Information Online 89

INFORMATION Online 89, held in Sydney from 17–19 January, attracted well over 500 delegates, speakers and exhibitors, a very good attendance after the major events of 1988. Information Online 89 saw significant differences in the nature of the program and in the composition of the exhibition over previous years as the online industry has evolved.

Keynote Addresses

This evolution was also reflected in the Keynote Addresses, by:

• Phil Ruthven, Executive Chairman of the IBIS Group, who forecast 'stunning' growth in the quaternary, information-based sector of the Australian economy, much of that growth coming from services provided to the household market;

• Jacob Bar, of the Israeli Industry Center for Research and Development, who stressed the need for better mutual understanding between consumers and vendors of databases, and the need to provide added value, i.e. solutions to clients' problems rather than just the raw data or information;

• Barrie Stern, Director of the ADONIS Project, who gave a fascinating insight into future document supply trends.

Other sessions included the popular *Made in Australia*, the packaging and marketing of databases, *Digging It Out — land and natural resources information*, *Making Money*, *Expert Systems*, *Networking*, and *Data Distribution and Communication*.

User service a conference focus

A major focus of the conference was serving users more effectively. This was illustrated in particular by the session *Straight From The Bar* in which three Supreme Court Justices presented their views on the information needs of the courts.

Since the inception of Information Online, those of us responsible for developing the program have deliberately sought speakers who are not necessarily librarians, but who speak well and are able to provoke, stimulate and inform conference delegates.

We have thus welcomed professionals from many other fields, despite difficulties in locating suitable speakers. We believe this has paid dividends in both broadening the perspective of information professionals and opening links with others to help them understand our professional role in information services.

We believe that the future role of librarians is very much dependent on our willingness to explore new forms of information and take an active role in providing access to them.

It was interesting to note in this context that over 300 people attended the session on CD–ROM, a fascinating medium for relatively dated information, whereas only 45 chose the parallel session on real-time international

financial information — up to the minute, non-bibliographic, expensive information, vital to many parts of business and the Australian economy.

In summing up, David Batty placed the papers given in three categories: those which reviewed the state of the art and current practice in the online industry; those which looked critically and imaginatively at the future development and use of online services in Australasia; and those which emphasised a more realistic, economic framework for the development of the online industry.
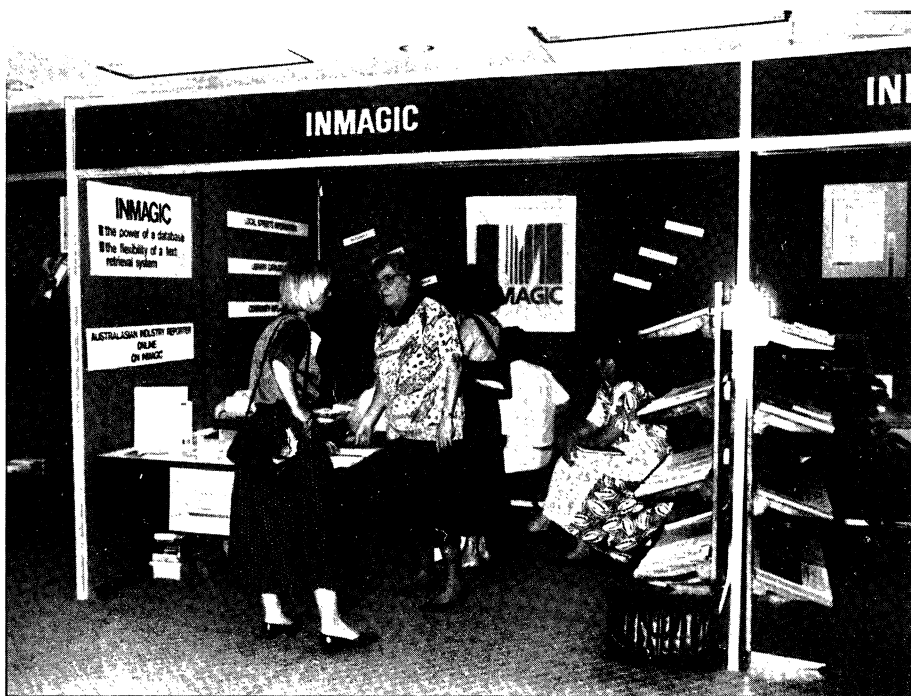
Exhibition and new products

The Exhibition in 1989 saw a number of new exhibitors, such as IBIS Business Information and the Database Promotion Center, Japan, and others returned who have been exhibiting since 1986. Most exhibitors reported keen public and delegate interest in their product displays and demonstrations.

The conference also provided the venue for the launch of a number of significant publications and products, including:

• the 1988 *Directory of Australian and New Zealand Databases*, prepared by the Australian Database Development Association and launched by Warren Horton, Director-General of the National Library of Australia;

• volume 1 of *Australia's Library, Information and Archive Services—an encyclopaedia of practice and practitioners*, edited by Harrison Bryan, produced by the ALIA, sponsored by Kilners, and launched by the Hon. Kevin Rozzoli, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly;

• the Australian ADONIS project, operated by the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

INMAGIC's stand ... just one of the many commercial displays to attract delegates at Information Online 89.

BRITISH COUNCIL COURSES TO BE HELD IN BRITAIN IN 1989
LIBRARY INFORMATION STUDIES

The British Council has been running a successful programme of short courses and seminars for over 40 years. These are directed by leading British specialists, many with world-wide reputations. Their aim is to enable senior academics and professionals to learn about recent developments in their field and to participate in international discussion at a high level.

Course 931 Training for the information future: education for library and information sciences

Director: Christopher Turner, Associate Dean at Brighton Polytechnic.

A course for senior trainers and library educators; and for policy makers and manpower planners in institutions involved with library and information science.

6-18 August   Location: Eastbourne

Fee: £1115 (residential only)

Course 938 Microcomputers for library and information work

Director: Mel Collier, Chief Librarian, and Roy Adams, Deputy Librarian of Leicester Polytechnic where the course will be held.

A course for senior and middle management library staff concerned with the application of new technology.

3-16 September   Location: Leicester

Fee: £980 (residential only)

Course 955 The management of archives and records: techniques and resources

Director: Michael Cook, University Archivist at Liverpool and a lecturer there on computing for archives and on records management.

This course is intended for senior archivists and records managers whether in national, state or provincial centres. Participants may come from national archives or libraries, private, parastatal or commercial organizations.

19 November-1 December   Location: Liverpool

Fee: £1155 (residential only)

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For information on one or more of the above courses please circle the course numbers

931   938   955

Name . . . .

Address . . . .

Post Code . . . .

The British Council

and post to
The British Council
P.O. Box 88
Edgecliff NSW 2027
Telephone (02) 326 2022

The social program

And of course Information Online's renowned social functions provided opportunities to meet old and new friends in relaxed surroundings:

• the Harbour Cruise, a perfect summer evening exploring Sydney's magnificent harbour;

• the Conference Dinner with its energetic 50s theme which, like 1988, encouraged our irreverent delegates to ignore the band's floorshow and simply dance to their music, and

• the *Happy Hours* in the exhibition area following each day's conference sessions, sponsored by the ALIA, the National Library of Australia and Dun & Bradstreet.

The ALIA Information Science Section, which has sponsored Information Online since its inception in 1985, would like to thank Australian Convention Management Services for once again managing the conference so professionally, and is grateful to all those who worked so hard as convenors or committee members to make this year's conference and exhibition memorable.

The Fifth Australasian Online Information Conference and Exhibition will be held in Sydney in **January 1991**. The ISS Committee believes strongly it is important to maintain a high quality conference and exhibition, and this will be very much easier to achieve on a biennial basis.

The ISS will, however, be holding other functions of interest to members and others interested in online information, and is giving consideration to running workshops and/or clinics in alternate years between the major conference and exhibition.

Planning is about to start on the first of these — a joint project with the Licensing Executives Society on *Patents and Licensing Online*, probably to be held mid-year in Sydney. The Section has also been invited to submit a proposal for a special event in Parliament House, Sydney, in early 1990.

Watch *InCite* for further details of these and other ISS activities over the next two years. The ISS looks forward to seeing many of you along to one or more of these functions.

Executive Committee
Information Science Section