

# IN THE NEWS

## OED on disc

Lexicographers and computer systems specialists in the United Kingdom have produced a single compact disc that enables the entire twelve volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) to be scanned in seconds.

The Dictionary is a heavyweight work intellectually, but the compact disc is lighter than the original on both the scales and the pocket: at A\$1060 it is only half the price of the printed twelve-volume edition.

Work to provide a computer database from which new editions of OED could be produced in both printed and electronic form began in 1984. The compact disc now available is the first product of this project, and in 1987 won the British Computer Society Applications Award.

Optical scanning was rejected in favour of keyboarding, which took only 18 months compared with the 50 years it took to produce the first full OED.

The CD-ROM version of the dictionary is available from Oxford University Press in the UK for £500, with an additional £7 charge for airmail postage and packing costs.

## ALIA Alert

ALIA is currently preparing the first issue of its new newsletter *ALIA Alert*. The newsletter — planned as a quarterly publication — is aimed at

- informing Association members about developments in Australian public affairs that impact on libraries and information services; and
- placing library and information issues before members of parliament and other community leaders.

*ALIA Alert* will cover budgetary and policy decisions, changes in party platforms, media ownership, and business and industry, and significant developments affecting the national collection. It will be distributed to all members of the Association via *InCite*, and to others as appropriate.

With the departure of Alex Byrne for Darwin, I have taken over as coordinating editor of *ALIA Alert* and should be grateful for contributions. Please send them to Michael Evans, Coordinating Editor, *ALIA Alert*, R.G. Menzies Building, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601. My telephone number is (062) 49 4251.

Michael Evans

## DDC20 from DA

Forest Press — publishers of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) 20th Edition — was recently purchased by OCLC, the large North American library network. OCLC has appointed distributors worldwide for effective marketing of DDC20. DA Books and Journals (11 Station Street, Mitcham, Victoria) were chosen to service the Australasian market. Telephone (03) 873 4411. Facsimile (03) 873 5679.

## Bennett-EBSCO ends the confusion

Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services was formed in 1981, following the acquisition by EBSCO of the subscription department from the James Bennett Group.

Bennett-EBSCO is the Australian

branch of EBSCO Subscription Services, Alabama, USA. It has no connection with the James Bennett Group or its parent company John Menzies PLC (currently under offer of purchase by Blackwell).

Bennett-EBSCO will continue to operate as a branch of EBSCO Subscription Services at 35 Mitchell Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060. Telephone (02) 922 5600. Facsimile (02) 922 6659.

## Digging to China

The Children's Book Council of Australia's China Committee is holding a

## CORRECTION

In the 24 April issue of *Incite* it was stated that the 20 Edition of *Dewey* was available from Blackwell North America. In fact, market restrictions placed on this work means that *Dewey* is not available from overseas suppliers and must be ordered from local suppliers

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# Australian Book Trade Committee

**T**he Australian Book Trade Committee (ABTC) was established to foster cooperation between Australian booksellers, librarians and publishers, and to provide a forum for discussion of issues of relevance to all three sectors. The Committee comprises two representatives from each of the following: the Australian Booksellers' Association (ABA), the Australian Book Publishers' Association (ABPA) and ALIA. The 1989 membership is:

**Richard Gilmour** (Thames and Hudson Australia, ABPA)

**Sally Milner** (Australian Consolidated Press/Greenhouse, ABPA)

**Len Woodley** (Standard Book, ABA)

**Jean Ferguson** (ABA)

**Derek Whitehead** (ALIA)

**Bill Cations** (ALIA), Chairman.

The ABTC recently established a sub-committee to monitor technological developments relating to the transfer of information between publishers, booksellers and librarians. The sub-committee, to be known as the Standing Committee on Technology (SCOT), will meet three times a year, and will be chaired by Peter Dart of Penguin Books Australia.

Other members of the sub-committee are Jim Hart of Lonely Planet who, together with Peter, represents the ABPA; Stephen Hall from the State Library of Victoria and Tony Mays from Deakin University representing ALIA; Alan Magnussen from the University Co-operative Bookshops representing the ABA; and Len Woodley from Standard Book representing the ABTC.

The following guidelines have been laid down by the sub-committee:

1. It will act as an advisory body to the industry, not as individuals advising organisations.
2. Emphasis will be placed on the interfaces between the various sections of the book industry rather than developments within the constituent organisations of the ABTC.

For its first project, the Committee will conduct a survey throughout the industry to ascertain the use of technology within each group. Each constituent body will be responsible for the survey of its own members.

SCOT will maintain affiliations with other relevant bodies both within Australia and overseas, with a policy of adopting overseas standards if practical. Statements will be prepared explaining and promoting certain industry standards such as SANS and Order Reporting Codes.

Vendors seeking endorsement will be referred to the advertising sections of relevant publications within the industry. Individuals seeking advice will be referred to their constituent organisations.

The members of SCOT will be available to speak at or attend forums or

seminars within the industry.

Other issues currently being addressed by the ABTC include the production of a video on library acquisitions work and the book trade, a national book distribution survey and a national seminar on 'book trade basics' for librarians.

**W.T. Cations**  
Chairman, ABTC



From 5 • •

Digging to China Garage Sale from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday 27 May at Hunters Hill, Sydney, RSL Hall. The sale will offer an interesting and valuable collection of memorabilia and artwork from children's books, together with T-shirts featuring signatures of Australia's most prominent authors of children's books.

But what has this to do with China? Proceeds of the sale will go towards the cost of hosting the Children's Book Council Chinese Delegation to Australia. Five Chinese authors and publishers will visit Australia in October, in return for the CBC Australian delegates' tour of China in 1987. The Chinese will visit Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Hobart. The China Committee hopes to raise Chinese awareness of Australian children's books, authors and illustrators — with far-reaching benefits for all concerned.



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## **ATTENTION** **INCITE** **CONTRIBUTORS**

**A**ll copy including advertising notices and Events should now be addressed to Tanya Vojsk, Managing Editor, *Incite*, c/o ALIA Head Office, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007.