AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE INDEX

As requested by AACOBS, the National Library and CSIRO have been investigating together the question of a possible replacement for the *Australian Science Index*.

At a meeting of the NLA/CSIRO Consultative Committee (a body set up some years ago to ensure regular communication between the two authorities) it was agreed that there were two elements to consider

a) the extent to which the needs which the *Australian Science Index* had been established to meet were being addressed or could be addressed in other ways

b) the extent to which Australian STI material was not under national bibliographical control.

CSIRO undertook to address the first of these elements and the National Library the second.

At the most recent meeting of the Committee, held on 30 April, CSIRO reported the results of an investigation of the extent to which the titles formerly indexed in *ASI* were covered by other indexes and data bases.

In round terms 70% of what might be termed regular ASI titles are covered, to a greater or lesser extent, by one *or more* of thirteen data bases currently accessible on AUSINET. A surprisingly high proportion are covered, again to some extent, by *APAIS*. There is a considerable amount of overlap among the data bases. Finally, while a very significant number of Australian titles covered by the data bases were not indexed by *ASI*, a significant percentage of the titles covered by the data bases are also covered to some degree by *APAIS*.

CSIRO has now undertaken to investigate the feasibility of securing an Australian STI data base as a sub-set of the existing data bases.

The National Library for its part will check the extent of the APAIS cover of the former ASI titles and will report on the resources that would be required both to convert the selective indexing of any of *ASI* titles at present covered only in this way in APAIS to a comprehensive cover and to cover the 30% of *ASI* titles which seem, at present, to be escaping completely the variety of nets at present provided.

It was the unanimous view of the Committee that its investigations had established that it would have been unduly precipitate to have responded to criticism of the cessation of *ASI* by attempting simply to reinstate *ASI* in its previous form.

A full report will be made to the Standing Committee of AACOBS.

Harrison Bryan
Director-General
National Library of Australia

Children's Video Collection

Following the recent InCite *item about the award-winning film Danny's Egg, the Australian Council for Children's Films and Television has provided more information about their organisation:*

The Australian Council for Children's Films and Television is a national, community based, voluntary organisation established in 1957. In 1976 the ACCFT became incorporated in Victoria as a Company limited by Guarantee. Our head office is in Melbourne and we employ a full time Manager with part-time clerical assistance.

For many years we have provided a film culture for children through the cinema and through our 16mm distribution service. We are in the process of developing a specialised video service for children.

Several libraries have approached us for assistance with their own plans to include video in the services they offer their community. For this reason, the Council has embarked on a scheme to assist libraries and at the same time fulfil our three main objectives of providing quality, diversity and accessibility of entertainment films for children with the establishment of a Children's Video Collection.

The Collection is made up of a well balanced, carefully selected range of video cassettes recommended for children. Most are film versions of well known children's books. The Collection also contains a number of Australian produced films.

Each title in the unit will be presented in its own case with a specially designed 'slick' (cover) designating it as part of the Australian Council for Children's Films and Television's Children's Video Collection. A detailed summary of each age range and other pertinent

ACI COMPUTER SERVICES ADDS CADRE TO ITS PUBLIC DATABASE LIST

Professor P. T. Fink, Chief Defence Scientist at the Dept. of Defence, launched Australia's first public defence database in Canberra on Monday April 22. The Cumulative Abstracts of Defence Readings (CADRE) runs as a public database on ACI Computer Services' AUSINET system.

Covering a wide range of subjects relevant to Australian defence, CADRE incorporates information on international defence policy and military equipment, defence applications management, electronics and research and development. Some historical Australian defence journal material is also included.

The ability to search every word or combination of words in every document will mean that the exact document or information on a certain area can be retrieved in a matter of minutes. A valuable tool to a number of different groups, CADRE is readily accessible Australia-wide via the ACI Computer Services' national communications network and from overseas via OTC's MIDAS service.

CADRE will initially hold 4,000 records. A major progressive reload will bring this number to 12,000. About 2,500 records are to be added annually.

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information will also be provided.

The Collection is offered on the following terms: *Lease:* Units of 10 @ $70 per month or $210 per quarter. *Outright purchase:* $800 per unit of 10.

This proposal provides: an opportunity for libraries to provide a specialised video service with no capital outlay; a range of family video cassettes, especially suitable for children not readily available through commercial outlets; and the means of responding to community concern about the lack of information on the suitability of video cassettes for children.

The tapes in this Collection are not available for screening in a public place, such as a library. The videos are specifically for home viewing — although the Copyright Act, Section 28 effectively provides for the screening of such tapes in a school as part of educational instruction.

For more information contact Elizabeth McDowall, Australian Council for Children's Films and Television, 17 St Andrew's Place, East Melbourne 3002. Phone (03) 651 1804.