Guide to Australian Reference Books: Expressions of interest are sought for compiling a third title in this series, on Science and Technology. Please contact Publications Officer, Library Association of Australia.

AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON EFT ADOPTED

The Standards Association of Australia has announced that most of Australia's recommendations on a draft international standard on Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) message formats were adopted at a recent ISO (International Standardization Organization) meeting in Paris. The Paris meeting was attended by representatives from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, France, U.K. and U.S.A. and is the culmination of many years of work.

Australia was also represented at an ISO meeting in London which discussed PIN management and security for EFT systems.

Chris Reilly, Technical Director of AUSTNET and an Australian delegate at both meetings, said afterwards: 'Almost all of the Australian comments on message formats were accepted and we now have the basis for a rational and economically viable EFT system'.

The other Australian delegate was Jeff Austin of NCR Australia who said that one of the encouraging aspects was the active participation of the world's major card issuers in the development of international EFT standards. It is understood that these organizations are already developing their systems in accordance with the imminent international standards.

LIBRARY AUTOMATION AWARD

NEW INFORMATION handling techniques seem to appear almost daily, each more elaborate — and more expensive — than the last. Yet all too often, the potential of one system has barely been explored before a faster and more intelligent system appears to take its place.

In many cases, however, the newer systems are far beyond the relatively modest means of the library community, and much ingenuity is used to exploit to the full the capabilities of the cheaper and perhaps less sophisticated systems. Alternatively, systems originally developed for other purposes in much larger markets are adapted for the relatively small, highly specialized area of library and information retrieval.

In recognition of the effort involved, and to encourage further development of this kind, the executive committee of the Victorian Association for Library Automation has decided to introduce a special award.

The award will be made to the library or information centre which, in the opinion of the judging panel, has made the most innovative use of currently available technology to improve service to users, either directly through provision of new or upgraded facilities, or indirectly, through increasing the efficiency of its support operations.

ELIGIBILITY

All libraries and information centres in Victoria are eligible for nomination for the award.

Systems nominated for consideration must have been implemented between 1 January 1983 and 30 June 1984, and must have been in operation under normal conditions for at least three months.

The winning system need not be computer based. It must, however, demonstrate a significant commitment to the use of automation to conserve, supplement and/or extend the capabilities of the organisation and its resources, human and financial.

Nor will the winning system necessarily be developed totally in-house. If based on a commercially available package, however, it will involve a major adaptation or application of the standard package.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations may be made by staff of libraries or information centres; by other interested people, or by a member of the judging panel. In all cases, the written consent of the chief executive officer of the nominated organisation must be obtained before the nomination is submitted.
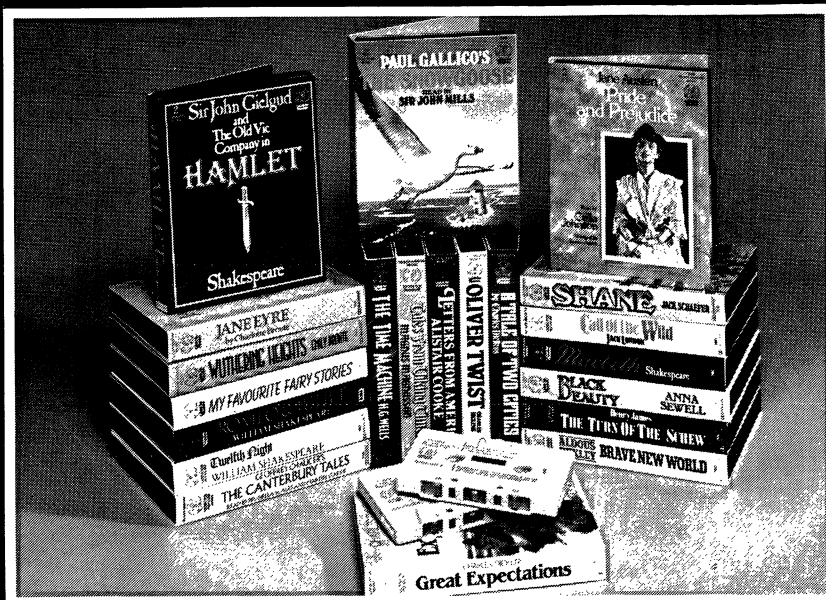
Nominations should be supported by a clearly typed statement of not more than five A4 pages, double spaced, single sided. The statement should outline —
  a. The chief function of the nominated system(s).
  b. The major hardware and software used by the system.
  c. Features which, in the opinion of the nominator(s), would make the system eligible for the award.
  d. The date on which the system was commissioned, and the length of time for which it has been operating.

CLOSING DATE

Nominations and submissions addressed to the Secretary, Victorian Association for Library Automation, GPO Box 2342V, Melbourne, 3000, no later than Friday, 28 September, 1984. For further information, write to the Secretary, or telephone David Richards on 541 6131.