

Winners announced

The VALA Award for 1996 has been won by the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind for the development of a 'talking' catalogue which may be accessed at the Institute's Talking Book Library or through the Internet, and for the development of *Voiceprint*, a telephone-based information service.

The *Voiceprint* service provides improved access to the catalogue of the Talking Book Library. Library borrowers can phone in, search or browse the catalogue and order books using only the telephone keypad. *Voiceprint* users can also listen to the full-text of *The Age*, *The Financial Review*, and *Business Review Weekly*.

These two developments significantly improve the independence of people with print disabilities. They can interact directly with the library system, for both browsing and ordering of titles,

in complete privacy and without the need for assistance from a sighted person.

The VALA Award is presented to the Australian library or information centre judged to have made the most innovative use of currently available computer technology to improve service to users. There was an unprecedented level of interest in both the VALA Award and the Travel scholarships awarded by VALA. The winners of the two travel scholarships were also announced — Andrew Treloar, from Deakin University, will investigate the role of libraries as facilitators in electronic publishing; and David Wells, from Curtin University of Technology, will travel to Japan to study the ways in which Japanese automated library systems treat multi-language, multi-script collections of material. Both winners will present papers on their research at the next VALA biennial conference. ■

Overcoming the tyranny of distance

People throughout New South Wales can now read over 1000 journals from around the world via computer screens at their local public libraries.

This new service has been made possible by the installation of Electronic Reference Library (ERL)

technology at the State Library of New South Wales.

The system, developed by SilverPlatter Information and distributed by GEAC Global Information, allows public libraries across New South Wales to access a number of subscription databases on the State Li-

brary's ERL server.

The move to adopt SilverPlatter's solution follows an increase in public demand for information, with attendance figures at public libraries across the state continuing to rise. The introduction of ERL means that library users have ac-

cess to the full-text of journal articles from over 1000 journal titles.

Library users across New South Wales can now search, retrieve and print or download the data in ASCII format via workstations in public libraries through any standard Web browser. ■

Colourful enterprise

Provision of colour copying seems to be now accepted as *de rigueur* in libraries. The proliferation of print material in colour, often computer-generated, ensures that this demand will continue to grow. However, most colour photocopiers are much too complicated to allow the public access to this very expensive item without staff assistance.

Langley Park Manufacturing have addressed this problem by introducing their new PACC-7 digital colour copier — launched at the ALIA conference in October. The machine combines the traditional ease of public use, whilst producing the highest colour copy quality and low copy costs. For more information see their advertisement in the October issue of *inCite*, p34. ■

ALIA membership

ALIA welcomes the following new members who joined the Association in December 1996, and congratulates those who have upgraded their qualifications

New Members

Elizabeth A Belfort QLD
Jaya Berk WA
Evelyn Cambridge VIC
Sue Cameron WA
Janelle Carley NSW
Michael Chan NSW
Amanda Cook SA
Karen Demichele SA
Ling Fan NSW
Yanoula Fouras VIC
Suellen Gosstray VIC
Sharon Groch NSW
Amanda Ireland VIC

Keira James-Peet NSW
Bernadette Kean VIC
Margaret Lambert VIC
Anna Liehne WA
Narelle McCray TAS
Helen Naman NSW
Jennifer Nance SA
Tania Pugh SA
Donna Shields NSW
Larissa Sidorova VIC
Sharon Stewart VIC
Susan Stewart WA
Helen Margaret Taylor ACT
Karen Warren VIC

New Technicians

Sheryl Clarke TAS
Jan-Maree Herivel NT
Domenica Sardi WA

New Associates

Lai Hung Chan HK
Ines Scotland QLD
Tony Ward SA
John Terence Maguire ACT
Lejla Sukno SA
Janine Hanna NSW
Sonia Quarisa NSW
Ajita Premini Samuel-

Thambiah NSW
Lynette Florence Taylor NSW
Roslyn Boyce ACT
Michelle Phillips QLD
Nanette Vleeskens QLD
Jane Hardy ACT
Theresa Lynette Jude NT

Upgrade to Associate

Milena Rozenblat VIC
Rhonda Adele Mayberry WA