Octover Ivins, North American Serials Interest Group and Will Wakeling, UK Serials Group. $95 ALIA members, $45 students, $125 others. Local Contact: Carolyne Cohn (03) 9326 5366. Registration forms: Alfred Gans (07) 3371 7500, fax (07) 3371 5566, e-mail: alfred@isa.com.au.

• **1/3 Geelong Regional Group**: Social gathering, The Cremorne Hotel, 336 Pakington Street, Newtown. From 5.30pm. Contact: Darren Ryan (052) 27 2203 bh, fax (052)27200, e-mail: darrenr@deakin.edu.au.

• **5/3 RAISS Vic**. *Costing reference services — a workshop for reference librarians*, presented by Fay Nicholson. 9am-5pm. RVIB Prahran. ALIA $90, others $105, non-salaried librarians $70. Contact Jan Miller (03) 9747 7416.

12-13/3 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (12/3), DataStar (13/3). Melbourne Contact (02) 212 2867.

14/3-26/4 MONINFO hands-on INTERNET training: 9-1pm. Monash Uni Clayton. Day 1 Introduction (14/3, 23/3, 24/4) $110 (Saturday $20 surcharge). Day 2 Advanced $130 (15/3, 26/4) (Both days $220). Contact: (03) 9905 5153.

• **19/3 UCRLS** *Electric shock: the impact of electronic document delivery and full text databases. Implications and outcomes for serials*. Speakers — Simon Huggard, Judith Greenaway, Julie Marshall. Hargrave Library. Monash Uni. 6pm for 6.30pm. Contact Susan Bray (03) 9344 8322; e-mail bray@lib.unimelb.edu.au

• **26/3 Victorian Branch AGM**. 5pm. The Walter and Eliza Hall institute of Medical Research, Royal Parade, Parkville. Guest speaker: Professor Sir Gustav Nossal. RSVP 21/3 to Jo Marshall, e-mail marshallj@wehi.edu.au, fax (03) 9345 2580.

• **15/4 ALIA Home Library Services SIG** meeting. 10am-12pm. Meeting room at the rear of the Hawthorn Library, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn. Contact: Paul Hiddle (03)9810 4640, fax (03)9810 0829.

16-17/4 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (16/4), Business (17/4). Melbourne Contact (02) 212 2867.

22/4 & 29/4 FLIS Training Pty Ltd. Contract and project management for libraries: 9.15-5pm. Cost: Day 1 (Client's perspective) $170; Day 2 (Provider's perspective) $170; Both Days $270. Monash Uni conference centre, Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. Contact: Elizabeth Yates (03) 9813 1925.

2/5 FLIS Training Pty Ltd. Performance evaluation and ef-

ALIA's IR committee

Virginia Walsh

The ALIA International Relations Committee (IRC) held its first meeting for 1996 at ALIA House Canberra on 6 February 1996. The committee elected Bill Linklater as chair and established its strategic direction for the year. Regular reports on international activities will be provided through *inCite* on a regular basis.

One initiative that the committee will be pursuing is opportunities for Australians to study and work overseas. Some government grants are available to sponsor individuals who are interested in either aid or commercial projects.

The committee sees its role as encouraging ALIA members to apply and participate in these programs and is keen to receive expressions of interest in overseas work or projects that could be funded under programs such as the Professional Associations International Development Scheme (PAIDS) which is administered by AUSAID or the Asia Fellowship Program which is run by the Asia in Australia Council.

One of our members, Marilyn Beamish, is in Vietnam looking at information technology in university libraries as part of the Asia Fellowship Program. She has recently written to the IRC to update progress with her project and part of that report follows.

If you are interested in overseas projects please send me information about yourself and your special interests. Address mail to the IRC, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2601, Australia, e-mail carolyn.cherrett@alia.org.au.

The information technology revolution in Vietnam

Marilyn Beamish

The newly-established Vietnam National University (VNU), Hanoi, is an important site for opportunities for information technology development. I have met with key people on three of their campuses. The VNU is waiting for confirmation of a World Bank Grant for the development of an information technology infrastructure across the five campuses. They are very keen to design and implement an electronic library, and are seeking consulting and training assistance.

Lacking expertise
The VNU College of Foreign Languages has purchased a Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) package for their students, but lacks the expertise to install it or maintain its operation. I would like to identify other sources of possible funding from Australia to enable this purchase to become an effective teaching tool. It was due for 'opening' at the end of January 1996.

The Hanoi Foreign Studies University is well-advanced in its thinking and is keen to move to the concept of an electronic library. It is independent of the Vietnam National University and receives funding from the Ministry of Education and Training (MOESTE).

Making contacts
As is often the case, it is the 'unofficial contacts' one makes which often turn out to be the most valuable, and this visit is no exception. Contacts made a social functions and through business approaches have proved to be most valuable. The Australian Embassy has also been very supportive.

In an attempt to 'give something' in return for the time and hospitality universities have afforded me, I have been offering to hold seminars based around the theme *The electronic library: planning for change*. These have been received most enthusiastically, and I am committed to at least five at different universities and higher education institutions. They are also proving to be a most useful means of identifying key players.

Vietnam is well-placed to take advantage of the information technology revolution: the communications infrastructure

being put in place by Telstra is using leading edge technology, and the Government is committed to education. Australian assistance should target this area, as there is now a strong body of IT experience in our libraries. Training at the professional and para-professional levels is another key area.

Getting the ball rolling...

Australia is held in very high regard by Vietnam officials at all levels for its contribution to the development of education. Within the Vietnam National University, it is their preference to establish working relationships with Australian organisations. These programs would need to be funded, at least partially, by Overseas Funding Organisations, the Australian Government and Australian Universities.

The Vietnam Government has identified information technology as a very high priority within the newly-established university. The VNU is being formed by the amalgamation of five separate campuses in Hanoi — a situation with which Australian universities are very familiar, and on which they could provide valuable as-

sistance and advice. The university is very likely to obtain significant World Bank Funding to facilitate the development and implementation of an 'electronic library' across all campuses, including a brand new one, and would look to Australia for specialist consultants. No timeframe has been indicated for the decision regarding funding.

Enthusiasm for English

The teaching of English language and culture has been given number one priority by the Ministry of Education and Training. It seems that almost everyone in the country is learning English at some level. There is a tremendous enthusiasm among teachers and students for the language.

Widespread proficiency in English is seen as the way Vietnam will be able to take its rightful place in the competitive Asian-Australian market. Hand-in-hand with fluency in English goes the ability for the education sector in general, and universities in particular, to make maximum use of information technology and 'leapfrog' from the existing situation to becoming a sophisticated business hub in Asia. ■

fectiveness measures. 9.30-5pm. Cost: $170. Monash Uni conference centre, Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. Contact: Elizabeth Yates (03) 9813 1925.

15/5 FLIS Training Pty Ltd
Creating an information audit. 9.30-5pm. Cost: $170. Monash Uni conference centre, Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. Contact: Elizabeth Yates (03) 9813 1925.

11/6 FLIS Training Pty Ltd
Building on basic cataloguing skills including US MARC. 9.30-5pm. Cost: Whole day $170; US MARC (pm only) $80. Monash Uni conference centre, Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. Contact: Elizabeth Yates (03) 9813 1925.
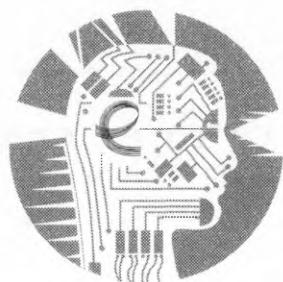
WA

6-8/3 Insearch/Knight-Ridder
Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (6/3), Beyond the Basics (7/3), Asia-Pacific Corporate Intelligence (8/3 am). Perth Contact (02) 212 2867.

• **9/4 Mentoring Soiree**: Opportunity to learn how to get the most out of a mentoring partnership. 5.30pm for 6pm. Cost: $2. Curtin Uni, Department of Information Studies. Contact Paul Genoni 351 7256 or Ann Ritchie 346 6184

THE EIGHTH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
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SYDNEY CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE, DARLING HARBOUR, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Australasia's leading electronic information conference and exhibition, Information Online & On Disc 97, is to be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia, from 21-23 January 1997.

The conference is sponsored by the Information Science Section of the Australian Library and Information Association, and includes presented papers, poster sessions, exhibits, an Internet Centre and pre and post conference events. It provides an opportunity for information professionals from the education, business, financial, legal, library, medical and scientific communities to explore and experience developments and technologies in the electronic information industry. The 1995 conference

drew an audience of over 1300 delegates with more than 60 exhibits from leading producers in the fields of online and CDROM services and library systems.

The 1997 conference will address the many issues arising from the development of online and CDROM services, telecommunications, Internet and networking technologies.

Innovative and practical papers are invited on all aspects of electronic information.

Topics to be covered include:
• multimedia, CDROM and imaging technologies
• user interfaces, search languages and "intelligent agents"
• business, government, legal, scientific and medical information services
• Olympics, tourism, recreation and sport information services

• networked information services
• Internet - issues, services and developments
• electronic document delivery
• new digital communities
• innovative training approaches and technologies
• marketing of information services and products
• electronic publishing
• copyright, legal and ethical issues
• telecommunications
• education and information technology
• evolving system architectures
• National Information Infrastructure

Speaker Benefits:
For each paper presented one free day registration will be provided.

Form of Proposals:
Please provide sufficient detail in the abstract to allow the commit-

tee to make a selection.
1. Author name(s), postal addresses, telephone numbers, FAX, e-mail, and URL addresses.
2. A biographical sketch: not to exceed 100 words.
3. Abstract: not to exceed 100 words.
4. Papers which are product reviews will not be accepted.
5. Papers must not have been published or presented elsewhere prior to Information Online & On Disc 97.

Proposals for papers are invited and should be addressed to:
The Program Committee
Information Online & On Disc 97
PO Box 468
Paddington NSW 2021 Australia
Telephone: + 61 2 3324622
Fax: + 61 2 3324066
Email: whfoda_acms@interconnect.com.au

Abstracts for papers due: 30 April 1996 • Notification of accepted papers: 20 June 1996 • Full text of accepted papers due: 30 October 1996