

ACT

• **11/4 Librarians' libations with the ACT Specials.** Hyatt Hotel, 5.30pm. Further details are unpredictable but will be announced, so watch this spot. Contact Libby Coates on (06) 266 2346.

• **18/4 ACT Cataloguers group.** 'Careers for cataloguers'. NLA Training Room A/B. Time: 12.30-1.30pm. Contact Cheryl Bowman on (06) 252 6606.

2-3/5 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Services. Introductory DIALOG (2/5), Datastar/KR ProBase (3/5 am). Canberra Contact: (02) 212 2867.

10-13/6 Magellan Leadership Institute — specially designed for senior information service executives in Australia and New Zealand by AIMA Training & Consultancy Services Ltd in conjunction with Schreiber Shannon Associates. Presented as a residential workshop at The Hyatt Hotel, Canberra. Limited places available. Contact AIMA for details (06) 262 1223, e-mail: aima@nla.gov.au.

NSW

2-13/4 Cataloguing courses: Library of Congress subject headings (2-3/4), Cataloguing serials (4/4), Introduction to Decimal Dewey Classification (12-13/4). Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact Maureen Henninger: Ph (02) 385 3589, Fax (02) 385-3430; e-mail: M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

2-30/4 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Patents (2/4), Introductory DIALOG (11/4), Searching chemistry for non chemists (18/4 am), Beyond the basics (23/4), Pharmaceutical (30/4). Sydney contact (02) 212 2867.

• **9/4-8/5 NSW Library Technicians Section meetings.** Uni of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus, Bourke Street, Richmond (9/4). 6pm. Sydney Institute of Technology (8/5). Further dates & venues TBA. Contact Loraine Wiseman, ph (02) 852 5930.

10,17&24/4 Introduction to IMAGIC DB/TextWorks, Designing databases using IMAGIC DB/TextWorks, and IMAGIC DB/TextWorks/Bridging courses. Full Day courses 9-5pm. Venue: Trimagic Software. For information & bookings contact Trimagic Software, Authorised Training Centre. Ph: (02) 413 1799 Fax: (02) 413 1710.

16-17/4 Exploring and navigating the Internet: Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact Maureen Henninger: Ph

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The future of academic publishing

A conference examining the future of academic publishing was held by the National Scholarly Communications Forum[†] in Canberra last month.

Speakers at the conference included four major text book publishers, representatives of the university presses and campus book-sellers, publishers of major serials, editors of small print run serials, and of electronic serials. Sir Gustav Nossal, president of the Australian Academy of Science, presented the keynote address which examined the rôle of scholarly publishing in science.

Scholarly and academic publishing is an essential part of the academic infrastructure, being necessary for the communication of research activity and results, the promotion of academics and scientists within their communities of work, and for education. The cost of this infrastructure has been traditionally borne by libraries, through the purchase of serials, and by students, through the purchase of textual material. The emergence of wholesale copying of reading materials, compiled from a variety of sources, has severely disrupted the economies of textbook printing and publishing. Royalties are not being paid on the majority of this copying: both publishers and authors being denied revenue.

As a consequence the future of the scholarly monograph is in grave doubt. At Melbourne University alone some 2.6 million photocopied pages of departmental teaching material from 1446 copyrighted works were distributed through the book shop for the first semester this year. The University Co-operative Bookshop found in a survey conducted in the second semester of 1994 some 12 million pages from 2600 copyright works distributed through its bookstores.

A roundtable discussion attempted to address the most critical issues. Three resolutions were framed. The first, predicated on the notion that we cannot have a clever country without a viable library network, calls upon the AVCC and politicians to strengthen the national information infrastructure by better funding for libraries. The second calls for academic institutions to negotiate royalty fees with copyright holders for material reproduced in reading materials. The third asks that applications for Australian Research Council grants include information on the support for publication of the results of research.

Bob Missingham

[†] ALIA is a member of the National Scholarly Communications Forum and has input into all forum policies.

Looking forward to a busy year

Kerrie Dick, ALIA Technicians Section, Tasmanian group

The Library Technicians Section (Tasmanian group) has commenced activities for 1996 and is looking forward to a productive year. In February an afternoon meeting was held at the restaurant at Cataract Gorge in Launceston. Our guest was Carolyn Cherrett from ALIA National Office. Carolyn was able to answer a number of questions we had about ALIA in general and library technicians in particular. To attract new members the group has put together 'sample bags' packed with information about ALIA to distribute to students in Tasmania.

The group is already look-



Front: Robyn Parker, Glenyce Surtees, and Kerrie Dick; back: Carolyn Cherrett, Angela Oakford, Karen Mathew and Maple Bain

ing at travel arrangements to Canberra for the technician's conference in 1997 and plans are underway for our annual

meeting to be held in late September. Details of this meeting will be provided as soon as they are available. ■