ADLUG founded

Yet another acronym has hit Australian librarianship! The Australian users of IBM's Dobis/Libis integrated library management software have formed a national user group. ADLUG (Australian Dobis/Libis Users' Group Incorporated) was formed to provide a means for users of the system to discuss and share their successes and difficulties, to make Australian needs known nationally and internationally, and to help promote the product in this country.

Dobis/Libis runs on IBM (and compatible) mainframe computers. It has many strong features, particularly in the areas of library networking, acquisitions, serials control, cataloguing, and multi-user information access.

The number of central Dobis/Libis sites in Australia is relatively small, but includes some large library consortia. Members of ADLUG are:

- The Northern Territory Library Service (networking to libraries of all types throughout the Territory);
- Technilib public library network in Victoria;
- ASCIS (Australian Schools Catalogue Information Service);
- The ACT Schools Authority;
- Ferntree Computer Corporation (formerly ACI Computer Services);
- The Western Australian Ministry of Education;

- The Health Department of Western Australia's network of health libraries and corporate documents information service;
- The Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health library network;
- National Australia Bank libraries;
- The State Bank of Victoria library;
- The AMP Society library.

There are, therefore, hundreds of Australian libraries and information services using Dobis/Libis in Australia through their participation in a library network. In addition, many sites take advantage of the capacity of the system to be accessed through large IBM-compatible computer networks, and via dial-in access. Individual users with direct access to the system throughout Australia now number in the several thousands.

Members of ADLUG are happy to provide system details and demonstrations to interested libraries and information services.

Anyone wishing to know more about ADLUG or the Dobis/Libis system is welcome to contact Ruthi Urbach, Secretary, ADLUG Inc., PO Box 2390, Richmond South, Vic. 3121. The next national meeting of ADLUG is in Melbourne on 16 November, after the VALA Conference.

Best paper award

ongratulations to Dr Anne Clyde, pictured, Department of Library and Information Studies, Western Australia College of Advanced Education. Anne has won this year's *The Electronic Library* Best Paper Award for her paper entitled 'Online information services in schools', which appeared in the *The Electronic Library* 6(2), April 1988, pp. 126–34.

An international panel, comprising David Raitt, Martha Williams, Blaise Cronin, Ching-chih Chen, Neil McLean and David Murray, judged the twenty or so papers appearing in *TEL* during 1988 (the first year of the Award) on various criteria, including originality, topicality, content, suitability, substance, style and layout.

The runners-up included Andrew Buxton for his paper 'JANET and the librarian' (August); Pat Baird for her paper 'HyperCard opens an electronic window on Glasgow' (October); and

Cliff McKnight *et al* for their paper 'The construction of hypertext documents and databases (October).

The Award is sponsored by GEAC Computers. It has a value of £1000, and is intended to allow the winner to travel to either the International Online Information Meeting in London in December or the National Online Meeting in New York in May to receive a commemorative plaque and to present an updated version of the paper.

Lobbying success

Not only has there been jubilation (and weeping) following the change of government in Tasmania, but some sensible decisions have been emerging from the new Government, which have probably pleased all. One of the latter is that the Tasmanian Government has, in this year's budget, removed the $1 reservation fee imposed by the previous government.

It would have been much more satisfactory if the former Gray Government had abolished it, as this would have involved an acceptance that it had been a mistake to impose the fee; that the fee had failed to raise the revenue which was the justification for its introduction; and that it had effectively choked off an important service provided by the State Library to the Tasmanian public.

The Tasmanian Branch had taken the attitude that this particular fee was at variance with our understanding of the concept of a 'free library service' as it was imposed for all requests, including those satisfied from within the Branch's own stock. The fight for the abolition of the fee was the focus of a campaign mounted by the Branch, as well as becoming part of the Branch's lobbying effort.

As part of the campaign, the Tasmanian Branch and the Northern Regional Group of ALIA wrote letters to the Premier, Ministers and the press, and we encouraged members of the public to join us in this effort. We were assisted by letters sent by Presidents Alan Bundy (in 1988) and Averill Edwards (during this year); and a number of other Branches of the Association added their voice.

In discussion with the former Minister, Peter Ray, the Labor Opposition Spokesman, Greg Peart, and the two Independents, Bob Brown and Gerry Bates, strong representations regarding the fee were made by the Branch. We were in fact reasonably optimistic that the fee would be removed in time. However, the State elections took place, causing a change in Government. Of the sitting members we had been lobbying, only the Independents survived.

The Budget did increase the fines for overdue books, which the Branch has no difficulty with, as these are totally avoidable charges.

Peter Cohen
President
ALIA Tasmanian Branch