

BOOKNET launched Information Technology and IFLA 1985

ACI Computer Services have introduced BOOKNET — a comprehensive information and electronic ordering system for the book trade.

BOOKNET will adopt the same database technology as AUSINET and will run on the IBM 3081 located at ACI Computer Services Clayton headquarters in Melbourne.

Mr Steve Cartland, Manager of the BOOKNET Service said that BOOKNET would simplify the existing system of information about books and the book trade within Australia. He said that ACI Computer Services felt very strongly that a reasonably sized bookshop with something like 10,000 titles in stock had a very great need for computerisation.

BOOKNET provides central databases of books available in print from Australia, New Zealand, USA and the UK. English language books published in Europe are also included, enabling users to uniquely identify a book and its supplier.

A facility for local publishers and distributors to indicate stock holdings is provided in addition to directories of booksellers, publishers and libraries. Once a book has been identified and its availability established, ordering may be done electronically.

Pergamon appoints Australasian agents for InfoLine

Pergamon InfoLine Ltd of London announced recently the appointment of SIRS as their agents for Australasia.

SIRS is a joint venture between Saztec Australia Pty Ltd, well known for their successes in the Retrospective Conversion business, and Harkers Information Retrieval Services.

Under the agreement, SIRS will be responsible for all InfoLine training in Australia and New Zealand and will also act as local sales agents and suppliers of InfoLine manuals and support materials.

IFLA 1985, from August 17 to August 23 in Chicago, provided a feast of professional meetings across just about all areas of interest to library and information workers. One of those areas, not unexpectedly, was Information Technology.

In the August 16 issue of *InCite*, Ian McCallum reported that I would bring back some comments on the program arranged by the Standing Committee of the IFLA Section on Information Technology of which he is a member.

First of all, I think it is important to indicate that the first meeting of IFLA Standing Committees were scheduled for Sunday morning starting 8.30 am and yes, they were generally well attended by both Standing Committee members and observers. Discussion focused on links with other IFLA Sections who have sought input and assistance from the Information Technology Section and the program for the Chicago and then subsequent IFLA conferences in Tokyo (1986) and Brighton (1987). It is the individual IFLA Sections which plan the content of Section programs for each conference.

For the 1985 IFLA conference the Information Technology Section had drawn on the overall conference theme, Universal Avail-

Training courses are currently scheduled for all states and for Auckland in October this year.

Pergamon InfoLine is deeply committed to providing users in Australia and New Zealand with a high level of support for their ever increasing number of databases. They are also interested in hearing from anyone who has a database or wishes to create a database which could be loaded onto Pergamon InfoLine.

SIRS can be contacted on (02) 438 3088 or via the help desk (008) 02 2563.

ability of Information, to put together a number of very informative speakers and topics: Cynthia Durance from the National Library of Canada on the Open Systems Interconnection; Sally McCallum from the Library of Congress on the Linked System Project in the United States; Ken Dowlin, Director of Pikes Peak Library District on technology in the public library and Stephen Flood from ASLIB on software evaluation.

The Durance presentation was a very clear exposition of Canada's attempts to provide a co-ordinated library and information network while at the same time, providing for a high degree of local autonomy. While the emphasis in the Library of Congress project has been on the transfer of authority records, the National Library of Canada has been attempting the transfer of complete bibliographic records. When asked whether they were travelling on parallel or convergent tracks, both speakers agreed that they were heading in the same direction though they started with different applications for testing purposes.

Dowlin's paper created considerable interest as much because of its emphasis on the internal ramifications of information technology on the library staff as for the changed image individuals in the community have of the Pikes Peak Library. The information system which has been developed has changed the skills required by staff, placing a 'premium on employees that are adept at problem solving and are creative'; work patterns have changed completely to move the processing flow from 'an assembly line process to one similar to that pioneered by Volvo in Sweden — each employee is responsible for all steps taken to process an item, except for original cataloguing'.

Though I was not able to attend all the Information Technology Section meetings due to clashes with other meetings, those I was able to attend were informative and stimulating, with speakers and topics being well chosen.

Marianne Broadbent
RMIT

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