



Kerry Webb

ACT community information strategy

The ACT Government has released for public consultation a draft Community Information Strategy with four main goals — the provision of relevant information, through comprehensive delivery mechanisms, in appropriate public access points, with early training for the community in their use. The strategy emphasises the use of the Internet, as well as other technology such as touch-screen terminals.

There will be active consultation with the ACT community between April and July 1996, including a series of public meetings during Australian Library Week. The document and a feedback facility can be found at <http://actg.canberra.edu.au/actg/dus/csg/org4/act12/cis.htm>.

Electric library

The Electric Library at <http://www.elibrary.com> is a commercial service operated by Infonautics Corporation. Its data comes from a number of sources, such as reference books (*Compton's encyclopedia*, the *King James bible*, and Webster's *New world dictionary* and *Thesaurus*), hundreds of journals (including *Australia and world affairs*, *Australian journal of public administration* and *Australian nursing journal*), and over a hundred newspapers and wire services. Although there are charges for using the electric library, you can use it for a two-week free trial with up to 100 searches.

RLG strategy

If you are interested in where the US Research Libraries Group plans to go in the near future, look at <http://www-rlg.stanford.edu/strat/suptproj.html>. It is a description of their strategic directions for the next five years, covering such topics as Ariel enhancements, Web-based document discovery and delivery for end-users, and the development of an online repository for digital files and the software to access and maintain them.

The visible human

In the Visible Human Project, the US National Library of Medicine has created anatomically detailed, three-dimensional representations of the male and female human body. It has so far collected transverse CT, MRI and cryosection images of representative male and female cadavers at one millimetre intervals. This has resulted in a large data set (around 60 gigabytes) of images which the NLM is licensing to organisations which have plans to create products based on this data.

If you want to see a sample of these images, look at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/visible/visible_gallery.html.

New InterNIC site

The InterNIC (Internet Network Information Center) is a project funded by the US National Science Foundation to offer Directory and Database Services, Information Services, and non-military Registration Services. There is a new site at <http://rs.internic.net> to offer easy access to these services. It features the WWW-based *InterNIC news* newsletter, which is also available via Listserv subscription and FTP. The April issue contains articles on SAILOR: Maryland's statewide public information network, an update on InterNIC scout services, and InterNIC statistics and performance measures.

The Net scout services are based on the concept of an Info scout, which researches valuable resources and network tools on the Internet and reports the findings back to the community. Information on the scout services is at <http://rs.internic.net/scout/>.

Z39.50 client software

If you are interested in the development of client software for Z39.50 applications, the people at the Distributed Systems Technology Centre at the University of Queensland have compiled reviews of six public domain and commercial clients. For each client, options, record syntax and query types are analysed. The reviews can be found at <http://www.dstc.edu.au/RDU/reports/zclients.html>.

Web standards

In a significant statement early in March, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) announced that it had reached agreement with market leaders to establish interoperability standards for HTML features such as multimedia objects, style sheets, forms, scripting, tables, high quality printing, and improved access for the visually impaired. It brought together experts from companies including IBM, Microsoft, Netscape Communications Corporation, Novell, Spyglass, and SoftQuad for joint work on these activities.

The technical team forming the W3C's HTML editorial review board expects to define new versions of HTML in the next few months, and will then make their specifications available for public review. Draft documents describing work in progress are available from the Consortium's web site at <http://www.w3.org/>

The Electoral Commission got off to a slow start during the campaign with their home page, but when it arrived a couple of weeks before election date it was quite useful.

Teleworking lists

Two lists have been set up in Europe to deal with issues associated with teleworking. One is a discussion list for teleworking issues in general, and the other is an announcements — only list for those who want to be kept informed about teleworking news and events but not participate in discussion. If you join the discussion list you will get both discussion and announcements/news. If you join the announcements list you will get only the news items. Details and joining instructions are at the European Telework Online Website at <http://www.eto.org.uk>.

Conference announcements

Do you want to publicise your next conference, or would you like to check what's on? Try <http://www.iao.fhg.de/Library/conferences/OVERVIEW-en.html> which maintains a list of conferences which have been posted to the [news.announce.conferences](mailto:news.announce.conferences@news-groups) newsgroups. You can search the list by subject category, keyword or date.

Contemporary art web site

At the Web site of the Media Centre of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, you will find bilingual French/English information about all areas of contemporary art and culture. The site has a section on the Media Centre itself, and a directory of the resources in contemporary art and culture available on the Internet. This directory is organised thematically, with more than 1000 links to museums, galleries, artists, media, works, and exhibitions. Try <http://Media.MACM.qc.ca>.

Chinese librarianship e-journal

Chinese librarianship: an international electronic journal focuses on the practical aspects of Chinese librarianship. It publishes

articles written by librarians and information professionals on issues related to serving patrons with Chinese materials, and reports any major developments of Chinese librarianship throughout the world.

It is published through a Web Page at <http://www.lib.siu.edu/swen/iclc/clej.htm> which contains subscription information as well as guidelines for contributors.

Will we see a string of PURLs?

Anyone who's done any Web browsing is familiar with the '404 — document not found' error message, when the URL that you've supplied does not point to anything. This may be because the server has been reconfigured, or the owner has moved, or any other reason. There have been a number of methods proposed to improve this situation, and OCLC has been developing the PURL, the Persistent URL. They have provided the PURL Service and Software at <http://purl.oclc.org>. The PURL concept is based on a resolution service, which associates the PURL with an actual URL and returns that URL to the client. The client can then complete the transaction. OCLC has been running a PURL service since the beginning of 1996, and has now made the complete PURL source code freely available so that other organizations can run their own PURL services.

New on the Statsite

The ABS has been making some changes to its Website at <http://www.statistics.gov.au>. It now includes its popular *Australia at a glance* statistical summary of Australia and its states and territories, key national indicators, information about ABS products and services, and the *Census update*. ■

The ALIA home pages and the ALIA web service, ALIANet, can be found at the following URL: <http://www.alia.org.au/alia/>.

This column (with associated hyperlinks) has the URL of <http://www.alia.org.au/alia/incite/articles/webb's-web.html>.

Please note that full-stops appearing at the end of any URL or e-mail addresses listed within *inCite* should NOT be used as part of the address unless indicated.

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Kerry Webb at k.webb@nla.gov.au, or via the ALIA National Office, incite@alia.org.au.

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