Traversing the trelliswork of the Internet

Public access issues

In the September *inCite* I asked for any information on public access to the internet from public libraries. Derek Whitehead from the State Library of Victoria reports that (at the end of August) there were twelve public libraries offering access through VICNET, both in metropolitan and rural areas. The list of public access points can be found at http://www.vicnet.net.au/vicnet/libraries/viclibs.htm

And if you're interested in starting an Internet cafe or in general issues in providing public access, there's a list for discussion on cafes. Send a message to listserv@netcom.com and in the body of the message put the line subscribe cyber-cafe (no name is required).

Many of the topics being discussed on the list have plenty of relevance even if you're not dispensing coffee and cakes, and the cafe operators are realising that there are many things that they can learn about the business of providing information.

Sport information online

The National Sport Information Centre has established the Australian Sport World Wide Web at http://www.ausport.gov.au Much of the server is still under construction, but there's already a lot of information and links to other great sites featuring most of the sports played in Australia.

One link is to a page about Australian Rules Football which has all results of games played this year, but not the fixture list for forthcoming games — it appears that such information cannot legally be displayed on the Net. If you want to find out why this is so, call AFL headquarters.

Directors meetings on the Net?

It appears that the internet may become a feature of company boardrooms. Most companies' rules require that directors 'meet together', but a recent Federal Court case it was held that 'meet together' does not necessarily mean 'meet in the same room'. ALIA already conducts some meetings by teleconference — maybe we should try Internet Relay Chat (IRC) as well?

A new teacher librarians list

The lecturers in teacher librarianship at the School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University have started a listserv for Australian teacher librarians. OZTL_NET will focus on topics of interest to the Australian teacher librarian community, including the latest issues and developments that relate to and impact on school library services, operations and activities.

To subscribe, post a message to OZTL_NET-request@listserv.csu.edu.au with subscribe in the subject line, and leave the message field blank.

New subscribers are encouraged to introduce themselves to OZTL_NET in their first message to the listserv. The address for posting messages is OZTL_NET@listserv.csu.edu.au

What's new with the broadcasters?

Amid a certain amount of fanfare, the ABC has joined the Net. For a while, we've been invited to send e-mail requests to Triple J, and many of the individual AM radio stations have e-mail addresses. Now their Home Page is up at http://www.abc.net.au/ and it features the *Hot Chips* program as well as the radio networks. One feature I liked is the map of Australia where you can click on your region and find out the frequencies for the local Triple J and Radio National stations (now if only I could access it from my car).

Channel 9 in Queensland have taken a slightly different tack in the design of their Web Pages at http://www.design.net.au/nine/ Their *Extra* television program is a magazine-style show which features aspects of Queensland life, and if you want to know more about one of their stories, just click on the 'Info On-line' icon and there's a contact number for the resort or festival or volunteer group featured in the story.

Hurstville

Hurstville Council in Sydney, in conjunction with News Corporation has established a striking local government site at http://www.Delphi.com.au/councils/hurst/homeall.htm It features shopping, events, schools, community affairs and council operations (including e-mail access to councillors). The library page features forthcoming events and HSC material which the library holds.

The Hurstville council plans to add a dial-up bulletin board service and e-mail services for schools, community, sporting and social organisations.

Pulitzer prizes

Details of the 1995 Pulitzer prizes are at http://www.pulitzer.org/ where you'll find a list of all winners and examples of their work. This could become a valuable archive on the internet.

Yahoo survey

Those great folks who brought you Yahoo (http://www.yahoo.com), the excellent hierarchical index of internet resources recently conducted a survey of their users. The results are interesting.

Of the respondents, 1.8 per cent were from Australia (behind the US, Canada and the UK), 17 per cent were female, and people in the 36–54 age group made up 34 per cent of those replying. 17 per cent said that they spent more than 20 hours per week online.

Global information locator

The US Government has led the world in providing a national framework for the location of government information with its GILS (Government Information Locator Service) initiative. They are now considering how to expand this to a Global Information Locator modelled on GILS. If you want to comment on the proposal, the current draft is available at http://www.usgs.gov/gils/global.html

OLTC

The Open Learning Technology Corporation (OLTC) has launched its World Wide Web site. It offers information about OLTC's role and mission, its current activities, and publications, as well as information on open learning technologies used in Australia. The address is http://www.oltc.edu.au/

This is worth watching, as OLTC will be the driver of the EdNA project, details from which can be found at the site http://www.deet.gov.au/edna/estbmsg2.htm

An issues paper on EdNA business requirements has been developed and is available for information and comment from the Web through http://www.deet.gov.au/ or can be downloaded from ftp://ftp.deet.gov.au/anon/edna/037_txt.txt (text only) or ftp://ftp.deet.gov.au/anon/edna/037_20.doc (Word for Windows 2.0 format).

The forum of the internet society

The first issue of *The ISOC Forum,* the international electronic publication of the internet Society has been published. You can read it at http://www.isoc.org or you can arrange for it to be delivered by sending a message to editor@isoc.org with ISOC FORUM in the subject line and your name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

This issue contains a number of stories, notes on new publications, and news about the Internet Society. One story features a 'statistically defensible survey of internet users' by O'Reilly and Associates, which found that women make up a higher percentage of users (34 per cent) than has been estimated in the past and that 43 per cent of internet users work in corporations with 1 000 or more employees.

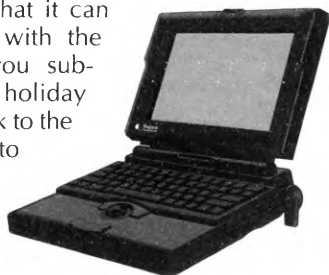*ISOC Forum* will appear twice monthly.

NISC

The National Information Services Council (NISC) was established by the Commonwealth Government as a result of a number of recent enquiries, particularly that of the Broadband Services Expert Group (BSEG). It is a high-level advisory body comprising leaders in Australia's information industries. Unfortunately the country's libraries are not directly represented, although we have a friend at court in Alison Crook, the former State Librarian of NSW.

The agenda papers for the first meeting of the NISC can be found at http://www.nla.gov.au/pmc/nisc/aug95/nisc1.html

A little note of netiquette

There are some neat e-mail facilities which enable you to reply to messages when you're going to be away from the office for a while. These will automatically send a message saying something like Thanks for your message, but I'm going to be on holidays for two weeks, but I'll get back to you when I return'. All very polite and friendly, except that it can play merry hell with the lists to which you subscribe. If your holiday message goes back to the list in response to every posting that you receive, it will either bounce around to all members if it's an unmoderated list, or else it will annoy the moderators.

It's far better to suspend delivery of your list mail if you are going to be gone for a prolonged period of time, by using the POSTPONE or NOMAIL command. Check with the list to see what's the correct command.

CAUL

The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) has a Home Page at http://www.anu.edu.au/caul/ providing information about CAUL, its membership and its activities.

Proposed global library tour

Paul Evan Peters of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) is curating an exhibit next year for the New York Public Library in its centennial year. *The global library* exhibit will feature 'A guided tour of the world wide web of information,' with a wide-ranging, both topically and geographically, selection of information resources and services currently available on the internet and accessible through the world wide web.

Paul would appreciate any suggestions on web sites that he could feature, or technologies, resources, and services that are not ready just yet, but could form part of a preview of coming attractions. He can be reached at paul@cni.org

IFLA-L has moved

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions mailing list IFLA-L, has moved to a new home, at IFLA-L@infoserv.nlc-bnc.ca If you are currently a subscriber, you don't have to resubscribe to the list. Your subscription will have been automatically transferred to the new location. It has also undergone a few changes. Its now (lightly) moderated, and some list functions (including subscription) can be accessed through the Web at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cgi-bin/ifla-lwgate/

Netsurfer tools

This is a new e-zine bringing news about online technology to technical professionals and others interested in keeping current on network tools. The majority of the information is about the Web with a sprinkle of related utilities. The address is http://www.netsurf.com/nsf/ and you can get it by e-mail (in text or HTML versions) by sending a message to nstools-request@netsurf.com with subscribe nstools-text or subscribe nstools-html in the body of the message.

WWW for corporate information systems

In the last *inCite* column, we provided information that proved to be incorrect. If you want to subscribe to the list which covers the use of WWW for corporate information systems, send the following message to Majordomo@sgs-thomson.it subscribe www-cis your-email-address   ■

Surfing the net in Darwin

Carole Metcalf, President of the WA Library Technician Section caught 'surfing the net' at the Techs at the top conference (and you thought that the surf was small in Darwin at this time of year!)