N IN THE EWS

A new INMAGIC

Triad Data Magic Pty Ltd announce the release of INMAGIC 7.2. This release of the popular 'textbase' information management software incorporates many of the suggestions made in response to a questionnaire sent to several thousand users worldwide early in 1989.

This new version of INMAGIC is completely compatible with all previously created INMAGIC databases and formats, but provides many new features to make searching easier and to speed up data entry and editing.

These new features include:
- easier viewing — displays of search results can be scrolled backward and forward and selected records can be omitted from search results before printing or modification;
- easier updating — records retrieved in any search can be edited immediately, either singly or as a group;
- record numbers can be allocated automatically during both individual data entry and batch loading;
- individual fields can be added, replaced, deleted, modified or merged during batch loading;
- 'default' data can be inserted automatically in all records as they are created;
- calculations on dates can be performed — a useful feature for libraries.

These and many more new features make INMAGIC even more powerful and 'user friendly'.

Current users, of which there are over 1000 in Australia, can have their software upgraded for a fee. New copy prices of INMAGIC will remain the same.

For more information contact: Triad Data Magic Pty Ltd, 83-85 Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne Vic 3205, telephone (03) 696 4866, or facsimile (03) 696 4869.

Hong Kong library conference

The Hong Kong Library Association will hold its annual conference in November this year, with the theme *Managing now, fact or fiction.*

Keynote speakers include our own Patricia Layzell Ward, from the Curtin University of Technology. Some information and the Call for Papers are available from the ALIA office, or contact Agatha Sit, HKLA, PO Box 10095, GPO, Hong Kong.

Unley City Council updates property data

A new software package will soon enable the Unley City Council to display property trends and statistical information as multi-layered maps showing characteristics of land use and other features of activities within the Council area.

The new system will assist in both accuracy and usefulness by combining pictures and traditional property data such as zone, land use, owners et cetera, thus minimising the risk of publicly issuing incorrect data. It recognises that a picture is worth a thousand words!

Unley believes mapping should be a Corporate focus and available for use by all Departments for access to and analysis of property data. In addition, Council recognises the improved staff productivity that will arise from the use of mapping to simplify the maintenance of this data.

Unley's approach differs from that of the majority of organisations which have focused solely on the technical aspects of storing and retrieving maps. The new mapping capability is considered to be an important step in assessing future information directions for the Council.

The mapping software system, called GEODIS, was developed by Info Master Australia to run on IBM's new RISC System/6000 computer.

Stowe Computing Australia has worked with the Council to develop the necessary software interfaces between their IBM AS/400 and the work stations.

The benefits to the Unley City Council are numerous. The system should result in considerable savings in staff time and improve the sharing and control of data across the organisation.

Rare book fair

Millions of dollars worth of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps and prints priced from $10 to $50 000 go on sale in Melbourne in September at the Antiquarian Book Fair. One US dealer will be offering a chance at the first book ever printed, or at least part of it — a single leaf from the Gutenberg Bible. The asking price — around $20 000. A booklet on Ned Kelly, which sold for sixpence in 1881, is up for sale at $1250. Cricket enthusiasts can pick up a complete set of Wisden's Cricketers' Almanac for $40 000.

The Antiquarian Book Fair opens on 21 September at Melbourne's Southern Cross Hotel and runs for 3 days. About 25 dealers from Australia, New Zealand and the United States will exhibit.

Further information can be obtained directly from Peter Arnold Pty Ltd on (03) 529 2933.

Call for Nominations: 1990 Robert D Williamson Award

The Williamson Award commemorates Bob's contribution to the development of information science in Australia by recognising and encouraging similar contributions.

Nominations for the 1990 Award are now open until 30 September.

If you know of a deserving candidate, please call Ian McCallum, Award Committee Chairman, on (06) 248 8488.

Claiming a place for young people

The Public Libraries Division of the State Library of Queensland will host a conference, *Claiming a Place, Public Library Services for Young People.* The conference is to take place 29-31 October 1990 in the State Library on Brisbane's South Bank.

The program, to be opened by Roisin Goss, wife of Queensland's Premier, claims a place in libraries for services to young people. It concentrates on two issues of current national significance: Aborigines and Islanders in books for children and service to teenagers.

Notable speakers include Margaret Dunkle on 'Children, Libraries, Books', Maureen Watson on 'Writing and storytelling from the Aboriginal perspective', Frank Willmott on 'Writing for teenagers', and Barbara Ker Wilson on 'Editing for the Young Adult List'. Patricia Wrightson has also agreed to participate in an informal question and answer session.

Supporting experts will provide informative sessions on the provision of Young Adult Services, education software in the public library, changes in the teaching of reading and the judging of children's books. John Shield of Ashton Scholastic, who have provided support by way of some sponsorship, will speak on the promotion of reading and the Ashton Scholastic Book Club.

Entertainment offered includes a Torres Strait Islander dance troupe performing at an informal dinner and storytellers from the Brisbane Branch of the Storytellers Guild. Displays feature booksellers and publishers, the latest range of interactive software, children's library furniture and toys and games.

The conference has already attracted considerable interest from librarians in Australia and New Zealand. Information can be obtained from Janet Worden, Public Libraries Division (07) 358 4588 or (008) 01 7114.

External studies

Monash University Degrees and Graduate Diploma in School Librarianship are now available by external studies through the School of Education, Monash University College Gippsland.

All awards are fully recognised by the Australian Library and Information Association as professional librarianship qualification. For further information and application forms contact: The Registrar, Monash University College Gippsland, Switchback Road, Churchill, Vic 3842, telephone (051) 22 0287.

Marketing publications

The Australian Library Publishers Society (ALPS) is an association of 29 members, mostly libraries, with a commercial publishing program, who are cooperating to market their publications. It has exhibited at the 1988 IFLA/LAA Conference and at the 1989 National Reference Librarians Conference.

ALPS is now preparing an exhibition for the 1990 ALIA Conference in Perth, and examining ways of marketing its publications overseas.

If your library has a publishing program you are invited to join ALPS. The membership joining fee is $100, and the cost for each entry in its second catalogue will be about $10 per entry. It will also be possible to have copies of your publications for display at its stand at the 1990 ALIA Conference in Perth.

Please contact the Convener immediately to participate, or if you would like a copy of the 1988 catalogue: Ray Choate, Convener, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, GPO Box 498, Adelaide, SA 5001, fax (08) 232 3689.

The Historic Records Register ...at your local library?

The Australian Historic Records Register lists more than 3500 Collections of paper-based documents held by individuals, families or organisations. These range from diaries written en route to Australia to letters from the Vietnam War, recipe books, newspapers, photographs and almost everything else imaginable.

More than 1000 libraries around the country have received microfiches of the original Register, which is held in the National Library. The Register began as a Bicentennial project in 1987, when field officers scoured the nation to assess the historic worth of documents stored in boxes, barns or under houses. It is a fascinating summary of who we are — an instant index to our cultural heritage.

New Librarians' group

A new librarians' group, Librarians of Distance Education Centres (LDEC), was formed at a meeting in Sydney in June, attended by representatives of the libraries of all eight of Australia's distance education centres (DECs).

At its inaugural meeting, the members of LDEC agreed to initiate a number of projects, including the revision of the document *Guidelines for library services to external students* in the light of the changing environment of higher education; the identification of priority areas for research; and the updating of *Library services for external students: a guide*.

LDEC will hold a 2-day meeting of DEC librarians and off-campus librarians in December at Deakin University.

The officers of LDEC until the December meeting are: Chairperson – Judith Edwards (College Librarian of the University College of Central Queensland) and Secretary – John Yocklunn (Chief Librarian of the Monash University College Gippsland).

For further information contact: John Yocklunn, Monash University College Gippsland, Churchill, Vic 3842, telephone (051) 22 0420, or facsimile (051) 22 3147.

Review of the Eighth CONSAL Congress (Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians)

Australia had 16 participants at CONSAL (Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians) held in Jakarta from 11-14 June: four from the National Library of Australia, led by the Director-General, Warren Horton; Colin Steele from the Australian National University Library; several involved with IDP — International Development Program — notably Bill Linklater, the Head of the Library Program, and Bronwen Solyom currently based in Jakarta. Others included two from the Northern Territory University and representatives of the leading Southeast Asian collecting institutions in Australia. Papers were given by Colin Steele and Warren Horton (for Dr Jan Lyall of the National Library).

The theme of the conference was New Challenges in Library Services in the Developing World. Over 700 attended, about 550 of them from Indonesia. The largest overseas contingents came from Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, with about nine registrants from the US and five from Europe.

The attendance by so many Indonesians will undoubtedly give them an opportunity to gauge the gaps in their information provision, particularly in automated technologies. In this country of 180 million people, library and information priorities have not been high until the 1980s.

Soekarman Kartosedono in a speech entitled Library Development in Indonesia outlined some of the problems and issues confronting library and information professionals in Indonesia. For example, he estimates that in the higher education sector only a small proportion of the 478 university, academy and other higher education libraries could be regarded as adequate.

To improve matters the Directorate General of Higher Education has launched a strategic development project, including 'model university libraries'. There is clearly a long way to go, but progress will only be made through examples of operational achievement.

Indonesian librarians quoted by the *Jakarta Post* said they 'felt uneasy' when discussing modern technologies with foreign librarians because of their relative lack of technological progress. In the context of the ASEAN region the papers given by leading librarians from Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines on the plans for their new national library struc-

tures showed a desire to provide a formal governmental network to assist library developments.

While such developments may be slow to come, it was heartening to hear details of this national library planning, particularly as relatively little detail is generally available in the library literature.

Other highlights of papers presented included a very significant overview of audiovisual and media resources in Malaysia by Shellatay Devadson, the Head of the Reference Division of the National Library of Malaysia. Devadson highlighted the importance of oral communication in the ASEAN countries: 'Thus in the Philippines the rural people tend to view libraries with indifference partly because they are seen as alien objects reflective of an alien culture, and partly because the principal mode of communication of the people is oral.'

The Deputy National Librarian of Vietnam, Ha Thu Cuc, in her paper on *The National Library in the Process of Renewal* recognised the need for 'raising professional standards' for librarians within Vietnam and reaffirmed their current cooperation with the National Library of Australia including the regular supply of floppy disks of the national bibliography of Vietnam. The difficulties of Vietnam and Indonesia contrast vividly with the advanced developments of Singapore, as outlined in Yoke-Lan Wick's paper on the application of computers in Singapore where major strides have been made in the last decade.

On the social front, the warm hospitality of the Indonesian organisers was evident in the official opening reception held at the State Palace, where delegates met the President and Mrs Soeharto, and at a reception hosted by the Governor of Jakarta. At times the conference organisation 'creaked', e.g. in the timing of the departure of buses to venues — an hour's delay on a non-airconditioned bus in the Jakarta summer humidity can sometimes be a trying exercise. The Australian delegates adopted a variety of ploys to overcome such discomforts!

As President Soeharto said in his opening speech 'The differences of the level of progress of the economic, social and educational sectors do not necessarily mean that everything originating from the advanced countries can be applied in the developing countries.' The *Jakarta Post* concluded its coverage of the conference with the hope that CONSAL would provide a catalyst for accelerated library developments in the ASEAN region in general and Indonesia in particular. This is a sentiment surely echoed by all of the participants.

Colin Steele
Australian National University

Librarianship training for the Northern Territory

The Northern Territory Branch of ALIA is seeking ways and means to make it easier for Northern Territory residents to gain qualifications for professional librarianship. The Northern Territory is the only State or Territory in Australia where basic qualifications can only be obtained by going interstate or by studying externally.

The Branch has established a sub-committee, chaired by Margaret Clinch, to coordinate its efforts. The sub-committee is in the process of contacting library schools and/or individuals in library schools with a view to directly addressing some of the problems without actually establishing a library school in the Northern Territory. As well, comments are being sought from the Northern Territory University, the Northern Territory Department of Labour and Administrative Services and all ALIA Sections within the Northern Territory.

The extent of interest in library work is shown by the number of applicants to the Associate Diploma in Library Practice course available for technicians in Darwin. Some of the problems are as follows:

- There is no typical school leaver entry into the profession and the school counsellors are unable to offer it as a career available in the Northern Territory.
- Reliance upon recruiting qualified librarians from interstate means that from time to time there is a shortfall in the number of professionals available at appropriate levels of experience. The 'Acting' phenomenon is common for long periods of time.
- Those who study externally are disadvantaged by the lack of an appropriate classification for librarians-in-training. Students in integrated courses of librarianship may have many years of experience (perhaps 8 years) before completing their qualifications.
- Travel interstate to summer schools and residentials is prohibitive (for example, over $1000 for Darwin to Sydney for travel alone).
- Many individuals who have completed the Associate Diploma in Library Practice wish to continue studying to obtain professional qualifications in librarianship.
- The Northern Territory has a very mobile population. Transfers interstate are common, particularly where families have come from interstate initially.

All these factors add up to a shortfall in the core of professionally qualified librarians and a discouraging situation for local residents who wish to become