

Australia Day honours Dedication to library services honoured

Years of commitment and dedication to library services and the promotion of internet use were recognised when Mr Derek Whitehead received an Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent Australia Day honours. Derek is Swinburne University of Technology's Director of Information Resources.

Derek took up his position at Swinburne two years ago following a twenty-five year career at the State Library of Victoria where he held a number of senior positions including deputy state librarian and founding director of VICNET.

Derek received the award for 'service to library and information services, particularly in the areas of acquisitions, collection management and the promotion of internet use, and to the development of multicultural library services in Australia'.

While he doesn't know who nominated him for the OAM, Mr Whitehead said he was naturally honoured that his professional contribution had been recognised at such a high level.

His list of achievements is endless but he is particularly proud of his recent role as chair of the .au Domain Administra-

tion Name Policy Advisory panel set up to develop Australian policy on the assignment of second level domain names, such as com.au and net.au. In April last year, after fourteen months work, the panel produced a complex set of recommendations with the primary purpose of simplifying the rules involved in getting a domain name in Australia.

Derek was the visionary behind the creation of VICNET in 1994. VICNET — <http://www.vicnet.net.au> — has since developed into Australia's largest and busiest community website hosting more than 2000 organisations.

'When the World Wide Web was introduced in 1994 we immediately recognised the huge opportunities it presented, so through the State Library, where I was working at the time, VICNET was created and it is extremely rewarding to see how it has flourished in the ensuing years,' he said.

Derek paid tribute to the many people he had worked with over the years. 'People working in libraries are very collaborative. It has been great working with so many people on so many different things — that is certainly the secret of getting things done.'

The author of more than sixty published books, articles and conference papers, Mr Whitehead received the RD Williamson Award in 2000. This biennial award of the Victoria Association for Library Automation recognises outstanding contribution to the development of IT use in Australian libraries. Derek has made an outstanding contribution to the library and information sector. In 1995 he was awarded the Association's Fellowship, an award conferred on a member who has made a distinguished contribution to the theory or practice of library and information science. Since then, he has continued his work on behalf of the sector, particularly in ensuring equitable access to information, through his membership on a number of federal and state committees and taskforces. Derek is currently convenor of the Association's Online Content Regulation Reference Group.

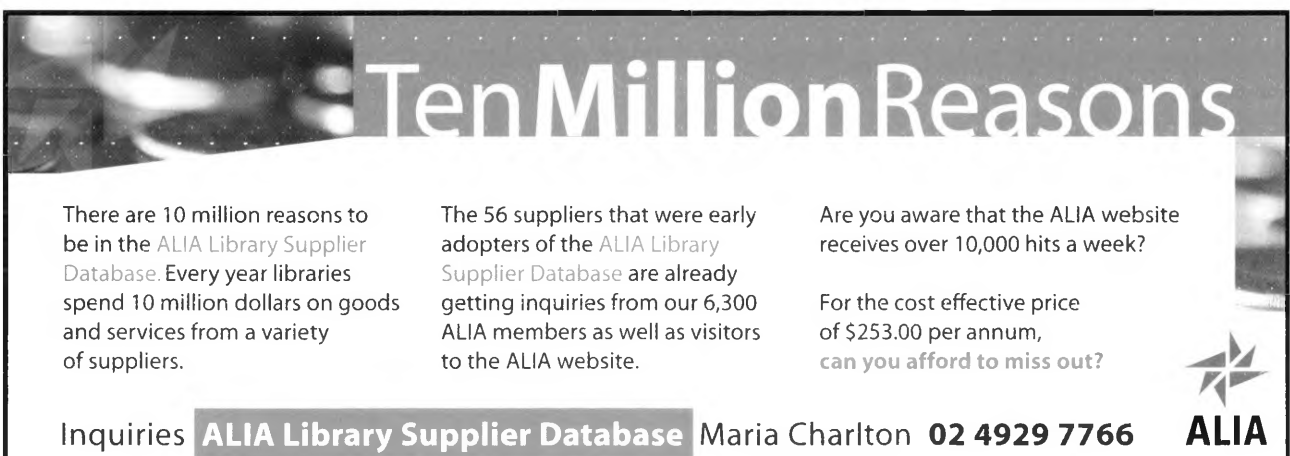
Since his appointment at Swinburne, on-line resources and access to them both on and off site has been Derek's major focus. As the university copyright officer, Derek has also been instrumental in changing Swinburne's status and he believes the new agreement provides Swinburne with greater assurance both financially and legally. ■

New index aids research

A new index has recently been developed to assist Australian scholars and researchers access information contained in more than eighty-two titles and 215 602 records. The Australian Key Journal Index includes both popular and scholarly journal titles. For the first time, scholars will be able to browse online the contents of titles as well known as the Australian Women's Weekly which date back to 1933. Other well-known titles include Business Review Weekly and Australian Book Review.

Access will be provided free-of-charge within Aus-

tralia through the Scholarly Electronic Text and Image Service (SETIS) program of the University of Sydney. The index will be distributed internationally as part of the *Periodicals Contents Index* produced by ProQuest International. The index was co-ordinated and developed by the Australian National University Library together with the University of Adelaide Library, the National Library of Australia and ProQuest International. It has been completed through a grant from the Australian Research Council Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (RIEF) Scheme. ■



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