

# 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