

The N Strategy

Jeff Kirkus-Lamont introduces strategic planning the Kiwi way

FOLLOWING ON from the Australian Library Summit and the White House Conferences, the New Zealand Library Association and the National Library of New Zealand are now addressing the key strategic issues facing the New Zealand library and information industry in the next 5-7 years.

The project, named *The N Strategy*, provides a means for librarians and information workers to address the impact of widespread and fundamental changes in New Zealand society. It is also an opportunity to re-affirm the alliances and cooperation which have been the basis of progress to date.

The N Strategy process is founded on the principles of widespread and democratic consultation (including users and funders of services); consensus decision-making; expression of the bicultural nature of New Zealand; and the production of clearly defined, measurable actions to address the issues. The key issues being addressed by *The N Strategy* are:

- development of networks and resource sharing strategies;
- developing and coordinating collections;
- the cost of services and who bears this cost;
- accountability to users;
- the role of libraries in education and life long learning;
- the impact of information technology on access to information, methods of delivery, and information work;
- the Treaty of Waitangi and its influence on libraries (This treaty of 1840 established a partnership between European settlers and Maori);
- marketing of libraries and information services;
- access to libraries and information services;
- the public good/private good issue.

In June 1992 representatives of users and funders of libraries and information services met to discuss their future needs and their views on actions to address these needs.

During August the issues were debated throughout New Zealand and recommendations for specific actions were formulated. These actions will be debated, agreed upon and prioritised at *The N Strategy: Actions for Prosperity* Conference to be held in Nelson in October 1992. The result will be an agreed strategic action plan for New Zealand libraries and information services.

The N Strategy is being undertaken in association with Ameritech and Bell Atlantic New Zealand, who have sponsored the project for NZ\$90 000 over a three year period. This is the largest sponsorship the national Library of New Zealand and the New Zealand Library Association have been involved in. Ameritech and Bell Atlantic, two of the largest telecommunications companies in the US, are major shareholders in the New Zealand company Telecom.

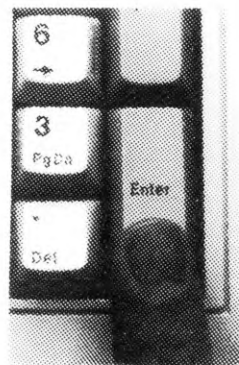
Further information on *The N Strategy* may be obtained from *The N Strategy Working Group*, Box 696, Wellington, New Zealand. ■

▶ The book has a bibliography by Joan Jensen, of great value, especially to non-librarians trying to find further information on these matters.

Australian Tertiary Libraries: Issues for the 1990s, ed. Colin Steele. Library Challenges Series no 3. Adelaide: Auslib Press, 1992. 156pp. \$34+\$4 p&cp. ISBN 1-875135-13-3 (Available from the publisher, PO Box 622, Blackwood, SA 5051) Robert Barnes is a Senior Lecturer in Classics at the ANU, and Secretary of the Friends of the ANU Library. His review is reprinted with kind permission from The ANU Reporter, 26 August 1992. ■

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