

OPLs receive a boost at conference

Recently I attended the Synergy in Sydney conference, held at Darling Harbour from 27–30 August 1995. As a combined conference of special, health and law librarians a wide range of papers were offered. I found two of the keynote sessions I attended to be especially thought provoking. Professor James Matarazzo presented a paper dealing primarily with his view of the

role of the corporate librarian and library today and in the future. One point he made that really struck home was that if a corporate library just stored books and journals, as was traditionally the library's role, the library was simply a warehouse and had no future in the corporate environment.

Chris Nailor's paper dealt with how the world will function in the 21st century and how the type of information required will change from that currently used. In addition to keynote speakers were sessions dealing with management, marketing and the impact of technology. Most of the papers were very good, a couple were not, all provided fuel for thought and ideas for improvements to take back at the salt mine.

One of the advantages of attending a conference is the opportunity to network, it was great to meet so many people who had, up until then, only been friendly voices on the other end of the telephone line. Network meetings for both formal and informal groups were held at lunchtimes. One

that I was involved in was for librarians who worked in one person libraries (OPLs). This was a lively meeting which provided a forum for OPLs to ask questions and try to solve problems. A couple of issues raised were how to get volunteer help for the library and how to get the information systems staff to buy the software you want and not what they think you need. Something that was quite clear was that all OPLs feel isolated from their colleagues whether geographically remote or in a city. One of the outcomes of this meeting was an identifiable need for a network group. It was agreed that a special interest group be established through ALIA, so that news and views could be shared and get together organised, a proposal to form the group is being put to the next General Council meeting in November. For information regarding this proposed SIG please contact me on (02) 799 2364 or e-mail daleg@ilanel.slnsw.gov.au

*Georgina Dale,
Janssen Cilag Pty Ltd*

Synergy from a trade perspective

At the recent *Synergy in Sydney* combined special, health and law librarians conference held at Darling Harbour, Trimagic Software participated not only as a trade exhibitor, but also in an imaging discussion panel. As exhibitors we launched the new Windows release of INMAGIC Software — DB/TextWorks, and as a result, experienced a very hectic few days demonstrating the new product to many delegates. In general, the trade exhibition area was fairly quiet in comparison with *Online and On Disc* held in January of this year, but the usual array of lollies and give-aways were in abundance!

The other exciting event at the conference was the launch of the 1995 Special Libraries Directory, a project initiated and coordinated by Joanne Fuller and supported by Trimagic. Prior to the conference, Joanne approached Trimagic Software with a view to converting the existing hard copy directory into an easy to use electronic version using INMAGIC software. After establishing the feasibility of the project, Joanne purchased a 50 user licence to create individual 'run time' versions, and had each version burned onto CD-ROM. The menu interface enables users to select a state of their choice, or search the combined national listing. User friendly prompts have been designed enabling access to the information about each library from a variety of points including subject specialisation, and name of organisation. For any enquiries regarding cost and availability of this product, contact ALIA.

*Helen Jones,
Trimagic Software*

Anne Harrison award winner 1995

The Anne Harrison award was established as a tribute to Anne Harrison's sterling achievements in the development of health librarianship in Australia.

The winner of this year's \$2 500 award is Kathy Saurine (pictured right), manager of library and information services for the North West Region, Department of Community and Health Services situated in Burnie, Tasmania.

Kathy's winning proposal concerns the implications for health libraries of privatisation within the health sector. She intends to conduct a survey of libraries that have already experienced privatisation of services or who have entered contractual arrangements to insource or outsource library services. One of the aims of her project is to raise awareness of the issues involved and show how health librarians are coping.

The official presentation of the award to Kathy took place at the ALIA Health Libraries section dinner at the Maritime Museum, Sydney on 28 August 1995. ■

