

Online online



Kerry Webb

The 8th *Information on-line and on disc* conference was held in Sydney in January, and a fine conference it was. Two of the keynote speakers made a strong impression — Cliff Lynch from the University of California libraries (he also spoke at the 1993 conference) and Rebecca Lenzini from CARL, who is destined for a career as a motivational speaker when she gives up her regular job. And of course Neil McLean gave his usual brilliant summing-up.

The papers from the conference, including those that didn't make it into the printed proceedings will be available at the Conference site at <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/on-line97>.

People on-line

The conference had a very impressive Internet City, staffed by volunteers and the occasional 'expert surfer'. One of these experts was Tony Barry, who recently announced that he'll be leaving his job at the ANU. This is not the place for a full tribute to Tony and his achievements, but those of us who've worked with him will miss his bluff good sense and the way that he fostered discussions on Australian Net policy matters through the Link list. Fortunately, he says that he's committed to maintaining Link, whatever else he manages to do in his spare time.

... and copyright on-line

Prior to the conference, AIMA conducted a seminar on copyright management, with Dr Bill Tuck as the keynote speaker. Bill's paper and notes from other presentations at the seminar can be found at the AIMA site at <http://www.nla.gov.au/aima/>.

More on copyright and licensing

There appears to be a lot happening with copyright and licensing at the moment. A recent example was the ARL/CNI co-sponsored *Licensing Electronic Resources Conference* held recently in San Francisco. A summary of the conference is available at <http://arl.cni.org/scomm/sum.html>.

Meanwhile Yale University library has established LIBLICENSE, a resource which provides information and assistance for academic and research libraries in negotiating licences with providers of electronic information in all sorts of formats. Its URL is <http://www.library.yale.edu/~Llicense/index.html>. One component of the resource is LIBLICENSE-L, a moderated list for the discussion of issues related to the licensing of digital information by academic and research libraries. The discussion will include all aspects of drafting licence agreements, including the provisions of copyright legislation, privacy and security, and interlibrary loan considerations. To subscribe, send a message to listproc@pantheon.yale.edu

with subscribe LIBLICENSE-L Firstname Lastname in the body of the message.

I found it on the Web!

RLG's Eureka service has been available by telnet for some time. Now there is access via the WWW at <http://www.rlg.org/eurekaweb.html>. Databases available include the RLIN Bibliographic Database, the English Short Title Catalog, Bibliography of the History of Art, and the History of Science and Technology.

The site has an interesting summary of the benefits of Web access over the telnet version — pretty obvious I suppose, but it's a good example of how far we've come in providing easy-to-use information services.

The future of scholarly journals

In 1994, Andrew Odlyzko of the AT&T Bell Laboratories, presented a conference paper called 'Tragic loss or good riddance? the impending demise of traditional scholarly journals'. I came across it when his name was listed as a speaker at a forthcoming conference — on the same subject. Clearly he is seen as an expert on the subject, which is reasonable as the paper is a good one. Some of his observations could be better developed, but it remains a worthwhile study on the topic. The paper is at <http://elias.ens.fr/Surfaces/vol4/odlyzko.html>.

New issue of the *Internet Resources Newsletter*

The latest issue of the *Internet Resources Newsletter*, produced by Heriot-Watt University is available at <http://www.hw.ac.uk/libWWW/irn/irn.html>. One of its best features is the section which reviews the ever increasing number of journals about the Internet. If you're planning to subscribe to any, it's worth checking here first.

A useful example of good planning

In the US state of Michigan, a group comprising the Michigan Library Association, the Michigan Library Consortium and the Library of Michigan issued in January a request for proposals entitled 'Michigan's emerging information infrastructure: An analysis of the role of libraries and a plan for future digital library development'. The closing date was 7 February so don't bother responding, but the document is worth studying.

Searching multiple catalogues

Beppe Pavoletti, an Italian enthusiast has produced a collection of links to library and documentation related resources, Internet indexes and search engines at <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/3616>. Through it I found the site for the Europagate project (sponsored by the EU Telematics for Libraries program) with several useful features,

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including the Web gateway at http://europagate.dtv.dk/wg_index.htm. From the gateway, you can search many Z39.50 compliant catalogues simultaneously, including Agricola, LC Books, and a selection of library catalogues. It's quite impressive as an example of what Z39.50 can deliver.

Net news

If you want to keep up to date with what's happening in the Internet world, there are many sites which provide on-line news services. One that I like is ZDNet at <http://www5.zdnet.com/>. You can register for free, and select the topics that are of interest to you. Then you'll get a single e-mail message daily with headlines of the top news stories for those topics. Then you can go to the ZDNet site for the full stories. The journalistic style is slick and chatty and the news coverage is excellent.

The Titterton papers

Nancy Lane reports that the Australian Science Archives Project and the Australian Academy of Science have published a guide to the papers of Sir Ernest Titterton at <http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/pubs/guides/titterton>. Titterton, who died in 1990, was a controversial figure who played an important role, both within the Australian scientific community and beyond it, for almost fifty years. He was highly regarded by some and attacked by others because of his forthright and uncompromising views about nuclear power.

The guide contains a career summary and biographical memoir, photographs, and a detailed description of the papers, including those from the Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee, the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests relating to Maralinga, the Australian Atomic Energy Commission and the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry.

WIPO Conference

I wrote in the last column about the WIPO Diplomatic conference in December 1996. IFLA, as an NGO, had been invited with observer status. A report on the conference is now available at URL: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/V/press/pr970122.htm>.

Interestingly, one of the IFLA delegation was Jamie Wodetzki, formerly of ACLIS.

New site for on-line scholarly publishing

The Canadian Electronic Scholarly Network (CESN) at <http://www.schoolnet.ca/vp/cesn> is a source of information about on-line scholarly publishing in Canada. It contains links to Canadian peer-reviewed electronic scholarly journals, and to national and international electronic publishing projects and articles. It

also provides information on the Electronic Publishing Promotion Project (EPPP) led by Industry Canada.

Preserving PANDORA's box

PANDORA — Preserving and Accessing Networked Documentary Resources in Australia — is a project initiated by the National Library of Australia to investigate strategies and implementation procedures for the capture, storage, preservation and access to digital data by creating an electronic archive of library materials. It is being funded in part by the AVCC Working Group on Electronic Publishing.

The National Library has already published Guidelines for selection of on-line electronic materials of national significance identified for preservation at <http://www.nla.gov.au/1/scoap/scoapgui.html>. PANDORA is a further development of this. Find out more at <http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/plan/pandora.html>.

Mansfield report

Some information about the report of the Mansfield enquiry into the ABC can be found at <http://www.dca.gov.au/whatwedo/govtrev.html#ABCReview> including where you can buy the full report in printed format.

Network Services Project

The National Library reported late last year that it was cancelling the joint NDIS project to develop the World 1 system. In late January, Warren Horton announced the launch of the Network Services Project which will continue the library's commitment to replacing the services it currently provides in ABN and Ozline. Information and discussion about the Network Services Project will be disseminated on a new discussion list, NSP-L. All Australian subscribers to WORLD1-L have been transferred to NSP-L, and need not resubscribe. New subscribers can join NSP-L by sending a message to listproc@nla.gov.au with subscribe NSP-L Firstname Lastname in the body of the message.

Tenders for the new system will be called in March, and a draft description of requirements can be found <http://www.nla.gov.au/nsp/preinfo.html>.

Australian libraries

The index of Australian library catalogues and servers maintained by Mark Nearhos at the ANU now has a search facility. You can limit the search by state or by keywords in the name of the library. See it at <http://elisa.anu.edu.au/elisa/elibrary/libcat.html>.

Distance selling code of practice

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has published its *Draft Code of practice for distance selling* at <http://www.accc.gov.au/new/index.htm>. The documents contained there include the six-part Draft Code and a detailed discussion paper on the subject. ■

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The ALIA home pages and the ALIA web service, ALIANet, can be found at the following URL:
<http://www.alia.org.au/>

**SAVE YOURSELF
THE TROUBLE OF
TYPING THESE
URLS!**

This column (with associated hyperlinks) is on ALIANet, and has the URL of <http://www.alia.org.au/incite/www/>

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Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please e-mail Kerry Webb at kerry.webb@alianet.alia.org.au or via the ALIA National Office, incite@alia.org.au