

# Students navigate the world of electronic information

## New educational technology access centre opens

Students at the Sydney Institute of Technology can hone their multimedia skills, study up on CD-ROMs, write assignments and print them after hours with the opening of the new Educational Technology Centre at the Sydney Institute of Technology library. The centre, which opened on 7 April, gives students access to the Internet and over ninety CD-ROMs.



(l-r) Beth McLaren, manager of the Sydney Institute of Technology's Ultimo Library branch, Tony Brady, acting Institute director, Jeanne Fehrehbach, director of education planning development, Maryln Hard, manager of library and learning resources, and Dr Bob Frew, acting deputy director of educational programs at the opening of the new centre

A 1995 customer research study showed that students wanted better access to library resources and to computers outside class hours. The centre responded to this demand. The centre has ten Internet PCs, twenty terminals featuring the most commonly used software applications and fifty PCs providing access to multimedia CD-ROMs covering curriculum areas such as art, biology, ecology, electronics, engineering, languages, physics and vocational guidance. The centre also features printing facilities, video- and teleconferencing facilities.

Multimedia is widely regarded as instrumental in expanding our visual, verbal, logical and sequential intelligence thereby helping us to think flexibly, analyse situations and generalise our skills. It is therefore becoming increasingly important in educational settings. Students can get assistance from the professional librarians who will staff the centre during the library's opening hours. Educational Technology Access Centres are planned for other campus libraries within the university so that all students can access information in electronic formats. ■

## Recognising competence

Recognition of prior learning and work and life experience is becoming increasingly important for survival and success in a changing workplace.

As a result of a national project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, ALIA has published *A strategy for the recognition of competence in the library and information services industry at levels 2-5 library assistant and library technician levels*, compiled by Donna Reid, project manager, Canberra Institute of Technology, and Roberta Talbot, Launceston Institute of TAFE. There is also a project report setting out the methodology and testing of the strategy framework.

The *Strategy* sets out, in detail, against industry competency standards, processes by which employees/applicants and their employers can identify prior learning and experience as relevant for identification, assessment and recognition for current educational and employment requirements. Mentoring is an important part of the strat-

egy. Recognition of experiential learning is efficient both for the applicant and for educational institutions, since, as quoted in the beginning of the project report, 'it is a tragic waste of time and money to teach anyone, especially adults, what they already know' [Norman Evans, *Assessing experiential learning: a review of progress and practice*. York: Longman, 1987]. It also enables employees and employers to identify relevant skills which may have been unidentified in conventional assessment. Client service skills, for example may have been acquired through previous unpaid or non-library activities.

A clear description of each phase of the process and the responsibilities of the participants and a selection of varied case-studies are helpful features of the guide.

The *Strategy* is a conveniently loose-leaf publication, available from ALIA national office for \$35 (members and recommended retail price) phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249, e-mail publications@alia.org.au ■



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tion. *Conserving the past for the future* — archives in school libraries. Contact: Ailsa Holmes-Walker, ph 02 9781 3541, ailmuirf@ozemail.com.au.

## Qld

• **3/5 Qld Branch.** Launch of ALW with Hayley Lewis. 11:30am, Alford Place, Toowoomba. Contact: Desley Hanrahan, ph 07 4688 6670.

• **3-9/5 Qld Special Libraries and Library Technician sections.** *Specials and Technicians go west for ALW.* Quiz night in Toowoomba — 8/5. Technicians visit — 9/5. Contact: Helen Pickers, ph 07 3810 6326, helenmp@gil.com.au. RSVP before 20/4.

• **6/5 Qld Special Libraries section.** *Specials monthly committee meeting.* 12:30pm. Corrs Chambers Westgarth. Contact: Kirsteen Thomson, ph 07 3225 1094, fx 07 3224 4353, kirsteen.thomson@premiers.qld.gov.au

• **8/5 Qld Branch.** *Brisbane Librarians and Technicians Go West!* Library Week Quiz night in Toowoomba. Bus to Toowoomba (or carpool). Contact: Helen Pickers, ph 07 3810 6326, helenmp@gil.com.au.

• **9/5 Qld Library Technician section.** *Technicians library week get-together.* Library tour of Uni of Southern Qld, picnic lunch, formal dinner at Picnic Point — the closing function for ALW. Carpooling and discount accommodation planned. Contact: Helen Pickers, ph 07 3810 6326, helenmp@gil.com.au.

• **1-3/6 The Dialog Corporation.** *Update 98: what's happening with Dialog?* Seminars on business, patents, health/medical and sciences. Training courses. Contact: Haydn Glick, ph 02 9299 6767.

• **16/6 Qld Library Technician section.** *Library technician's dinner.* Venue: Skyline restaurant, Cotah. Contact: Peter Shine, ph 07 3244 5980, fx 07 3244 5986, pmshine@uq.net.au.

• **6/5 Qld Special Libraries section.** *Specials monthly committee meeting.* 12:30pm. Corrs Chambers Westgarth. Contact: Kirsteen Thomson, ph 07 3225 1094, fx 07 3224 4353, kirsteen.thomson@premiers.qld.gov.au

## SA

• **28-29/5 The Dialog Corporation.** *Update 98: what's happening with Dialog?* Seminars on business, patents, health/medical and sciences. Training courses. Contact: Haydn Glick, ph 02 9299 6767.

• **Late July SA Special Libraries section.** *New Technology workshop.* Contact: Clare Aitken, ph 08 8303 8859, clarea@cobweb.com.au.

• **Early September SA Special Libraries section.** *Special Libraries dis-*

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