select the system that you want to check out. Hytelnet is available at several sites, including [gopher://gopher.isnet.is/11/hytelnet/sys000](telnet://gopher.isnet.is/11/hytelnet/sys000) and [gopher://liberty.uw.edu/11/internet/hytelnet/sys000](telnet://gopher.liberty.uw.edu/11/internet/hytelnet/sys000) and the systems available include CLSI, DRA, Dynix, Geac, INNOPAC and many others.

### List for quality discussion

The NT University Library has recently launched a new discussion list - Quality service matters - as part of its Best Practice in Research Information project. The list serves as a forum for anyone working in a service oriented organisation to discuss/share quality related initiatives. To join the list, send a mail message to: [listserv@library.ntu.edu.au](mailto:listserv@library.ntu.edu.au) with **subscribe quality** in the body of the message.

### Document delivery List

Griffith University is hosting a list on document delivery as part of the AVCC's program for the improvement of information infrastructure. The List will exist only for the life of the pro-

gram segment, and discussion should focus on issues relating specifically to document delivery within the scope of the program segment.

The URL <http://www.gu.edu.au/alib/iii/iii-home.htm> is the address for information and documents relating to the program. To subscribe to this list, send a message to: [e-doc-del-req@gu.edu.au](mailto:e-doc-del-req@gu.edu.au) with **subscribe e-doc-del <your name>** in the body of the message.

### Electronic journals about the Internet

*The Internet Press* is produced by Kevin Savetz and John Higgins and provides

a pretty good guide to publications



(free and charge-able) on the Net about the Net.

To receive a copy of *The Internet Press*, send a message to [savetz@rahul.net](mailto:savetz@rahul.net) with **send ipress** in the Subject line, and nothing in the body of the message. To get periodic updates, send a message to the same address with **subscribe ipress** in the subject line.

### World of the Vikings

*The World of the Vikings*, a research project led by the National Museum of Denmark and The York Archaeological Trust in association with other museums and research institutions is now on the Web. Its Home Page at <http://www.demon.co.uk/history/index.html> has links to multimedia information from the project's CD-ROM, and to other Viking history Web resources. ■

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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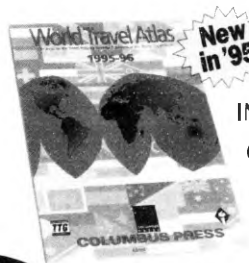
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