Strategic plan in action

Helen Hayes, president of CAUL outlines innovative projects underway

In March 1999 CAUL adopted a new strategic plan. Since then progress has been made on many aspects of the plan. ALIA members may find the following interesting.

Improve opportunities for cost-efficient purchase and licensing of electronic information resources through CEIRC (the CAUL Electronic Information Resources Committee). New agreements with Chemical Abstracts Service, the American Mathematical Society, the Association for Computing Machinery, Lexis-Nexis and ISA-RoweCom Australia have been concluded. CEIRC is currently negotiating its participation in the consortium led by Solinet for access to McGraw-Hill's AccessScience. CEIRC is also reviewing its intra-consortium cost-sharing models.

Establish a framework and develop a business model for a national universities borrowing scheme. An issues paper and a summary of current reciprocal borrowing schemes have been prepared.

Develop a business plan and funding model for a national co-operative digital and archive store linking regional stores under a common management and technical structure. Agreement has been reached with the two regional stores, CAVAL and SAUL, to work with them on national protocols. The working name of the proposed entity is Research Resources Australia.

Develop subject gateways for information access and delivery through collaborative development. The following gateways have been established: http://metachem.ch.adfa.edu.au/; http://www.agrigate.edu. au/; http://avel.library.uq.edu.au/.

Assess the feasibility of a co-operative approach to collection development and re-source sharing for university and other major research libraries (Janus Project). Phase I of the program highlighted the complexity of the national research library network, and difficulty of mapping the multitude of discrete but connected activities into an overarching business model for research libraries. Phase II of the project will consequently not proceed, and CAUL is reviewing options to proceed with the strategy in more easily digestible chunks.

Investigate the feasibility of an Australian university library portal to facilitate resource sharing and collaborative collection development. A small working group is reviewing technological options and international developments in personal information environments to support an Australian Research Library Network (ARLN). See http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/elim/espace.htm.

Evaluate options for a national authentication system which will permit students and researchers to access authorised information and databases with a single sign-on. Work is about to begin on a prototype which will require minimal intervention in institutional authentication systems, and minimal work on the part of information providers.

Provide improved access to Australian theses. Seven university libraries have collaborated in a RIEF funded project, Australian Digital Theses, to develop a distributed database of Australian digital theses. From 1 July 2000, CAUL will take on the overall responsibility for the service and the other Australian universities will be invited to participate. [http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/thesis.html]

The full report on the CAUL strategic plan is at http://www.caul.edu.au/caul-doc/strpln99final.html. ∎

The ALIA Awards for Innovation

Sponsored by Library Locums

Selection panels have convened, comprising of representatives from ALIA and Library Locums to assess the applications and to recommend winners of the Awards. Nominations were not received in the categories of health and school libraries. The winners of the 2000 ALIA Awards for Innovation, as recommended by the selection panels, are:

Academic Libraries — **Griffith University, Mt Gravatt Library, Ergonomic Checkin System.**

Law Libraries — **joint winners: Colin Fong, University of NSW, Faculty of Law, 'Show me the Way: a pathfinder for legal academics and students', and Blake Dawson Waldron, Review of Library Services and Nationalisation.**

Public Libraries — **Moreland City Council, The Moreland Reading Project.**

Special Libraries — **David Tan, Coles Myer Research, Internal Consulting Service, collection management, database and systems design, and information management solutions.**

• **11/7 Vic Branch**. *AGM, guest speaker: Mairéad Browne,* ALIA president. Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne, 5:30 for 6pm. Further details tba. For enquiries contact: Trevor Wakely, ph 03 9669 4301, t.wakely@bom.gov.au

• **15/7–14/10 Vic School Libraries section**. *Committee meeting.* Statewide Resource Centre, 217 Church Street, Richmond, 9:30am, all members welcome. 15/7; 19/8; 14/10. Contact: Anne Girolami, ph 03 9851 1550, fx 03 9851 1555, mareeanne@bigpond.com

• **21/7 Ballarat Province Regional Group**. *Benchmarking workshop.* This workshop will introduce participants to benchmarking as a method of measuring and improving library services. Late afternoon. *Bookings essential* contact: Liz Hartmann, ph 03 5327 9591, l.hartmann @ballarat.edu.au

• **7/8 Home Library Service SIG meeting**. St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, 10am. Contact: Kinta Walker.

• **21/9 Ballarat Province Regional Group**. *State Library Victoria visit.* tbc. Contact: Liz Hartmann, ph 03 5327 9591, l.hartmann@ballarat.edu.au

• **2/10 Home Library Service SIG meeting**. Caulfield Public Library, Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield, 10am. Contact: Julie Thomas.

• **14/10 Vic School Libraries section**. *Electronic Technologies.* For further information contact: Anne Girolami, ph 03 9851 1550, fx 03 9851 1555, mareeanne@bigpond.com

• **18/11 Vic School Libraries section**. *AGM.* Statewide Resource Centre, 217 Church Street, Richmond, 9:30am, all members welcome. Contact: Anne Girolami, ph 03 9851 1550, fx 03 9851 1555, mareeanne@bigpond.com

WA

• **7/6–6/12 WA Children's and Youth Services section**. *Committee meeting.* The more the merrier! Brass Monkey in Northbridge, 6:30pm. 7/6; 5/7; 2/8; 6/9; 4/10; 6/12. For further information contact: Hilary Hatfield, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9411 3493, hilaryh@cockburn.wa.gov.au

• **8/6 WA Health Libraries section**. *General meeting.* Health Department of WA, Amenities Area-Canteen, Seminar room 3, 189 Royal Street, Perth, 5:30 for 6pm start. *RSVP by 5/6 to:* Saing Chou Iv, ph 08 9222 2480, fx 08 9222 4343, saingchou.iv@health.wa.gov.au

• **12/6–12/11 WA Branch**. *Council meeting.* LISWA, Room 2.9. 12/6; 10/7; 14/8; 11/9; 9/10; 12/11. Contact: Tracy Gerritsen, ph 08 9272 1267, tracy@eon.net.au

• **13/6–12/12 WA Public Libraries section**. *Committee meeting,* all mem-