

# Staff development courses launched

At the official launch of the ALIA/Edith Cowan University professional development courses were (from left) Kay Poustie, 1996 chair of the ALIA Board of Education; Helen Tait, 1996 ALIA president; Cathy Scott, Edith Cowan University; and Jennefer Nicholson, ALIA deputy executive director. The courses were officially launched by Helen Tait and Professor Tony Watson, head of school, Mathematics, Information



Technology and Engineering. The courses represent part of ALIA's commitment to continuing professional development and are based on the recognition of specific needs within the library community.

# Developing on-line search skills

Elizabeth Keyes

With a growing sense of unease that my librarianship skills were rapidly becoming outdated, but also with a definite aversion to the rigours of after-work part-time study, I was pleased to find that ALIA, in conjunction with Edith Cowan University, were offering professional development courses.

My first choice for study was 'Developing search strategy skills for online searching', the first unit of the three unit course *Upgrading search strategy skills*. This unit was an easy-to-follow work module, practically orientated and included a five-hundred word un-graded assignment over ten weeks.

Instead of accessing the Telnet version of the CARL UnCover database used for the hands-on tutorials I was able to access the course through the Internet. This posed no real problems although the search commands differed from those

in the workbook. The course will be even more valuable to me when I follow up with practice on other online databases, possibly through the Open Learning Centre.

Because I had some queries about the Internet version of the course and the assignment requirements, I contacted the lecturer in Western Australia by phone and found her very helpful; e-mail offers an alternative means of communication. My assignment was carefully marked with helpful and constructive comments.

Attempting this course has enabled me to define and structure my online searching skills and knowledge, and has encouraged me that further study may not be too bad after all. I will certainly be undertaking other units and can recommend this course as an introduction to online searching. Thank you ALIA and Edith Cowan University.



**5/3 FLIS Training Pty Ltd.** *Supervision skills for team leaders.* Monash Uni Conference Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. 9.30-5pm. Cost \$170. Contact: Elizabeth Yates, ph (03) 9813 1925, fax (03) 9882 4274, libflis@vicnet.net.au.

• **17/3 Vic CYSS.** *Books Illustrated and the world of children's book illustration.* Speakers: Anne Haddon and Ann James. Venue: Books Illustrated, 15 Graham Street, Albert Park. Time: 6.30pm. Cost: ALIA members \$2, non-members \$3. Contact: Helen Taylor, ph (03) 9262 6537.

**19-20/3 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars.** Introductory DIALOG (19/3), Pharmaceutical (20/3). Melbourne contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

**3/4 FLIS Training Pty Ltd.** *Career options for library staff.* Monash Uni Conference Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. 6-9pm. Cost \$60. For a training brochure contact: Elizabeth Yates, ph (03) 9813 1925, fax (03) 9882 4274, libflis@vicnet.net.au.

**22-24/4 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars.** Introductory DIALOG (22/4), Beyond the Basics (23/4), Hot Business Topics (24/4 am). Melbourne contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

**26-27/4 Mobile libraries and beyond: Outreach services of the future.** Conference hosted by Country Public Libraries Group of Victoria for librarians and mobile vehicle operators at: Hamilton Victoria. Enquiries to: Adele Kenneally, ph (03) 5572 3277, fax (03) 5571 2310, adelek@h140.aone.net.au.

**8/5 FLIS Training Pty Ltd.** *Measurement and appraisal techniques for special libraries.* Monash Uni Conference Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. 9.30-5pm. Cost \$170. For a training brochure contact: Elizabeth Yates, ph (03) 9813 1925, fax (03) 9882 4274, libflis@vicnet.net.au.

## WA

• **5/3 ALIA WA Public Libraries Section** *Independent Living Centre visit.* 10am, 11am or 2.30pm, free. Independent Living Centre, 3 Limnos Street, Shenton Park. Contact: Raima Bridge, ph (09) 294 1421.

**5-7/3 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars.** Introductory DIALOG (5/3), Beyond the Basics (6/3), Hot Business Topics (7/3). Perth contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

• **7/3 WA Special Libraries Section** *Bi-monthly breakfast.* Venue:

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