

Feedback

Librarians riding a new wave

John Frylinck believes that libraries' investments in new technology should come together in a national agenda

INTERACTIVE Multimedia (IMM) is the latest wave of information technology making an impact on libraries. John Frylinck, Curtin University of Technology Public Services Librarian, defines IMM as a merging on the computer of music, voice, still pictures, animation and full motion video—integrated and merged in such a way as to have the potential to revolutionise the learning environment.

A number of librarians participated in an International IMM Symposium held recently in Perth. John, with Paul Katris, a Graduate Assistant at Curtin, presented a paper on the potential role of libraries in the IMM field, reporting on attitudes toward IMM among Australian tertiary libraries and describing user reaction to the CD-ROM network at Curtin.

The last day of the Symposium was devoted to the discussion of a National Agenda for IMM. At short notice, Ted Chrisfield, Audio-visual Services Librarian at La Trobe and John Frylinck, in consultation with other librarians

present, prepared a draft statement on libraries and IMM. Their statement will be refined by a committee chaired by Professor Bob Ross (Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching at Griffith University). Following further comment by delegates, it will be widely distributed to relevant politicians, government departments, educational institutions and other interested bodies, highlighting the role of libraries in IMM. The draft text reads:

'When compiling the National IMM Agenda, the pivotal role libraries play in the information industry should not be underestimated.'

Librarians have always been in the information business. It must be stressed that libraries house information resources irrespective of format. They provide free and equitable access to this information.

Many libraries already have substantial investments in non-print material and associated hardware. In the CD-ROM field in particular, libraries have been leaders.

Libraries exist in all areas of learning,

both casual and formal and are ideal for:

- raising awareness of IMM;
- promoting IMM use;
- collecting IMM material which supports education, training, life-long learning and so forth;
- assisting users to successfully exploit this media.

In conclusion, libraries provide an ideal focal point to raise awareness of IMM and its possibilities. Librarians, as information professionals, will be able and enthusiastic agents for IMM promotion and will happily collaborate with other groups in this exciting new field.'

The IMM National Agenda has not yet been finalised and there is still time for you to contribute. Anyone wishing to comment on the above statement or make an input to the discussion can do so via a participant at the symposium or directly to John Frylinck at Curtin Library: Phone (09) 351 7629, Fax (09) 351 2424.

Irene Wormell to visit CUT

CURTIN UNIVERSITY will be host to Professor Irene Wormell, of the Royal Danish School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen, from 7 September to 4 October.

Professor Wormell heads the Department of Design and Implementation of Specialised Information Services. This Department cooperates with industry and commerce in initiating and conducting research projects. In addition it runs educational programmes for library/information professionals employed in Danish and European companies.

Irene Wormell is currently the editor of *Libri*. She serves as a senior consultant to UNESCO. Her main expertise is in the area of information retrieval theory and practice, and she has published extensively in these fields.

She will run seminars and workshops during her stay at Curtin. Dr Gulsten Wagner, School of Information and Library Studies, Curtin University of Technology, GPO Box U-1987, Perth, WA 6001 has details of her program. Tel: (09) 3517491; Fax: (09) 3513251

SUSA joins the NUC



Almost 60 interlibrary staff attended a function recently at The Levels Campus Library to launch the University of South Australia's new NUC symbol, SUSA. This was the culmination of months of hard work in combining the catalogues of SACAE and SAIT, the two organisations from which the new university was formed. The new NUC symbol is a milestone in the evolution of the State's newest University Library (see also Who's Where in this issue).