

# LAA22 CONFERENCE

## Systems update

AT A TIME WHEN MANY Australian libraries are on the threshold of automating their systems or of joining formal networks, Susan Martin's plenary address at LAA 22 on Networking will be based on a wealth of experience in these areas.



In 1973 Susan Martin took up an appointment as Head of the Library Systems Office at the University of California, Berkeley, where she co-ordinated the development of automated systems throughout the library.

In her current position as Director of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Susan Martin is responsible for the operation of a library with two million volumes and 115 staff. She oversees the planning and implementation of library policies which meet the needs of the University.

She comments in *American Libraries* (April 1979) that 'I am deeply concerned as I see ever more data being placed in machine-readable form in such a way that it may not be usable in the future'.

Underlying her writing is a deep awareness of the political process which influences the funding available to libraries. In preparing our cases for automated systems we might remember her comment that 'automation rarely saves money, but it should provide benefits. Where resources are expended with insufficient benefit, alternative courses of action need consideration'. (*American Libraries*, February 1979).

'Academic libraries: steady state zero growth' will be the topic for the University of Hawaii's Librarian, Don L. Bosseau, at the Conference.

Don came to librarianship through the unusual route of nuclear engineering. After graduating in engineering and involvement in the Direct Energy Conversion Project at La Jolla, he moved into library systems analysis, university teaching, consultancy and library management. He has earned a master's degree both in radiological physics at the University of Kansas and in library science from the University of Hawaii - surely a unique combination?

Don Bosseau's commitment to librarianship is evident, it includes service to the American Library Association and on the committees of a variety of related professional organisations. For several years Don edited the *Journal of Library Automation*: he has also published a number of papers on areas ranging from computer control of serials to direct energy conversion.

Don Bosseau will bring an uncommon breadth of experience and vitality to his view of the academic library scene and the problems challenging us all today.

Sheena Grant and Julie Dow

## For cataloguers

IF YOUR ENTHUSIASM is cataloguing, there will be a lot to interest you at the Conference in 1982.

At the plenary session on Monday morning Susan Martin (Director, Milton Eisenhower Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore) will speak on 'Networks: who benefits?'

Among the 31 parallel sessions being offered, the following are of particular interest to cataloguers:

- Monday 10.45 am Bibliographic and information networks for Australia (Bryan Yates NLA).
- Tuesday 10.45 am Effective governance and management of library networks (H. Groerewegen, CAVAL and Miss Rona Wade, CLANN Director).
- Wednesday 10.45 am One bibliographic data base for Australia? (J. Baskin and Doug Down).
- Thursday 9 am Linking bibliographic utilities (Susan Martin).

The Special Studies tailored to the needs of cataloguers have the title 'The Challenge of Change: Standards and Technology'.

The programme is:

- Monday 2 pm The development of and quality control in the ABN data base. (Warwick Catro, NLA).
- Monday 3 pm LCSH, LASH and machine readable subject authority files: a progress report on the work of the Bibliographic Standards Subject Subcommittee (John McKinlay).
- Tuesday 2 pm Susan Martin to propose her own topic of current and specific interest to cataloguers.
- Tuesday 3 pm Filing (actual title not finalised). (Jan Gatenby and .....).

OR

Authority work for ABN in the National Library with particular reference to Geographic names (Diana Dack, ANB and Sally Anderson, ABN).

- Thursday 11.15 am ABN: the user's view, (panel of speakers from: Barr-Smith Library (Jim Anderson), Canberra Public Library (Elaine Anderson), OLC (Enid Roberts) NLA (Jane Fullerton), and CAVAL (if still using ABN).

As well as the above program, cataloguers can enjoy the excitement of DDC, CIC or LASH meetings (Monday 12.30 pm), they can participate in the AGM of the Cataloguers Section (Monday 4 pm), meet Susan Martin and her husband at a social wine tasting (Monday 6 pm), visit the cataloguing sections of local libraries, and attend the Cataloguers' Section Dinner at Dillingers (Wednesday evening). *Elsie Ahrens*

## DATABASE AVAILABILITY

FOLLOWING AN ANALYSIS of costs and usage from 1977-81, AUSINET in 1982 will be built around a core of nine Australian databases:

Australian Bibliography on Agriculture; Australian Business Index; Australian Earth Sciences Information System; Australian Education Index; Australian National Bibliography; Australian Public Affairs Information Service; Australian Road Research Documentation; Australian Science Index; ICIE - the directory of Australian databases.

ERIC and IRRD will be available after 18 January 1982.

ABUS, ARER, ASTR, BISA, HDEG, LASR, LZAS and WEST have each averaged less than one minute of use per user per month throughout 1981. Suppliers have therefore been contacted and asked to defray some of the costs of file retention.

### Charges

Charges for database creation and for offline printing have not changed.

From 1 March 1982 different connect time rates will apply to different databases. Charges will range from \$40-\$65 per connect hour. A minimum monthly charge of \$100 will apply to combined connect time and printing.

The joining fee has been dropped and a new discount structure will apply to total connect time.

### New databases

Criteria have now been developed for mounting new databases.

For pricing these take into account the costs of online storage, updates and supplier royalties and project them across levels of usage anticipated for a six month trial period.

Databases covering business and finance will be the first to be mounted on this basis.

Details of 1982 services and charges are available from all ACI Computer Services State Officers.

*Ian McCallum,*  
ACICS

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The published draft program for LAA22 showing parallel session beginning at 11.45am should read 10.45am.