

# Focus sessions at *Strait to the future*

Chris Richardson, publicity convenor

Last month (*inCite* June, p31) we highlighted some of the focus sessions planned for *Strait to the future*. This month we would like to explain further how the focus sessions will be structured.

Focus sessions represent a new approach for the Specials, Law and Health Librarians conference. They are loosely-based on a theory known as open-space technology. Underpinning the idea of these sessions is the democratic notion that delegates have as much to offer in the way of ideas, opinions and experience as those delivering papers. We are sure you will agree that this conference has the possibility of being much richer if this wealth of knowledge can be tapped.

Imagine that focus sessions are a marketplace for information, in much the same way that the Web is. You have the same freedom to join and leave these sessions as you do with electronic lists on the 'net. Focus sessions will be round-table discussions. They

will usually begin with short presentations and they will be facilitated. A scribe will note down the points that come out of the discussion and these will be printed and made available to all delegates. A timespan of one and a half hours has been allocated, but discussion will simply conclude when those involved feel the desire to move on.

While in practice these might appear to be loosely-structured discussions, they require considerable pre-planning. Their success will ride as much with us — the organisers, as with you — the delegates. We hope you will give them your support, take up the opportunity to share your insights with others, and walk away far richer for the experience.

To register to attend a focus session, mark the relevant box on the provisional program section of the registration form. If you have any ideas for additional focus sessions, fill in the relevant part of the registration form. ■



## *The single source for electronic serials*

Growing numbers of electronic journals bring with them new challenges for library managers and end users. SwetsNet is a major new service, providing a single source for accessing a broad range of publishers' electronic titles.

### SwetsNet provides you with:

- access to the full text of 1500 journals, abstracts from 2000 journals, TOCs from 14000 journals
  - search capabilities
  - alerting functions
    - SDI
    - filing cabinet
  - access by IP recognition
- linking in from OPAC from abstracting and indexing
- linking out to other electronic services and to document delivery services
  - statistics on usage



Swets Subscription Service  
22 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051  
Tel: +61 (0)3 9326 5366, Freephone: 1800 644 203, Fax +61 (0)3 9326 9808, NZ Freefax: 0800 44 5363  
Email: info@swets.com.au Internet: www.swets.nl

