

ASSIG in Brisbane

The ASSIG seminar *Serials 2000 — changes in the new millennium* held in Brisbane in July was a most successful day attended by nearly seventy delegates.

Jocelyn Priddey as keynote speaker set the scene for the day in her presentation entitled 'Serials life after the 1st of July 2000'. For a moment we were transported back to 1990 — life with serials was much less complex then compared to the issues we need to manage today, including the latest complexity of the GST. In her words of wisdom Jocelyn reminded us that we had recently survived Y2K and so we shall survive GST. Paul Reekie from CSIRO followed the opening address and took us through the changes and implications that GST has brought to the serials publishing industry. Paul will be remembered for adding the word *GSTable* to our vocabulary.

Following morning tea Karen Dixon from the Australian Taxation Office and Tom Marshall from Customs Tax Re-

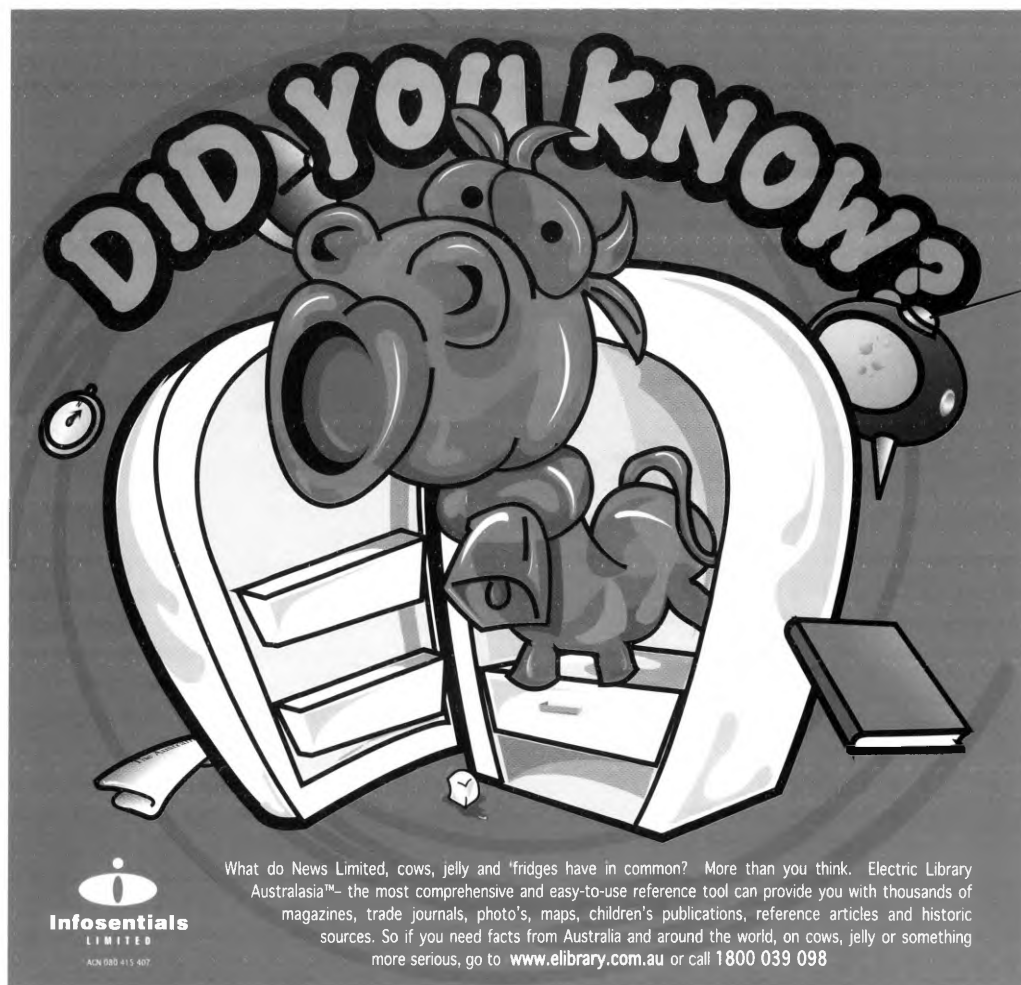
form gave an excellent overview of the GST and its effect upon serials pricing and customs implications for journals arriving from overseas. This session certainly was the highlight of the day as the audience fired questions from all directions at these experts. Over lunch it was particularly heartening to hear that representatives from the serials trade also benefited from this session and that the information was timely and pertinent to them.

The afternoon session was specifically designed to allow the four major serial subscription agents the opportunity to outline the changes that have occurred within their organisations as we enter the new millennium and where applicable to comment upon the impact of the GST on service delivery. Our subscription agents were represented by Gayle Villaume from DA Information Services; Vicki Nicholson from EBSCO Australia Subscription Services; Alf Gans from Isa-RoweCom Australia; and Jay Glaisyer from Swets Blackwell. All four gave first-class pres-

entations that attracted a good number of audience questions and comments. Some highlights included Gayle referring to GST as the opportunity to provide 'Good Simple Timely' communication; Vicki looked at e-commerce and the active recruitment of new staff to the EBSCO team; Alf outlined the RoweCom revolution and the potential for the label of librarian to be replaced in the future with knowledge worker; and Jay along with the formidable task of being the last speaker for the day referred to the growth of consortia and the NESLI agreement.

Serials 2000 was an informative, interactive day that was well supported by a wide range of serialists and industry representatives. The next ASSIG event will coincide with ALIA2000 in October. A look at the future directions in serials will be the main focus — please contact the conference organisers, or check the conference website for further details

Jenni Jeremy, convenor, ASSIG



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