

# Scholarly electronic text and image service

Judith Campbell, University of Sydney Library



Cheryl Ruggles, systems support, SETIS (seated) and Dr Creagh Cole, SETIS co-ordinator, access a SETIS Tektronix X-terminal providing direct access to networked texts

In September 1996 the University of Sydney library launched a major new initiative — SETIS, the Scholarly Electronic Text and Image Service. SETIS, modelled on similar electronic text centres in the United States and United Kingdom, is the first of its kind in Australia and was created to support and facilitate textual study and research in the university. The service will initially focus on materials in the humanities, though it is planned to extend the scope over time to include other areas of research.

SETIS was created after extensive discussions with academic staff in a number of departments and represents a new partnership between the library and the academic community. Creagh Cole, the co-ordinator of SETIS, points out that electronic texts 'rarely replace the traditional versions, nor interfere with our enjoyment of them. Used in conjunction with printed text, they allow for more sophisticated analysis, searching and manipulation of the material.' It is possible to carry out an extensive range of textual analysis using search software. For example, with the *English Poetry* database you can search for a particular keyword adjacent to another keyword and to limit this search to the gender of the poet, the genre of the poem or the period of time.

Electronic texts are naturally amenable to index and concordance creation, and to inquiry into statistical occurrences of terms. Furthermore, different versions of the same text may be compared and the variations collated and presented in a variety of ways.

The service already offers researchers

and students enhanced access to an extensive range of commercially produced electronic information resources through the use of specialised equipment and sophisticated search and text analysis software. Many of the texts will be networked via a common web interface throughout the University thus greatly increasing access to these valuable resources.

However, perhaps the most exciting feature of SETIS is that it will foster and assist in the creation of new electronic texts. Already a number of researchers are working on projects which involve the creation of electronic resources and SETIS itself is involved in text creation through the use of scanning and OCR software and the encoding of texts using Standard Generalised Markup Language (SGML).

SETIS aims to build a substantial collection of on-line electronic text. As well as providing access to commercially published electronic text databases, such as the *English Poetry* full-text database and the *Patrologia Latina*, the SETIS collection of electronic texts will include the substantial collection of public domain texts from the university of Virginia Electronic Text Center. SETIS will serve as a mirror site for this material and negotiations are underway with the Oxford Text Archive for a similar arrangement with their electronic material.

Further information about SETIS can be found at the following URL <http://setis.library.usdy.edu.au> or by contacting Dr Creagh Cole the SETIS co-ordinator on (02) 9351 7408.



• **22/3 & 19/4 ALIA NSW Schools Section.** *Introductory Internet.* Macquarie Uni, Time/Cost: TBA. Contact: Ailsa Holmes-Walker, ph (02) 9871 3541.

• **26/3–1/12 ALIA NSW Schools Section.** *Executive meeting dates.* Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, King Street, Newtown 2042. 4pm. (26/3; 30/4; 28/5; 25/6; 30/7; 3/9; 24/9; 29/10; 1/12). Contact: Andrew Barber, ph (02) 9519 1544, fax (02) 9519 1657.

**1/4 ABN Advanced inquiry training.** Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

• **8/4 ALIA NSW TAFE Section and NSW Branch.** *An evening with Phil Teece, Personnel and industrial services manager, ALIA.* OTEN, 51 Wentworth Road, Strathfield 2135. 6pm for 6.30pm. Contact: Judy Ryan, ph (02) 9715 8330, fax (02) 9715 8311, judy.ryan@tafensw.edu.au.

**8–10/4 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars.** *Introductory DIALOG (8/4), Company Intelligence (9/2), Chemical Searching for Non-Chemists (10/4).* Sydney contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

• **9/4–5/11 ALIA NSW Schools Section.** *Committee meeting dates.* Leichhardt Primary School, Joint Council Rooms. 7pm. (9/4; 7/5; 2/6; 15/7; 6/8; 8/9; 14/10; 5/11). Contact: Andrew Barber, ph (02) 9519 1544, fax (02) 9519 1657.

• **16/4 South Coast Regional Group — Reactivating meeting.** Wollongong City Library Theatre, Ground Floor. 5.30–7pm. Come and network with colleagues in the region and contribute ideas for future meetings. We'd also like to hear of new developments/initiatives in your workplace. Dinner to follow at International Centre. All welcome. RSVP: Helen Mandl, ph (042) 21 4637 or helen\_mandl@uow.edu.au

• **17/4 NSW Special Section.** *International Special Librarians' Day breakfast.* 7.30am Venue to be announced. For further details contact: Jackie Slee, ph (02) 9229 1317, fax (02) 9223 5002 or Christine Benneian, ph (02) 9257 7118, fax (02) 9257 7756.

**7/5 Performance indicators for libraries.** Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

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