

FRONTLINE

How white is white



The Commonwealth Government's White Paper on Higher Education (Canberra, Dawkins, July 1988) will have a profound effect on the Northern Territory, and in particular the Top End.

In Darwin, the two major providers of higher education, the Darwin Institute of Technology and the University College of the Northern Territory, will combine to form the first Northern Territory University, effective as from 1 January 1989.

As is happening with educational amalgamations throughout Australia, the libraries in each institution will be faced with major administrative, systems, holdings and service changes. Staff at all levels will be stretched to their limits to ensure staff and students receive minimum disruption of services.

In fact, the next few months will be useful as a time of review — maybe an appropriate time to make changes for the better — and a chance for all staff to utilise both their librarianship knowledge and experience.

But, back to the White Paper for a moment. Its contents have generated much discussion and many articles in the national press. Sadly, there has been little mention of the role and importance of higher education libraries, and even less reaction has been sighted by this author. Does this mean that the librarians and their clientele are contented with what they already have, or unaware of the insignificant treatment they have been given, or just apathetic? It is not too late — I

suggest you read the White Paper carefully — and then express your concerns about your libraries to your senior administration and policy-making bodies. With higher education in a state of some turmoil, those areas not making their voice heard will be passed over, and after all, aren't libraries the key to learning?

Mike Friganiotis
President
LAA, NT Branch

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Correction Elections 1988

The election brochure and ballot paper for the 1988 election of Vice-President (President Elect) and members of the Board of Education distributed with *InCite* no.17, 7 October, incorrectly refers to Margareta Nicholas, a nominee for the Board of Education, as Margaret Nicholas.

Margareta is database manager, South Australian CAE Library. The Association apologises for this error.

Industrial Forum 88

It is not too late to register for Industrial Forum 88 which is to be held at Queens College, Melbourne University on Thursday, 17 November and Friday, 18 November 1988. Industrial Forum 88 aims to bring library staff, library management and union officials together to discuss some of the major industrial issues facing libraries now and in the future.

Jenny Koran, ACTU industrial officer, will give the opening address on trends in Australian industrial relations such as the new wage fixing guidelines, the trend to union amalgamations and progress in the campaign to gain improved salaries in traditionally female professions.

A panel of speakers from unions representing different library sectors will provide an overview of industrial issues concerning the library staff they represent. These matters will be discussed further in workshop sessions on the second day of the forum. Other issues to be addressed will be broadbanding, the status of the profession, salaries for library staff compared with other professions, coping with cut-backs and staff shortages and industrial issues facing library technicians.

This seminar should be of value to all library staff. The cost for the two days is \$75. Registration forms were included in *InCite* no 15, 19 September. However, additional forms are available from Louise Lansley at LAA Head Office.

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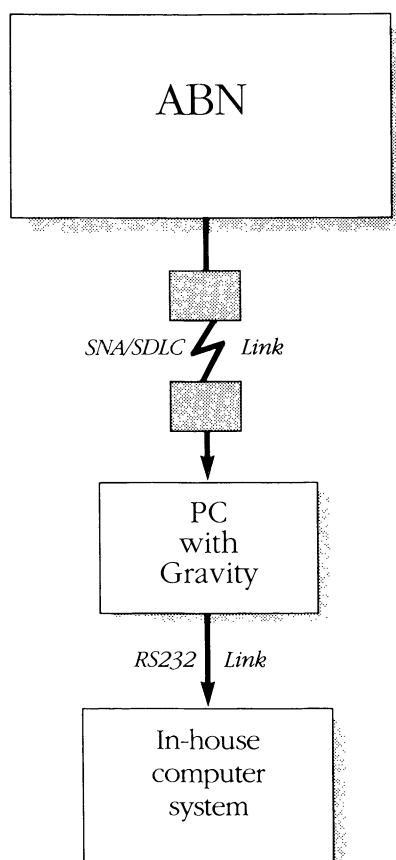
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