The Internet pages

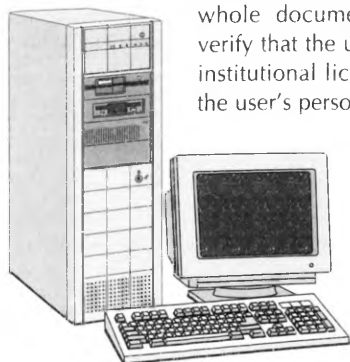# *Online world* online

Kerry Webb

I first became aware of *Online world* as a supplement to other IDG publications. It is a good local publication with coverage of important issues and a very readable style. I asked the publishers more about it, and was told that it will not be appearing in print form in 1996 — which is probably good news for serials librarians. It will though continue via the Internet at http://www.geko.com.au:80/ online.world/index.html.

Another document delivery list

EBSCO has established a new moderated listserv, DOCDEL-L, created to promote discussion on document delivery. Topics to be covered will include pricing concerns, document delivery and the academic library, the various providers, and the future of document delivery. To subscribe to the list send a message to listproc@www.ebscodoc.com with subscribe docdel-l [your name] as the message.

...and a new service

RLG and Pica (the Centre for Library Automation in The Netherlands) have announced that they will develop a document discovery and delivery service on the World Wide Web, called WebDOC. It will allow end users to search a special catalog of bibliographic records (maintained in parallel on both the RLG and Pica host computers), via Web browsers and to retrieve documents linked to them — full text, articles, maps, and images — using Web technology. WebDOC interposes a licensing and accounting server between the catalog record and access to the whole document it describes, to verify that the user is covered by an institutional license or else to debit the user's personal account.

Alert readers will be aware that RLG and Pica are partners in the JEDDS project with the National Libraries of Australia and New Zealand. At this stage, it's not clear what relationship will exist between WebDOC and JEDDS.

Monash WWW-OPAC connection

Edward Lim of Monash University Library has announced the release of the Web-based front-end for the Library's OPAC (Sesame2). Have a look at it at http://www.monash.edu.au/library/ wwwlib/. The search results are displayed in a very attractive manner using the table features of the later versions of Netscape. The Library is in the process of linking the documents scanned for their e-reserve system to Sesame2

also, so that once a catalogue entry for a particular document is retrieved, you will be able to click on it to view the document you want.

Canadian Government site

The Government of Canada Primary Internet Site was launched in December. It provides Internet users in Canada and around the world with a single electronic access point to general information about Canada and to a wide variety of federal government information and services. The information on the site is grouped into various headings such as What's new, Government overview, Federal programs, Federal institutions, About Canada, and Other Canadian Government sites. There's also a search facility to look for general information about Canada using the Champlain and GIFT systems, as well as a search for information held on this site. You'll find it at http://canada.gc.ca.

Discussion on US copyright proposals

Pamela Samuelson, a visiting professor at Cornell University Law School has published in the January issue of *Wired* magazine a critique of the US *White paper on intellectual property and the NII*. She argues that the major stakeholders in copyright are trying to take more control over content and are being aided by this White Paper. It is an analysis of a vital issue for citizens everywhere, not just in the US. One quote that I liked was 'Lehman [Bruce Lehman, assistant secretary of commerce and commissioner of patents and trademarks — the sponsor of the White Paper] aims to be the sheriff who will kick those anarchic digital cowboys off the Net and make the electronic frontier safe for businesses that want to set up shop there'. Read all about it at http:// www.hotwired.com/wired/whitepaper.html..

A pretty good search system

SavvySearch is an experimental search system designed to query multiple Internet search engines simultaneously, developed at Colorado State University. For each search it develops a Search Plan which decides which of the nineteen search engines should be used, based on the type of query, estimated Internet traffic, and the expected response time of the remote search engines. Response time is good, and the results are well set out with the results grouped for each search engine used. I used a number of searches on personal names and general topics to verify that different engines were used each time. Find this Web page at http:// guaraldi.cs.colostate.edu:2000/.

The Internet 1996 World exposition

Well, the graphics are good, but it takes a while to get down to the details of this exposition. Unlike the 'real' variety, anyone can open a pavilion and participate. It will operate

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throughout 1996, and there are already pavilions covering the Global schoolhouse, World expositions and the Future of media. There will also be special events at the Exposition throughout the year. Visit it at: http://park.org/main.cgi.

The GILS pavilion
One of the pavilions at the Exposition will feature the Global Information Locator Service (GILS). It focuses on technological and sociopolitical issues concerning the free flow of information through networked information discovery mechanisms. It is still under construction, but it is a good beginning for anyone interested in these topics. It is currently at http://www.usgs.gov/gils/locator.html but it will be moved to a permanent home at http://www.g7.fed.us.

Internet in UK public libraries
The UK Office for Library and Information Networking has conducted a survey into the current usage of the Internet by public libraries in the UK. All 167 public library authorities' chief librarians were asked for details about the extent of their authority's Internet connections, what type they were, how they were being used, whether the libraries were providing public access to the Internet, and so on. The survey shows that 53 per cent of all public library authorities in the UK have some form of Internet connection, but it is typically a very limited form of connection, both in terms of penetration and access. Only three per cent of individual service points in the UK have some form of Internet connection. The summary of the initial survey report can be found at http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/publib/licsum.html and the complete report is available at http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/publib/lic.html.

The election on the Net
At a seminar in Canberra recently, Mal Bryce (former WA Cabinet Minister and guru of the Ipswich Global Info-Links project) observed that the coming federal election will change the way we do politics in this country forever, because of the influence of the Internet. It is true. The Electoral Commission will be putting online plenty of electoral information — lists of candidates, polling places, results — and many other organisations will be doing their bit. Multimedia Creations has reported that it will establish the first site offering a comprehensive coverage of an Australian federal election from January in time for the lead up to the national poll. See it at http://www.medianet.com.au/electpr.htm.

Not just bombs!
The French Ministry of Higher Education has set up a new Web server for the benefit of academic libraries. This server contains several pages dedicated to standardisation issues in the field of information technology — Z39.50, electronic document delivery, and character sets. Unfortunately (at least for non-francophones) the text is almost exclusively in French. For those who can read the language, try http://sdbib.mesr.fr/norm/norm.htm. It does have one link to an English site at UKOLN, which has a good deal of useful information about the UK library networking scene. It is at http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/.

New at the University of Sydney library
Caroline Regan reports that the library at the University of Sydney has expanded its home page to include links to catalogues (at the University, New South Wales and elsewhere), databases online at the University, and subject guides with links to many Internet resources. It looks very good. See it at http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/

Networking the Pacific
In May 1995 the British Columbia Library Association sponsored *Networking the Pacific: An international forum*. More than 65 delegates from eight countries explored the opportunities for developing ongoing information and resource sharing among libraries around the Pacific Rim. The conference proceedings are available at two locations on the World Wide Web: http://www.idrc.ca/library/document/netpac/intro.html and at http://www.intergate.bc.ca/netpac/provenance/index.html.

About IDA
The IDA (Integrated Document Access) Project is being conducted by the University of South Australia on behalf of the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) with funding being provided by DEET.

The project is identifying tools and indexes used for research and teaching information with an emphasis on electronic publications, projects that aim to integrate tools/indexes for print and electronic publications, and projects for the document delivery of print and electronic publications.

A later phase of the IDA project will analyse these tools and projects and make recommendations in relation to their testing as models for integrated delivery of information to Australian research institutions. The home page for the project is at http://www.ida.unisa.edu.au. ∎