

Development in Kinetica to benefit small libraries

The National Library of Australia has announced a new development in its Kinetica services. From 2002, the National Library and the Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC) will provide small Australian libraries — special, school, public — with access to WorldCat (the OCLC Online Union Catalogue) through Kinetica, initially on a trial basis.

WorldCat, available online to libraries since 1971, is an electronic catalogue of bibliographic and holding information of OCLC member libraries. The records in WorldCat represent more than 750 million items held in libraries around the world.

The National Library of Australia operates Kinetica, Australia's library network serving more than 1100 Australian libraries of all types. Kinetica currently provides catalogue access to over 33 million items held in Australian libraries.

'We are delighted to offer access to OCLC WorldCat through Kinetica,' said Jan Fullerton, director-general of the National Library of Australia. 'This will enable many smaller Australian libraries to access the rich resources of WorldCat for the first time.'

Headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, OCLC is a non-profit organisation that provides computer-based cataloging, reference, resource sharing and preservation services to 40 000 libraries in seventy-six countries and territories. OCLC was founded in 1967 to improve access to the world's information and reduce information costs. Forest Press, a divi-

sion of OCLC since 1988, publishes the Dewey Decimal Classification system.

'We welcome these libraries to the OCLC community,' said Jay Jordan, OCLC president and chief executive officer. 'OCLC is pleased to enhance the National Library of Australia's co-operative initiatives on behalf of Australian libraries.'

This trial service will be available to small, special, school libraries in Australia who are registered members of Kinetica. The trial does not include university, state, and national libraries, many of whom already have direct access to OCLC's WorldCat database.

Kinetica customers will access OCLC's WorldCat database via KineticaWeb. They will pay the same rate as they currently do now for accessing the existing databases, such as the National Bibliographic Database, CJK or the Research Library Group's Union Catalogue.

Kinetica customers who would like to participate in the trial service can submit an online expression of interest form which is available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/kinetica/databases.html>.

Libraries who are not members of Kinetica and who would like to obtain information about joining the trial can visit the Kinetica website <http://www.nla.gov.au/kinetica>, phone 1800 026 155, or e-mail kinetica@nla.gov.au. More information about OCLC is available at <http://www.oclc.org>. ■

Vale Miles Blackwell

Miles Blackwell died suddenly on 31 August 2001

Miles had a long bookselling career and gave distinguished service to Blackwells as firstly marketing director and subsequently chairman of Blackwell Ltd until his retirement in 1997. He will be particularly remembered for his nurturing of Blackwell's relationships with the library community world-wide and with opening new markets for international bookselling in the 1970s and 1980s.

He is survived by his mother Marguerite Blackwell and his younger brother Nigel Blackwell, currently chairman of Blackwell Publishing. ■

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