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## The international Year 2000 problem

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find coverage of the Millennium Bug and its effect on libraries. There's plenty of extra information around the Net on this issue, and a good place to start is Peter de Jager's site at <http://www.year2000.com/>. de Jager is an expert on the problem and several years ago wrote an article which explains it pretty well. See <http://www.year2000.com/archive/NFcw-article.html>.

As for Australian information, look at the Australian Government's Year 2000 Home Page at <http://www.Y2K.gov.au/html/index.html>. It is a joint NSW/Federal Government initiative to collect information about the issue.

### New URL for Online99

The website for the *Information Online and On Disk 99* Conference is now at <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/online99/>. There are also links to previous conferences and their proceedings, which is a much better way of publishing them than the indiscriminate use of CD-ROMs.

### High Court citations

The High Court has re-introduced its medium neutral citation system, including paragraph numbers in its decisions. This is in line with its online publishing strategy and the ability to cite cases electronically. Details are at <http://www.hcourt.gov.au/short.htm>.

### Museums and the Web

This conference was held in Toronto late in April, with many of the papers being put on the Web before the conference. See them at <http://www.archimuse.com/mw98/index.html>. The proceedings will also be published on CD-ROM.

### Reggie does metadata

Australia's DSTC has released a Java-based metadata creation tool, Reggie. It supports Dublin Core (in five languages), as well as GILS, ANZLIC, EDNA, AGLS standards. Test it at <http://metadata.net>.

### ...as does Educom

Information about Educom's Instructional Management Systems (IMS) Metadata project can be found at <http://www.imsproject.org/metadata/index.html>. The broader IMS project is aimed at developing a specification and software for managing online learning resources, including people, educational service companies, content, tools, and activities. The Metadata project has so far resulted in the release of a metadata specification and a tool which is a scaled down implementation of the specification. They also have an online forum for discussion of the specification and feedback about the tool.

### Digitisation forum

With the increasing interest in digitisation of li-

brary and museum material, the Commonwealth Department of Communication and the Arts has established the Digitisation Forum Online website, designed to facilitate the flow of information about current and planned digitisation projects and help organisations understand best practice models and benchmarking opportunities. It is part of the Australia's Cultural Network program and can be seen at <http://www.acn.net.au/new/digit.htm>. The site also features a questionnaire designed to gather information about Australian projects involving digitisation.

### Are ROADS big pathways to knowledge?

ROADS is a system that allows organisations to set up subject-based gateways with search facilities and browsable indexes of Internet-based resources, based around one particular subject. It comes in toolkit form so that you can choose what parts of the software you want to use, and which parts may be linked to other gateway software. It's a project from the Access to Networked Resources section of the United Kingdom Electronic Libraries Programme, and has been used in a number of gateway projects in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. You can find a full explanation at <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/roads/what/>.

### Top 100 Australian sites

Ever wondered where people are going on the Web? You'll get some idea from the looking at <http://www.mpx.com.au/~ianw/>. There's a listing of the top 100 Australian and overseas sites visited by Australian users. The compilers note that they don't include .edu sites which they estimate would fill ten places in the list, but the top few include newspapers, search engines (ANZWERS, Yellow Pages and White Pages) and classified advertisements (Fairfax, News and Trading Post).

### AsianDOC

The *Asian Database Online Community Electronic Newsletter* (<http://asiandoc.lib.ohio-state.edu>) in its first two experimental issues (March and June 1998) is testing the use of a web e-newsletter to support scholars, librarians, and researchers worldwide who are developing text and image databases relating to Asian/Eurasian Studies. It will be discussed at the International Convention of Asia Scholars in June this year.

### Hot issues

Joanne Llewellyn from the Public Service and Merit Protection Commission has put together information about knowledge management at her 'hot issues' page at <http://www.psmmpc.gov.au/hi/km.htm>. It starts with a discussion on the nature of knowledge management, then describes government initiatives in the area and forthcoming conferences and seminars, reviews a number of articles on the topic, and finally has links to online resources including electronic magazines and issues papers.

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### New government entry point

I foreshadowed this in February and it is now up and running. After three years of hosting the 'official' federal government entry point, the National Library of Australia has gone into a more formal partnership with the Office of Government Information Technology (OGIT) and AusInfo (formerly the Australian Government Publishing Service) to set up the Australian Commonwealth Government Entry Point at <http://www.fed.gov.au>. It has keyword search facilities across most government websites, a media release service, and a government-wide telephone directory through the GOLD service. There's also the alphabetical list of links to agency pages and to 'what's new' pages of agency sites.

As the originator of the National Library of Australia-based service, I'm pleased to say that this is a great improvement, but more importantly it shows the benefit of an organisation like OGIT getting the commonwealth agencies to co-operate in using standards in designing their sites.

### United Kingdom digitisation report

The United Kingdom Library and Information Commission has published its review of digitisation and digitisation projects in local authority libraries and archives. *Virtually new — creating the digital collection* addresses a key issue in the Commission's strategy to enable a digital library collection in which the country's heritage of intellectual property will be available at the local, regional, national and global level. The executive summary and key recommendations are on the Commission's website at <http://ukoln.ac.uk/services/lic/digitisation>. You can also download the complete report as a Microsoft Word document.

### Long live VIVA!

Last August I wrote about VIVA, the Virtual Library of Virginia and their guidelines for cataloguing electronic resources. The guidelines have recently been revised and can be seen at <http://viva.lib.virginia.edu/~ejs7y/vivacat/Rev3.htm> including examples of how records appear in different OPACS (III, VTLS, Sirsi, DRA, and Notis). Feedback and comments are welcome.

### Your DejaNews

There's a lot of rubbish (some of it very offensive) in newsgroups. But there's also a lot of good information there as well. One example is in looking for help with system problems. If you have trouble with your Windows95 software, a message to [alt.windows95](mailto:alt.windows95) will usually result in a batch of useful suggestions. The problem is that some people don't have access to a news server. The people at DejaNews (<http://www.dejanews.com>) have been addressing this in part by having a huge archive of newsgroup postings with a powerful search

facility. Now they've gone one step further. The 'My DejaNews' feature is a web-based news system that lets you read and post to newsgroups. Very useful indeed.

### QldWeb

The Internet Services Unit at the State Library of Queensland is responsible for QldWeb, an index of Web resources that are about Queensland or which are Australian resources of interest to people living in Queensland. It has a search facility as well as an extensive subject index. See it at <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/qldweb/welcome.htm>.

### Digital images

The editors of the journal *Computers and the humanities* are planning a special issue on the topic of digital images. It will address challenges and opportunities in designing, building, and using digital image collections in the humanities. The full call for papers can be found at <http://httpsrv.ocs.drexel.edu/faculty/goodruaa/special/>.

### More on tech support

Jesse Berst in his AnchorDesk column on ZDNet wrote a recent article on sources for online tech support (see [http://www.zdnet.com/chkpt/adt0402ba/www.anchordesk.com/story/story\\_1943.html](http://www.zdnet.com/chkpt/adt0402ba/www.anchordesk.com/story/story_1943.html)). He listed a few free sources, and also a couple which charged — but not very much. One that looks interesting is ZDNet University which offers online courses in such subjects as personal computer maintenance and troubleshooting. It's at <http://www.zdu.com/>.

### Technology for justice (and not the other way round)

In March 1998, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration ran the *Technology for justice* conference, and the papers started going online almost immediately at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/conferences/techjust/>. This is a worthy endeavour, but there's a warning notice on the site. Apparently the first version of one of the papers was a Word document with the Macro virus. Eternal vigilance and all that. One notable paper was Sandra Davey's on 'Standards for electronic legal information'. It's at <http://www.fl.asn.au/li/stuff/standards.html>.

### Service in the digital library

Bernie Sloan of the library school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has written a research paper titled 'Service perspectives for the digital library' at <http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/~sloan/e-ref.html>. In it he explores the role that librarians should play in such an institution — a role that seems to be ignored in the rush to the digital future. He explores in particular video and e-mail based reference services and suggests a possible model to incorporate the best aspects of both. ■

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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  
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