

Dialog awards program...

The Dialog Graduate Education Program for Australia and New Zealand

The Information Specialists Group of the Australian Library and Information Association is pleased to announce that in 2002 Dialog, a Thomson Company, will extend its generous Graduate Education Program to all undergraduate and graduate students of Library and Information Science Schools (LIS) in Australia and New Zealand.

Following interviews with Tier 1 educators in the USA, Betty Jo Hibberd of Dialog has advised that the former Classroom Program has been extensively modified and upgraded.

Key features of the updated Graduate Education Program include:

- Formerly students could only use Dialog in the classroom with an instructor present, but with the new program, registered LIS students may use Dialog from their home or work computers to facilitate distance learning initiatives.
- Dialog will make their training staff available to ensure Australian and New Zealand faculty and students are up-to-date with all the features of the modern Dialog.
- Dialog is commissioning HTML modules that will help professors to teach Dialog and a new lab workbook is now available.

- Dialog will fund the online access for students up to a value of US\$120 000 per year per school for 100 students or more. This is for online access only — for various legal reasons, students will not be able to use the print or alert services.

This generous offer by Dialog means that no student of a library and information science school in Australia or New Zealand, and based anywhere in the world, now need be denied access to learning what information is available from Dialog, nor how to access it.

Dialog has a rich collection of databases available for use on an as-needs basis, and so Dialog extends dramatically the scope of the resources available to Australian and New Zealand libraries for their professional clients. Dialog also hosts a wide range of international newspapers including many from the Asia Pacific rim.

Roy Martin, the CEO of Dialog and his team working on this initiative deserve to be congratulated and thanked for their support of our profession.

Roger K Summit Scholarship Award for Australia and New Zealand

Dialog has also announced the Roger K Summit Scholarship Award which carries with it a prize of A\$5000 for the best Dialog student in 2002 from any of the Australian and New Zealand library schools.

This award will be administered by Dialog in the United States, with the assistance of an Australian panel consisting of: Penny Braybrook, RMIT, Melbourne; Elizabeth Drynan, Online Currents, Sydney; Paul Genoni, Curtin University, Perth; Elizabeth Swan, Information Edge, Sydney; and Connie Wilson, UNSW, Sydney.

Students who have registered for the Dialog Graduate Education Program in Australian or New Zealand library and information schools will be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

The winner will be presented with his or her prize at the 11th ALIA Information Online Conference at Darling Harbour in January 2003. The Information Specialists Group of ALIA will sponsor free registration for the winner to attend the Conference and social events.

For further details about the Graduate Education Program and the Roger K Summit Scholarship award contact: Paul Cremin, training manager Australia and New Zealand, Dialog Asia Pacific Limited, Level 5, 100 Harris Street, Pyrmont NSW, phone 02 9587 7713, paul_cremin@dialog.com

Applications (and supporting documentation) for the Roger K Summit Scholarship award for Australia and New Zealand will be required by **30 September 2002** for evaluation by the panel. ■

Opportunities for employment

The South Australian Public Sector Graduate Program

At the first meeting for the 2002 ALIA Group Mentoring Program on Tuesday 12 February at University of South Australia City West campus, the guest speaker was Helen Hennessy, principal consultant of the Public Sector Management Act Policy and Advice Unit for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE). The theme for the night was *Investigating opportunities for employment*.

Helen spoke specifically on the South Australian Public Sector Graduate Program, and the role it plays in giving recent library and information graduates the opportunity to utilise their skills. The graduate program is based on a twelve-month placement in a government department. Successful candidates are encouraged to seek ongoing, permanent employment within the public sector.

Graduates bring a vast range of skills, knowledge and experience to the government, and this is beneficial to the public sector as well as to the graduate. 'They bring a fresh pair of eyes to the department', Helen said, which allows other employees to gain something from the graduate. In turn, the graduate gains experience in the field by hands-on work, and from the vast experience, expertise and knowledge of the fellow staff. Graduates are encouraged to attend various meetings, conferences and other gatherings where they can network with librarians from various fields and continue to learn.

The only pre-requisite to apply for the program is a minimum three-year degree or diploma from a university. In relation to graduate librarians, Helen said the OCPE, which manages the program, look for a diverse range of skills and knowledge, such as information management skills as well as library background. Applicants should gain as much background on the organisation as possible, for example searching the web, looking at annual reports, and asking people in the field. This will help applicants better prepare for the interview by having questions to ask the panel, which Helen said is important and shows planning and professionalism. Rehearsing the interview can also be beneficial, and help calm nerves and gain confidence for the interview.

Recent as well as past graduates are encouraged to apply, no matter when you completed your study, your age or cultural background. The public sector encourages diversity as their client base is often diverse itself. At least twelve State government departments use the graduate program. Helen also spoke of the importance of a professional resumé with specific details of experience, and reliable referees, who should always be contacted by applicants to ensure they are prepared.

The graduate program allows library students can utilise their referencing capabilities, gain experience in such elements as cataloguing and classifying, report writing, customer service, communications and other skills. The program is an invaluable resource in gaining an exciting and rewarding career in the public sector, and one which all current and former students should investigate.

Further information on the program can be found at <http://www.graduate.sa.gov.au>.

Warren Winship, OCPE graduate librarian