events

• **11–13/10 Rural & Isolated Libraries' SIG calendar for 1996** ALIA-RILSIG Forum 1996, Ballarat Vic, after Biennial Conference in Melbourne. Theme: *Networks: Communication highway or communication bypass?* For library professionals in small isolated and/or rural libraries or information services, incl specials isolated by subject or position within a large organisation. Further Information: Secretary, ph/, fax 053 333 258. Limit: 30 participants.
• **16/10 Geelong regional group** *The future of librarianship.* Guest Speaker: Professor Bill Martin, head, RMIT Dept of Information Management and Library Studies. Dinner meeting at the Grovedale Hotel. Cost: TBA. Enquiries: Sue McKnight ph (052) 271 352,e-mail suemck@deakin.edu.au.
• **14/11 Geelong regional group** *Workshop on interviews/job applications.* 5.30pm for 6pm.Woolstores Campus (Deakin), Library Room, 1 Geringhap Street, Geelong. Contact: Sue McKnight, ph (052) 271 352 (bh), fax (052) 272 000, e-mail suemck@ deakin.edu.au.

WA

8/8 Blackwell's technology evening: *a presentation of Blackwell's new electronic services and recent enhancements to their Internet services, including Blackwell's electronic journal navigator.* Art Gallery of WA Theatrette Stirling Street, Perth, 4.30 for 5–7pm. RSVP/contact: Margaret or Rhonda, ph (02) 9948 7300, fax (02) 9948 5217 e-mail shoebridge@blackwell.com.au.
• **13/8 Internet subject sessions presented by the CPD Committee and RAISS.** *Education* by Carol Newton-Smith & Kathy Deubert at Curtin Uni Library. 5.30pm. RSVP Carole Metcalf ph (09) 341 1022 e-mail wezman@iinet.com.au.
• **21/8 WA specials section committee meeting**. Time: 5–7pm. Contact Tracy Gerristsen, ph (09) 481 0129.
• **22/8 ALIA national special libraries section committee meeting**. 5.30pm, Room G2, Alexander Library Building. Contact: Deanne Barrett, ph (09) 222 7904.
• **17/9 Internet subject sessions presented by the CPD committee and RAISS.** *Health sciences* by Jane Long at Curtin Uni Library. 5.30pm. RSVP Carole Metcalf ph (09) 341 1022 e-mail wezman@iinet.com.au.
• **18/9 WA specials section committee meeting**. Time: 5–7pm. Contact Tracy Gerristsen, ph (09) 481 0129.
• **26/9 ALIA national special libraries section committee meeting**. 5.30pm, Room G2, Alexander Library Building. Contact: Deanne Barrett, ph (09) 222 7904.
• **27/9 WA specials section breakfast**. Venue: Boatshed, South Perth. Contact: Alice Horan-Anderson, ph (09) 222 7632 for details.
• **16/10 WA specials section committee meeting** Time: 5–7pm. Contact Tracy Gerristsen, ph (09) 481 0129.
• **24/10 ALIA national special libraries section committee meet-**

Magellan Leadership Institute
lights a long-term fire

Some leadership training courses send their quaking participants out to leap over cliffs and crawl through mud. The Magellan Leadership Institute participants kept the physical discomfort at a safe distance beyond the windows of the Canberra Hyatt.

The Magellan Institute, held in June, was designed to support senior executives in the exploration of leadership issues in an increasingly complex environment. Institute designers and presenters, AIMA Training and Consultancy Services, shifted the focus from the 'navigational' content of jobs to strategic leadership.

All participants and presenters involved in the program acknowledged the difficulties and discomforts of 'the vision thing'. The purpose of this institute was to explore the skills for strategic leadership in an environ-ment in which people can now choose to get their information from somewhere other than the library.

The fires of exploration were facilitated by John Shannon and Becky Schreiber of Shannon Schreiber Associates, organisational consultants with clients as diverse as Johns Hopkins University and Harley-Davidson, and included presentations from Julie Rhodes, founder of Quasar Professionals, Rich Sweeney, university librarian of New Jersey Institute of Technology (whose attendance was partly sponsored by ALIA), and Peter Bycroft, Canberra-based corporate consultant and self-confessed non-library user.

Peter Bycroft's company, Corporate Diagnostics, played a critical part in the transformation of DAS Fleet and Australia Post. He told the Magellan group that there are other places to go for information and libraries need to assess how they do business to win him — and others like him — back to libraries with a market-driven, client-centred focus. He was supported in this by Rich Sweeney who challenged the participants to rethink their organisational structures and traditional budget allocations, and Julie Rhodes, who highlighted strong customer-centred partnerships as the key to successful business in the future.

In the words of one participant, the Australian Securities Commission's Paul Bunker, the Magellan Leadership Institute 'reinforced a number of ideas and concepts. There was a sense of common purpose amongst the participants about what the issues of the future are — now we have to stop talking about them and act.' ■

Are we resistant to change?

The differences between traditional publishing and what we could now call *cyberpublishing* — publishing in a form accessible over the Internet — are profound. As information professionals, we are not only users, but also procurers and producers of information; we must be mindful of these differences.

Consider these broad differences:

• Currently, we receive and move most written information in a physical and directly accessible form — paper and ink. It must be fetched and carried for access. In cyberspace, a password is the weightiest object we need to carry for access to a broad spectrum of information from almost any geographic location.

• Replication of printed information is expensive. In cyberspace, replication is inexpensive.

• Delivery of physical information is quite expensive. In cyberspace, the delivery becomes relatively cheap.

• Articles, stories, and papers are currently in journals, newspapers, and so on in a form with imposed size and subject limits. Cyberspace offers unlimited volumes and subject-coverage in a single publication organ.

• Paper, for all the creativity it carries, does not extend, as in cyberspace, to animation or movement or sound. Nor does it respond in any way to specific needs of the user.

• The form of a traditional publication, as much as it may be a response to readers needs, ultimately remains the publishers choice. In cyberspace, the views are as numerous as the users.

Why, with all of these advantages, isn't cyberspace the dominant publishing medium it could be or will it be in the future?

Geac Global Information are publishers and providers of information on the Internet. For information on Geac's services e-mail aldis@aldis.com.au. ■