

National Information Policy

AT A MEETING held on 29 November 1982 the LAA, AACOBS, the Australian Computer Society and the Institution of Radio and Electronics Engineers discussed the desirability of Australia developing a national information policy. The group had exchanged some previously prepared papers on aspects of NIP and on the views of each Association on this matter.

The meeting agreed that it was essential that Australia develop a national information development plan, and that it should develop a document aimed at influencing governments and other major employer and employee groups in society. Such a document would outline a framework against which government decisions could be measured.

There was a general consensus on the

issues which needed to be considered and these are listed below.

Framework for national information development

Aim: To produce a statement to be submitted to the participating bodies for discussion and endorsement.

Introduction: Reasons for the problem-development and spread of information technologies.

Topics for discussion

a) Economic:

- cost
- national industry
- capital required
- employment
- manpower
- statistics
- trans-border data flow
- impact on business organisation and management
- role of the public/private sector

b) Educational:

- computer literacy
- computer-aided instructions
- computing in schools and tertiary edu-

cation and in industry

- manpower

c) Legal:

- privacy
- copyright
- effect on legal procedures

d) Political:

- co-ordination
- recognition of interrelationships
- planning structure (3 levels of government)

e) Social:

- access
- trans-border data flow
- cultural impact of imported culture

f) Technical:

- standards
- connectivity — between networks national structures.

The proposal is for each Association to prepare a suitable statement on each of these topics, outlining its stand — importance of the issue, implications for the Association and statement of views on the topic. No comment is to be made on an area if there is no expertise or is not considered significant. These statements are to be sent to Derek Fielding to be co-ordinated and developed into a draft document for general discussion.

The LAA would be interested to have any comments on views from individuals or divisions on the matters listed above. Could you please send them to the General Secretary, Averill Edwards, PO Box 381, Manuka ACT 2603 as soon as possible.

Averill Edwards
General Secretary

AACOBS approved*

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AACOBS have a number of suggested amendments to the design of the Inter-Library Loan Request to evaluate, and if proved viable, will be incorporated at an opportune time.

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C.E. Charivari

In a variation on the hackneyed theme 'something old, something new', our 1983 program has begun with 'in-house' presentations of *Managing People at Work* for staff at the State Library of New South Wales and the Parliamentary Library in Canberra. The response from both organisations has been encouraging, and since most of our short courses can be offered in this way we hope that other institutions will follow their lead.

Management or, possibly, *managing with less*, is the underlying theme of most of the short courses that we are offering this year, which will be useful to anyone with a professional interest in making better use of people, money or time. Courses were described briefly in *InCite* No 1, but more information is given in our continuing education prospectus which is available on request.

Program schedules will be published in *InCite* as soon as the Divisions have indicated their preferences for courses and dates. Individual members will be interested to know that the Association will present courses anywhere that a workable market can be guaranteed. You can let us know of your interest by returning course coupon published on page 9 of this issue.

Technical briefings which were given on a trial basis late in 1982, will be offered more widely this year. They will concentrate on technological and legislative developments which are likely to make an impact on library and information services.

Topics to be covered include:

- Changes in the law concerning the giving of advice and information.
- Digital Data Networks.
- Domestic satellite developments.

Watch *InCite* for details and schedules.

Merilyn Bryce
Continuing Education Officer