THE CINCH LAUNCH

From left to right: Mr Leigh Baker, Manager, Information Retrieval Division; Professor Richard Harding, Director, Australian Institute of Criminology; and Justice Michael Kirby, C.M.G., President of the NSW Court of Appeal and ex-Chairman of the Law Reform Commission, at the CINCH launch.

Justice Michael D. Kirby, C.M.G., President of the NSW Court of Appeal and ex-chairman of the Law Reform Commission, described the state of Australia's criminal justice data as 'scandalous' and urged the rapid introduction of computers into the justice system. He was speaking at the launch of a new database called Computerised Information from National Criminological Holdings (CINCH) which will run on ACI Computer Services' public database service AUSINET.

CINCH covers Australian content in all fields of criminology including areas such as corrections, corporate crime, crime and criminals, court procedure, drug offenders, law, law enforcement, legal aid, offences, parole, probation, police and policing, security, terrorism, victims and violence.

Describing the system as a major labour-sav-ing tool, Justice Kirby said that computerisation of the justice system would very quickly provide major savings.

The CINCH database can search every word or combination of words in every document meaning that the entire document or information in a specific area can be retrieved in a matter of minutes.

Justice Kirby stressed that this facility would save judges, lawyers and researchers from having to search through numerous existing indexing systems.

AUSINET, which began in 1977, is Australia's leading public database service. It currently contains a total of 38 databases, including Australian Public Affairs, CCH Case Digest Library, Australian Taxation Index, Australian National Bibliography and full text stories from the *Australian Financial Review.*

Australia's Standard Classification of Occupation

The Library Workforce Standing Committee has been monitoring the progress of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) which is being developed jointly by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

ASCO aims to provide a systematic classification and description of occupations in the Australian labour market which will enable better labour market analyses, better manpower forecasting, greater accessibility of occupational information to job seekers and better design of training programmes.

The LAA has been in contact with the two departments involved in preparing ASCO regarding the definitions of librarians and library technicians to be used and their definitions have also been discussed by the Library Workforce Standing Committee.

An ASCO working draft was released in 1983. This has since been revised and it is expected that the first edition manuscript will be available by the end of 1985. The completed ASCO document is expected to be available in 1986.
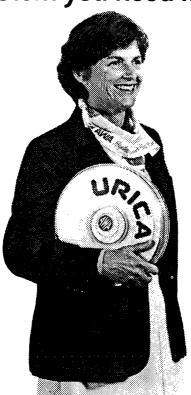
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