

## DISTANT STUDENTS AND THE ON-LINE CATALOGUE

In their CTEC-funded study on the needs of external students for reference materials and their attitudes to library services, Andrew Winters and Margaret Cameron found that students expressed strong preference for telephone contact with their home library. Students also said that one of their major problems is knowing what is actually available in their library, present on the shelf, and available for borrowing. The normal library catalogue tells them only what *should* be available, but on-line access to both the catalogue and loans information now makes it possible for staff members to know immediately whether books identified during a search are available for loan. Libraries have found telephone service difficult or impossible because of the additional staff time it requires, but the time saving introduced by the use of on-line catalogues and circulation systems now makes it feasible to re-examine telephone service.

Deakin University Library is conducting a three-month trial investigating the use of its on-line catalogue in servicing external students. The components of the services are a reference librarian, two toll-free telephone lines (one for Victorian students and one for interstaters), a 2-line 'hands free' telephone, a terminal to the on-line catalogue with an attached printer, and various other tools of trade such as a serials list, a microfiche reader for access to the file of books on order and the Deakin Study Guides.

External students can ring between the hours of 5pm to 9pm (Monday to Thursday) or on Sunday afternoons and have a catalogue search (including subject searches) done while they are still on the telephone. Since the terminal also supplies loans status information, the operator is able to advise which books will be prepared the next morning for overnight delivery by the courier service. The primary aim of the trial is not, in fact, to test the on-line catalogue, which has for several years proven very popular with the on-campus students, but to discover the ideal parameters for telephone-based service to external students, and to quantify the effects of increased user convenience on the volume of expected traffic.

A detailed report will be produced at the end of the trial. In the meantime questions can be directed to the project leader Tony Mays.

## New ACI appointment



Helen Kilgair took up the appointment of Marketing Officer, Information Retrieval at ACI Computer Services at the beginning of September. Helen, a graduate in Marketing from Chisholm Institute of Technology, brings to her position both industrial marketing and retail sales experience.

Located at AUSINET headquarters in Mount Waverley, Helen's role is to assist Leigh Baker (Manager, Information Retrieval Services) with the marketing of AUSINET, QUE and ACIMAIL.

## AWA URICA prizewinners



Robyn Collins of the State Library of Queensland was the winner of the AWA URICA competition at the LAA/NZLA conference in Brisbane.

Robyn and an accompanying friend will be the guests of AWA, jetting off to Sydney and Hobart to join in all the fun and spectacle of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

They will see the start of the race first hand from an AWA VIP spectator craft on Sydney Harbour and join in all the traditional festivities.

The following day they will leave for Hobart, to spend a few days exploring Hobart before joining in the excitement and gala functions associated with the finish of this major ocean event.

### 3RD NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CURRENT AND FUTURE URICA DEVELOPMENTS PALM LAKE MOTEL Melbourne

November 29—30, 1984

The AUSTRALASIAN URICA USERS' GROUP  
(VICTORIAN BRANCH)

invites you to a  
2-DAY WORKSHOP

FEE: \$120

(includes lunch for both days  
and the workshop dinner).

The A.W.A. URICA Library System is an integrated set of computer modules covering all the major functions required by libraries namely — acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, enquiry and serials.

Representatives from the user libraries and from AWA will be present.

The number of participants will be limited to 50 to enable all to interrelate with the users, AWA and other participants.

This is your opportunity to become more informed on the current status of the URICA System and converse with users.

Programme and application forms from:

PRESTON COLLEGE OF TAFE,  
Learning Resources Centre, Library,  
St. Georges Road,  
PRESTON. 3072.

(Jan Stewart — (03) 479 3212  
Pat Stewart — (03) 479 3345)

## Inserts

All issues of InCite should contain an insert from Margaret Gee Media Group. Inserts can be sent out with all issues of InCite — contact Jenny Menzies on (02) 692 9233.

## PERFORMING ARTS RESOURCES

A very informal but highly rewarding conference was held at the School of Drama, University of New South Wales on the weekend 15/16 September 1984 on Australasian resources in the performing arts.

The conference, organised by Dr Victor Emeljanow of the University's School of Drama, was called to review as many performing arts collections in Australia and New Zealand as possible. About forty delegates attended, with representatives from Britain, New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland and Victoria: librarians, researchers, academics, writers and publishers were all there.

Jennifer Aylmer, the former curator of the British Theatre Museum gave the keynote address on the long struggle for the establishment of a National Theatre Museum in Britain, from 1957 to 1983.

Papers about various specialised performing arts collections were given. Ralph Bott from the Denis Wolanski Library of the Performing Arts, Sydney Opera House gave the first paper, Margaret Maticka, Dixon Library University of New England spoke on the Campbell Howard Collection of Australian Plays and Margaret O'Hagen, University of Queensland, outlined collections held in the Fryer Library. Arlene Sykes also from the University of Queensland gave details of the Australian Drama Bibliography Project. Elizabeth Naumczyk, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide concentrated on the Allan Wilkie-Frediswyde Hunter-Watts Theatre Collection which was bequeathed to the library in 1976.

The second day's proceedings consisted of talks by Tony Marshall and John Maslen from the State Library of Victoria, Margaret Simpson, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Richard Stone and Pam Ray from the National Library and finally Pam Heckenberg from the School of Drama, University of New South Wales who outlined the difficulties in researching vaudeville and tent shows and the problems associated with oral history.

John Thomson, Head of the Department of English, Victoria University of Wellington brought the conference's attention to the parlous state of performing arts archives and records in New Zealand and to the enormous difficulties faced by researchers in that country.

The salient message of the conference was for those directly involved in the performing arts to remember that they too have a heritage and if Australasian contributions to the realm of the performing arts are to be preserved, theatre companies both large and small should keep and pass on their records to libraries and archives. For librarians it reinforced the knowledge that all too often archives are somehow expected magically to sort themselves and that money is sorely needed to employ qualified archivists to list and annotate them. Researchers, writers and academics were encouraged on more than one occasion to think laterally and to consider archives and sources not necessarily concerned with the performing arts. Also never to forget the rich veins of information that are embedded in the most unlikely country newspaper and in newspaper in general.

It is anticipated that a directory of performing arts resources in Australasia will be produced by Dr Emeljanow in 1985. Any librarian, archivist or researcher with information which could help please write to or phone Dr V. Emeljanow, School of Drama, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington NSW 2033. Tel: 697 4855.

Alan Ventress  
Acting Deputy Social Sciences  
and Humanities Librarian