

AGPS—invoicing and e-publishing

Roxanne Missingham and her FLIN colleagues have been deep in discussion with AGPS

The last issue of *inCite* (#6, p 30) carried an examination of the report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, *Australian Government Purchasing Policies: Buying our Future*. The Federal Libraries Information Network (FLIN—an affiliate of ACLIS formed in 1992) had addressed a number of issues to the Committee, including:

- Purchasing Australia and government procurement;
- the need for government electronic publishing of information;
- problems of AGPS invoicing and supply.

FLIN representatives met with senior AGPS staff in May to discuss their concerns with AGPS—in particular, invoicing and supply and electronic publishing.

Invoicing and supply

AGPS are revising their subscriptions and standing orders invoicing system. The card notice system will be replaced with A4 invoices containing more information. FLIN described library invoicing needs and showed a copy of a 'good' library invoice (from ISA). Invoices should include delivery and billing addresses; be sent to the billings address; include the full title of all publications; include a library order or library reference number for each title; include the subscription period for each title; and contain information about any suspended publications.

AGPS welcomed our suggestions and would be pleased to hear suggestions from other library groups for improvements to the invoicing system. They are considering dropping the \$5 minimum charge and allowing for payment by monthly invoice, and are also interested in electronic ordering.

Electronic publishing

AGPS have recently moved into

electronic publishing, an area of great interest to Australian librarians. They have a joint venture with Diskrom to publish Commonwealth legislation on CD-ROM and are publishing on floppy disk (e.g., the Federal Budget Papers). They have also launched *GOLD*—the Commonwealth Directory—as a dial-up service (x500).

FLIN believes that AGPS have a key role in electronic government publishing as they receive much of their information in electronic form and are often better able to manage (and market and distribute) electronic copies than the authoring departments. AGPS could also make effective use of the Internet for electronic publishing.

Bookshop services

A survey of the Canberra Bookshop has found that 60% of calls are seeking information about government agencies and services. FLIN supports the role of the Bookshops in providing this information, given the complexity of services at the different levels of government and their frequent name changes. But the Bookshops need sufficient resources to provide this information, as well as responding to publication sales and inquiries.

FLIN will meet AGPS again later this year—I will let you know of other issues that we discuss. For further information please contact me, Roxanne Missingham, ph (06) 274 1213, or Kay Winter (06) 276 4590. ■

Cataloguers and the Internet

Judy Engall sees new roles opening up

Giles Martin addressed the NSW Cataloguers' Section on 23 February about the relationship between cataloguers and the Internet. Giles is an expert user of the Internet from the University of Newcastle Libraries and a well known and widely-travelled representative of Australian cataloguers. His task was to explain the different components of the Internet and their relevance to cataloguers.

With the Internet changing rapidly due to the addition of material by many different people, information is not always easily accessible: there is no consistency about the arrangement of Internet data, and retrieving information can be chaotic. It was interesting to ponder just how cataloguers may be able to put some or-

ganisation into this situation. Lots of services are being set up by people who don't have much experience in information retrieval. Cataloguers could become involved in organising the data, and much more.

Giles gave us an overview of electronic mail discussion groups such as AUTOCAT, file transfer (ftp), and gophers. He also covered the listing of Internet resources in local OPACs and their preservation.

We found his talk fascinating and thought-provoking, and shared an enjoyable pasta meal with him after the meeting.

