

Public internet access in libraries

In a previous issue, we reported on the success of the National Library's *Internet café*. There are now four more public terminals, in the Library's main reading room. A number of libraries in Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia and the ACT have also been provided with public Internet access through the Department of Social Security's CIN project. If you know of any others, let us know and we'll publicise them here and on the ALIANet Web server.

Web pages for ALIA groups

And speaking of the ALIANet server, Ivan Trundle has made a number of changes to its contents and layout. He's now interested in hearing from Branches, Divisions and Special Interest Groups of ALIA who want to mount home pages on the server. Mail him at ivan.trundle@alia.org.au

DNC-L

The Distributed National Collection (DNC) Office at the National Library has announced DNC-L, an unmoderated forum open to anyone interested in discussing issues related to the DNC, such as collecting agreements, collection development policies, *Conspicuous and Towards Federation 2001* activities.

To subscribe, send the message `subscribe DNC-L firstname lastname to listproc@nla.gov.au` and to post messages to the list, send them to `dnc-l@nla.gov.au`

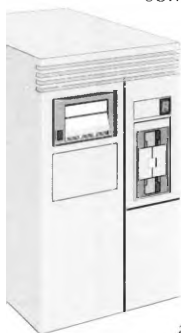
And there's also a DNC home page at <http://www.nla.gov.au/dnc/dnchome.html>

Colin Steele's Follett lecture

In April, Colin Steele, University Librarian at the ANU gave the fourth in the series of Follett Lectures in the UK. The title was *Neuromancers or pulp fiction? Do libraries and librarians have an Internet future?* To find the answer, check it at <http://snazzy.anu.edu.au/CNAS1/pubs/Follett.html>

ABS on the Net

As all library workers know, the Australian Bureau of Statistics produces some of our most useful and highly sought after reference material. In fact, one of the most common requests to the manager of the Australian Government home page (<http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov/federal.html>) has been 'where can I find ABS material?'. Well, it's here now and it's pretty good. Look at <http://www.statistics.gov.au>



Internet service providers

These are the people who'll hook you up to the Net. Even if you don't need the information to connect your library, you're bound to get plenty of requests from your clients. At <http://www.cs.monash.edu.au/~zik/netfaq.html> you'll find answers to questions about getting access in general, as well as a comprehensive list of ISPs for each state and territory.

It's maintained by Zik Saleeba, a postgraduate student at Monash University.

Cyberporn — time for another look

You may have seen the article in *Time magazine* reporting on a study which seemed to show that the Net was overrun with pornography and pornographers. Well, it wasn't that simple and there's been a lot of discussion on the Net about the article and the study. You'll find a rigorous analysis of the matter at <http://www.hotwired.com/special/pornscare/hoffman.html> This also includes some rebuttal from the author of the study, who's been roundly criticised for his research methodology as well as his motives. And at <http://TRFN.pgh.pa.us/guest/mrstudy.html> you'll find further commentary from the main critics of the study.

The sincerest form of flattery?

IN SITE, a 'Current awareness fortnightly for the information professional' has been launched by Gary Price in the US. There have been only a few issues so far, but he's done quite a lot of work. The second issue (produced in time for the ALA Conference) listed around 80 new Web sites in a number of categories, including a few from Australia. One notable category was the travel organisations — especially airlines and car rental firms. If you would like to be put on the list to get future issues, send a message to Gary at libref@aol.com

Digital libraries forum and magazine

The D-Lib Forum (USA) has announced *D-Lib* magazine at <http://www.cnri.reston.va.us/home/dlib.html> The magazine is directed toward a broad technical and professional audience and offers users the chance to access discussions of current digital library research, advanced development, and implementation; news about projects; and pointers to useful sites. It is sponsored by the Information Infrastructure Technology and Applications (IITA) task group of the US High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) program.

CAIS proceedings

A collection of papers from the proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science (CAIS) is available at <http://www.ualberta.ca/dept/slis/cais/> The conference was held in June at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta, Canada. The theme was *Connectedness: Information, systems, people, organizations*.



Natural medicine resources

The Alchemical Medicine Research and Teaching Association, a non-profit educational group, has announced two new pages — Natural medicine, complementary health care and alternative therapies at <http://www.amrta.org/~amrta> and the Interactive BodyMind Information System (IBIS) at <http://www.gaiamm.com/~ibis>

New site for technical services

There's a new site at Queen's University in Canada, which will be useful for the general technical services community. It's available at <http://stauffer.queensu.ca/techserv/qtechweb.html> and you'll find cataloguing and acquisitions tools, as well as pointers to a number of similar sites.

Document delivery action

There's been a lot of action on the document delivery front recently. At the ANB users meeting in Melbourne, there was announcement of the JEDDS (Joint Electronic Document Delivery Software) Project, involving the AVCC, the National Libraries of Australia and New Zealand, and the UK eLib program. Details of JEDDS are at <http://www.gu.edu.au/alib/iii/docdel/jeddpr1.htm>

This excited the fertile mind of Tony Barry, who started a discussion on ways to implement a similar solution in a simpler way. A summary of Tony Barry's thoughts is at <http://ningai.anu.edu.au/projects/mime/Welcome.html> Then the word came through from Geoff Collins at Griffith University that they were well-advanced with REDD (Regional Electronic Document Delivery), which is being developed by UQ, Griffith and QUT. You can find out about REDD at http://libsyspc_geoff.itc.gu.edu.au/ddel/overwv.htm

Further developments will be reported as they unfold.

Library automation — the truth at last

Earl Lee from Pittsburg State University published an article in the journal *Librarians at liberty* called 'A visit to Oz, or Don't pay any attention to the man behind the curtain: Case studies in the political economy of library automation'. It's a gem, and anyone who's survived a library automation project will sympathise. He's put it on the Net at <http://www.pittstate.edu/~ewayne/acase.html> Very highly recommended.

WWW for corporate information systems

There's a new list that's been set up to discuss topics related to the use and implementation of WWW for corporate information systems. Corporate information providers could put internal documents available only to the internal community, such as documentation, policy documents, and telephone and e-mail directories, all of which can be searched by the same tools as Internet resources.

To subscribe to WWW-CIS simply send e-mail to www-cis-request@sgs-thomson.it (Nothing is needed in the body of the message).

Campus information policies

The University of Canberra has recently developed an Information Policy and IT Policy for the campus. The policies are on the Web server at http://services.canberra.edu.au/cwis/policies/UC_Policies_top.html

New from IPL

The Internet Public Library at the University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies has come

up with another great idea. It's a MOO, an interactive virtual environment for librarians, information professionals, and the Internet community at large. You connect to the site, and then move around rooms in the IPL and talk (through the keyboard) to the other people who are there at the time.

The simplest way to get there is to telnet to ipl.sils.umich.edu and log in as `iplmoo`

Then just follow the instructions. Be warned though — it's hard to disengage. You'll have said goodbye and be ready to logoff, and then another question comes along. And be prepared to answer questions about employment in Australia.

European developments in digital libraries

The European Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM), which represents 14 national information technology research institutes has decided to establish a program for research and development in digital libraries. ERCIM will focus its fellowship program for the next few years on topics in digital library research, will encourage basic research by supporting the activities of ERCIM'S DELOS working group, and will support the SAMOS project, which proposes to build an Internet-accessible library of the technical reports produced by ERCIM institutes.

For more information about ERCIM and its programs, see <http://www-ercim.inria.fr/>

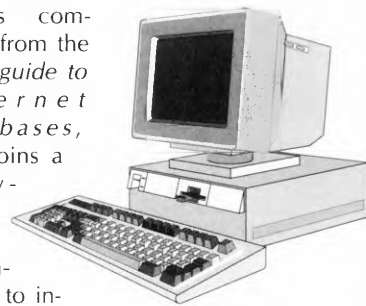
Gale guide to internet resources

Gale Research has set up an indexed resource directory to Home Pages, an Internet bibliography, and a glossary of many used internet terms at their

local site of <http://www.thomson.com/gale.html>

It's compiled from the *Gale guide to internet databases*, and joins a growing list of indexes to internet material.

It's not bad, but it has already been criticised for having too many extraneous images, compared to the others such as Yahoo. The glossary is comprehensive, but does take a long time to load (over 110K bytes). It could easily have been broken into smaller files.



Information policy at the World Bank

The World Bank has published a discussion paper addressing physical infrastructure issues of communications networks and social issues, both in its development activities and in its own operations. You'll find it at <http://www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/IENT/HID/hidabout.html>

Archives on the Web

The Australian Archives now has its own World Wide Web site. The home page offers examples of some of the important holdings, exhibitions and events planned, publications and important information on how to access the holdings. The Australian Archives maintains the Archives of Australia site, which has links to other archival institutions within Australia such as all State and university archives, professional associations and overseas archives.

It's at <http://www.aa.gov.au>

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Kerry Webb at k.webb@nla.gov.au, or via the ALIA National Office, incite@alia.org.au

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