

# Letters

Dear Editor,

The final sentence of Part 1 of Hans Groeneweg's most readable article on library networks and co-operatives in the 6 March issue of *InCite* left the reader in eager anticipation of the next instalment.

Regional networks have indeed 'continued to thrive'. CLANN experienced another successful year in 1988 with a 48% increase in use of services over the previous year. As of the end of 1988, 90 libraries were connected online for cataloguing, circulation and OPAC. Some 300,000 library patrons can find out through the OPAC system whether any of the libraries have the material they require and whether or not the material is on loan anywhere in the network. This system is supported by the CLANN Inter Library Lending and Reciprocal Borrowing Schemes, as well as the universal CLANN Patron Card.

During March, CLANN distributed the first issue of the CLANN CD-CAT which is the CLANN database on CD-ROM designed for public retrieval purposes. The interface software has been developed as a joint project between Disctronics, Info-One International and CLANN Limited. The CLANN CD-CAT is a fine example of the benefits of networks. The costs of this software and product development are likely to have been prohibitive for an individual library. The companies involved in the project could see considerable market potential for the product within CLANN and beyond, thus ensuring their participation on terms favourable to CLANN. Finally, the product development has benefited from input from many talented people in the widest possible range of libraries.

Returning to the article, CLANN would like to correct Hans' assertion that 'CLANN decided to remain outside ABN'. CLANN, in fact, was busy at the time planning for its integrated system. It saw this system as being the first stage leading to eventual links with the national system. In the interim, it ensured that its data was sent to MARC NUCOM with the understanding that this would be loaded to ABN.

The second part of Hans' article dealt *inter alia* with the outlook for the future. CLANN sees the future as one where the stimulus for co-operation will exceed even that of the past 10 years. The new national unified system for Higher Education, for instance, necessitates that educational institutions find more ways to share resources, whilst CD-ROM and systems linking technology should allow for new strategies and solutions.

Rona Wade  
Executive Director, CLANN

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY



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**Qualifications:** Appropriate degree or diploma together with training in Librarianship which qualifies for admission to Registration by the Library Association of Australia; or a recognised course of integrated study in Librarianship and academic subjects; or other appropriate qualifications.

To be eligible for appointment applicants must be Australian citizens. However, applicants who are willing to take out Australian citizenship may be appointed on probation pending their obtaining citizenship. Proof of Australian citizenship/permanent residence should be provided.

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A copy of the duty statement and selection criteria can be obtained from the Personnel Section on (062) 84 5542.

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