

The ABN column

ABN's tenth birthday

ABN is 10 years old on 2 November, and ABN users around Australia are being invited to join in the celebrations. The activities will include:

- a week's free use of ABN Supersearch from 4-8 November;
- presentation of certificates to the 47 libraries that joined ABN in its first year;
- functions in most capital cities, organised by ABN User Groups;
- a reception at the National Library, to be attended by the members of the original ABN Network and Standards Committees, the current members of those committees, and past and present ABN staff.

Readers who attend any of the State or Territory User Group functions may be photographed for *inCite* — what greater incentive to attend could there be?

ABN and OZLINE redevelopment

Two consultants have begun work on finalising the Request for Information (RFI) for the redevelopment of the ABN and OZLINE systems. The RFI will be issued in late September or early October. It has been framed broadly; the National Library intends to accept expressions of interest from software developers, systems integrators and suppliers of library management systems, as well as providers of library network services.

The next milestone in the project will



by Linda Groom

be the February meeting of the National Library Council, at which a decision will be made on whether the project should move to the Request for Tender stage.

Interlibrary loans

The ABN interlibrary loans module has been in the spotlight lately. On 12 August, phase two of the ABN interlibrary loan module went into production, with a new request updating facility which is of particular benefit to large supplying libraries, and printed reports which analyse everything from request turnaround time to which class numbers are requested most by a library.

On top of that, two proposals for cooperative enhancements are under negotiation. A proposal to establish an interface between the ABN ILL module

and ILANET was endorsed in principle by the ABN Network Committee in July and is being discussed with the State Library of New South Wales. A proposal to set up an 'electronic voucher' system, for those ILL requests that are made via ILANET or ABN, is being discussed by ACLIS.

Farewell AUSMARC4

One of the surprise outcomes of the ABN Annual User Meeting, held in Brisbane in July, was an overwhelming vote in favour of converting from the AUSMARC3 standard to USMARC, rather than upgrading to AUSMARC4. This represented a change in direction from a survey of libraries in 1990, which found that most AUSMARC users supported the adoption of USMARC in the long term but that 60 per cent said they would still wish to upgrade to AUSMARC4 before converting to USMARC.

After the vote at the User Meeting, programming and the printing of the new edition were suspended while the issue was reviewed by the National Library.

The review came to completion on 13 September, with the decision by the library to proceed no further with AUSMARC4. The AUSMARC3 standard will be re-issued with some changes: new formats for manuscripts and machine-readable data files will be added, and all the formats will be integrated. The revised AUSMARC3 will be supported by the National Library until any ABN redevelopment is completed. □

International Association for Sports Information meets in Beijing

Sport Information is a topic of increasing interest around the world, with increasing professionalism in sport, greater media coverage, the development of sports-oriented professional groups such as sports psychologists, sports nutritionists and the proliferation of academic courses relating to sport at all levels of education.

The International Association for Sports Information (IASI) was founded in Rome in 1970. It is a non-profit international body whose goals are to stimulate, support and develop activities in the field of information for physical education and sport. IASI brings together a world-wide network of scientists, documentalists, librarians, information experts and managers of sport information and documentation centres.

It has members from 44 countries and maintains close links with many other national and international organisations and institutions such as libraries,

information centres, sports organisations, physical education colleges and sports institutes.

IASI's major activities include:

- the publication of a bi-monthly *International Bulletin of Sports Information*;
- participation in the development of the international database SPORT (to which Australia is the largest international contributor);
- organisation of scientific congresses and meetings of experts in the field of sport information;
- establishment of regional groups on all continents for local participation;
- training in the use of a world-wide sports database;
- topical biographies on sport and physical education;
- publications and guides to improve access to international sport information;
- advice on the planning, operation and development of information and

documentation centres;

- exchange of experiences with a broad network of information experts.

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee of IASI was held recently in Beijing, hosted by the Chinese Institute for Sport Information. The meeting was attended by Nerida Clarke of the National Sport Information Centre (Australian Sports Commission), who is the Regional Vice-President of IASI for Oceania. The meeting discussed a range of issues including the establishment of systems for the development of sport information in the Asian and Pacific Region.

The World Congress of IASI, on 'Sport Information in the Nineties', will be held in Rome 7-10 June 1993. For more information about IASI contact Nerida Clarke, Australian Sports Commission, PO Box 176, Belconnen, ACT 2616, telephone (06) 252 1204. □