

Architecture databases up on AUSINET

The Australian Architectural Database was released as a public database on ACI Computer Services' AUSINET system on March 1.

The announcement of the new database was made by Mr Leigh Baker, Manager of ACI Computer Services' Information Retrieval Division.

In making the announcement, Mr. Baker said that the Architectural Database, appropriately named ARCH, both for the subject area and for North Sydney's proximity to the Sydney Harbour Bridge, would be a valuable tool to a number of different groups including architects, engineers, town-planners and researchers.

ARCH, the first database produced by a public library in Australia to be included on AUSINET, covers Australian and New Zealand architectural, building and allied journals held by Stanton Library. The database comprehensively indexes architecture, biographies of architects, building, alternative technology, art and craft in architecture, construction technology, interior design, landscape architecture and restoration.

The ability to search every word or combination of words in every article will mean that the exact article or information on a certain area will be able to be retrieved in a matter of seconds.

AUSINET, which began in 1977, is Australia's leading public database service. It currently contains a total of 37 databases including Australian Engineering, Australian Public Affairs, Australian Science, Earth Sciences, the Australian National Bibliography and full text stories from the Australian Financial Review.

The ARCH database is readily accessible Australia-wide via the ACI Computer Services' national communication network and from overseas via OTC's MIDAS service.

For further information, please contact the ACI Computer Services office in your state, or Ann Berry (Stanton Library) on (02) 920 5880.

CONTINUING EDUCATION — WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Are you an LAA member in the ACT and interested in a course on Serials Automation? Or a school librarian in Newcastle who needs to know more about ASCIS? Or a member in the West who wants to improve her management skills? Or a librarian in Tasmania who needs an introduction to online searching? Then read on . . .

As mentioned in *InCite* Vol 5 No 16, October 5, the Association has introduced a tendering process for nationally funded continuing education activities. Late in 1984 Branches were asked to identify priority areas for activities which could best be mounted using national CE funds.

Each branch (with the exception of the Northern Territory) identified a number of desirable courses for 1985. Tenders were then called for a number of courses in each state and territory.

The CE Committee met on December 10, 1984 by telephone conference to decide on successful tenders. Funds for the 1985 program have now been allocated for a range of requested courses in different Branches. In most cases dates and times are still being set, but the topics in different branches are as follows:

- ACT — Serials Automation
- NSW — Managing People at Work
— ASCIS at Newcastle
- QLD — Assertiveness Training (Brisbane)
— Government Documents (Rockhampton)
- SA — Management Development for Librarians
— Serials Automation
- TAS — Introduction to Automation
— Introduction to Online Searching
- VIC — Decision Making about Computers
— Program Budgeting for Libraries
- WA — Support for a number of courses to be co-ordinated by the Branch in the broad areas of technology and management
- NAT. — Research Use of AV materials (Presented by the LAA Audiovisual Services Committee)

Northern Territory Branch officers asked for deferral of any decisions about activities

till early in 1985. All Branches and tenderers were informed of the successful tenders and conditions in mid-December.

The range of tenderers

Tenders were submitted by a very interesting range of organisations and individuals. These included freelance consultants, library and information studies schools, LAA divisions (Branches, regional groups and sections), management consultancy companies, business studies faculties at tertiary institutions, one State Library and consortia which included a number of these groups.

Preference was given to areas identified by Branches and to tenderers who were prepared to travel. As a condition of receiving funds each successful tenderer was asked to agree to certain conditions. These included:

- liaison with Branch officers about suitable dates
- the lodgement of one copy of all course materials and evaluation forms with the LAA office, and
- a clear indication on all course materials that the course is part of the LAA CE program.

It is probably important to stress that these courses are not meant to replace other activities such as seminars and workshops normally organised and sponsored by divisions of the Association. National CE funds are for the development and implementation of courses which divisions would find it difficult to mount themselves or without additional 'seed money'. So you will see these courses advertised alongside other courses which have been organised and developed using local resources and expertise.

Conferencing by phone

LAA members might also be interested to know that the Association's first excursion into meeting by audioconferencing worked quite well (despite the inevitable technical problem or two). Members of the CE Committee are based in four different locations: Melbourne (Marianne Broadbent and Denis Richardson), Adelaide (Eric Wainwright), Lismore (Ed Parr) and Sydney (Jenny Adams). The facilities of another professional association based in Melbourne (Australian College of Education) were 'borrowed' for the hook-up. While this type of meeting could not replace many of the Associations' meetings, it proved to be a satisfactory way for the Committee to meet in between Board of Education meetings.

Marianne Broadbent
Chairman

LAA Continuing Education Committee

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Sydney Youth Festival

A pageant play entitled *Legend* will be the first item on the bill after the official opening of the Sydney Youth Festival at Parramatta Park on Saturday 27 April.

The production has brought together artistic people with a diversity of talents, all under the able direction of Errol Bray, who was the man behind the rise to success of the Shopfront Theatre.

Anyone wishing to be involved in *Legend* should contact Errol Bray or Kai Dineen on 689 8655.

Lady Cutler Award

The closing date for nominations for the Lady Cutler Award has been extended to May 31. Enquiries should be directed to Jill Greenwood, c/- Library Services, 35 Mitchell Street, North Sydney, 925 8150.