

# IN THE



## et's interconnect

The National Library's Working Group on Library Systems Interconnection will meet in Adelaide on 26 June, to coincide with meetings of the ABN Network Committee and ABN Users later in the week.

The Working Group is composed of representatives of major libraries, consortia, information services and systems suppliers. It has responsibility for disseminating information about trends in communications between libraries and information services, and for coordinating developments in the implementation of interconnection standards, especially OSI.

The Group meets twice a year. The 26 June meeting will be held in the Seminar Room at the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide at 2 pm. For more information, contact **Kerry Webb at the National Library (062) 62 1535**, or **Susan Ball at the State Library of South Australia (08) 223 8717**.

## New CSIRO titles

The CSIRO Library Network has recently examined the impact of 1989 cancellations and new titles in relation titles held by about 150.

CSIRO has placed orders for 230 new titles. While fifty of these are held in more than five other Australian libraries, the majority do not appear to be held elsewhere.

Lists of cancelled and new titles have been distributed to the National Library, ACLIS, CAUL, ALCAE and the University Librarians. Other libraries wishing to obtain copies may contact **Philip Kent (03) 418 7382**.

## 1989 ABA

### Conference and Trade Fair

Invitations to exhibit at the 65th Australian Booksellers' Association Trade Fair have been mailed to more than 1000 potential exhibitors. The Trade Fair will be held in conjunction with the Association's Annual Conference on 12-14 September at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

The Darling Harbour Centre provides an exciting new venue for exhib-

itors and conference participants alike, and it is expected that a record number of visitors will attend.

This year's Conference program takes a new direction. Seminar leaders will be drawn from within the book trade and the emphasis will be on information sharing and the exchange of ideas. It is expected that a number of high-profile speakers will take part in the author breakfast and lunch program. A final list of speakers, including the keynote speaker, will be released next month. For further information contact: **Sue Girling-Butcher (03)307 5422**.

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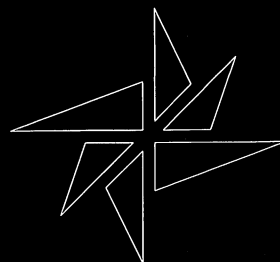
## 5th National Library Technicians Conference

With 2 months to go, the Conference Committee reports great interest in the 5th National Library Technicians Conference.

Trade exhibitors already signed up include Bennett-EBSCO, Baker & Taylor, JMLS Ltd (formerly John Menzies), the International Subscription Agency and ALIA.

Sponsors include Peter Pal Library Supplier, Bennett-EBSCO, Baker & Taylor and the Australian Government Publishing Service (AGPS).

If you have not already registered, the Conference Committee urges you to do so! The Committee — and all Queensland Library Technicians — look forward to welcoming you to the Sunshine State in July.



# THE METCALFE MEDALLION



John Metcalfe was responsible for establishing the basis of the profession of librarianship in Australia and was the dominating influence in the profession in this country until his retirement in the 1960s. John Metcalfe and his contribution to librarianship and library education are commemorated by the Australian Library & Information Association through the Metcalfe Medallion.

The award is for the most outstanding essay or other piece of work on any topic in the areas of librarianship, information science or archives administration, submitted by a student undertaking a first award in librarianship or archives administration.

Students are invited to submit entries for this award. There is no specified form or style of entry - essay, AV or other items may be submitted. They should be pieces of work of publishable or reproducible standard.

For further information contact:

Membership & Division Services Manager  
Australian Library & Information Association  
376 Jones Street  
Ultimo, NSW 2007  
Phone (02) 692 9233 or (008) 22 1481 (toll free)  
or the Head of your School or  
Department of Librarianship

# Private law libraries\*

A relative new-comer to the law-library field is the private law firm library. This has grown as a result of the inability of the existing academic, court and institutional libraries to provide very specific, detailed information quickly enough to satisfy the needs of the profession.

More and more firms are recognising the value of having a library of their own, often investing in it very heavily: in the larger firms a staff of up to six and a yearly acquisition budget of more than \$200 000 are not uncommon.

The computerised legal database is one reason for the legal profession's growth of interest in library services. In Australia as elsewhere, the arrival of LEXIS or CLIRS services has led legal firms of quite modest size to add the office of law librarian to their establishments. This is likely to push law librarians even further into the area of information specialists: CLIRS, particularly, aims to include access to all sorts of

financial, business and administrative data as well as unreported case law, which is often unavailable for general distribution in print.

The eventual effect of computerised legal information systems can only be guessed at. They will be a remarkable asset to firms and others engaged in legal practice and may well help to reduce the need for large collections of books.

In teaching and research the posi-

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tion is less clear, but for the next decade CLIRS and others are likely to remain largely very fast indexes to a law collection, rather than replace the collection itself. They will also provide access to a great deal of information previously not available. How much they are used outside legal practice will depend, among other factors, on their price.

As the computer databases develop, so will the profession of legal information broker — law graduates and/or

librarians who have the courage, or the capital, to set themselves up as specialist legal research workers. It could also lead to more university libraries setting up user-pays information services.

Given the weight of the problems in both the universities and the National Library, the immediate future for the more public law collections and services in Australia does not look bright. Great improvements are necessary. Even today, not a single law library in Australia reaches the figure of 250 000 titles for a comprehensive research library mentioned in the Martin and AULSA reports. The National Library comes closest with 135 000 (1981 figure). In 1984 only three of our universities exceeded 100 000 titles. In Canada, with smaller enrolments and a generally less-isolated environment, ten exceeded 100 000 and four 150 000.

We must go forward, but at the moment too many of us are struggling to hold on to what we have. At this stage the source of funding for the next advance is not apparent.

Richard Finlay  
Law Librarian  
University of Adelaide

\* This item is a continuation of the *Law Libraries* article featured in *InCite* of 24 April 1989. The Managing Editor apologises for the omission from the earlier article.

that academics should be involved in the process and that it is essential to exhibit potential 'corpses' before final decisions are made.

The last speaker was Kathy Grgic, Serials Librarian at the Brisbane College of Advanced Education. Kathy outlined the four stages of implementation of the serials module of URICA at BCAE, i.e. software evaluation; data collection on worksheets; data entry; retrospective accessioning and invoice processing. She discussed the effects of introducing structure (logical computer-processing functions) into a highly unstructured environment (serial publishing). Kathy concluded by raising some management issues and implications of automating serials, e.g. improved management control; improvement in the access to, and level of, information for the end user.

The lively panel discussion that ended the seminar demonstrated that the large audience found all the papers stimulating and interesting.

Anne Whyte  
Treasurer



From 5...

### ALDIS now UMI distributor

ALDIS Pty Ltd, leading Australian CD-ROM supplier, has been appointed distributor of University Microfilms International (UMI) CD-ROM products. UMI is a world leader in microfilm products for libraries.

ALDIS, an associate company of CLSI (Australia) Pty Ltd, has been selling and supporting CD-ROM products since 1985. ALDIS is currently distributor for SilverPlatter and the Library Corporation. The addition of UMI products brings the total number of CD-ROM databases available from ALDIS to more than thirty.



From 13...

It should offer recognition of one's professional expertise from the employing organisation and from professional and management personnel in other fields. It also affords the opportunity to communicate to colleagues the importance of library and information services for the rest of the organisation.

Future detailed accounts will outline graduate courses on offer at institu-

tions throughout the country. The following institutions offer Master's programs:

- Canberra College of Advanced Education
- Curtin University of Technology
- Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education
- Monash University
- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
- South Australian Institute of Technology
- University of Tasmania.

Ann Foady

Professional Development Officer

## HEALTH INFORMATION

### NEW DIRECTIONS

12-16 November 1989 Auckland, New Zealand  
Joint Conference, Health Library Sections  
Australian Library and Information Association New Zealand Library Association  
Registration forms are being sent out now. If you do not receive one, but wish to attend the Conference, please contact M. Gibson Smith, Philson Library, School of Medicine, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.