

# Shifting sands

ALIA DESIG Conference, 5–6 December 1997,  
Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga campus library

## What's in AARL?

### June

*AARL: Evolution not revolution*, by Peter Clayton

*In the National interest: The National Library of Australia in a changing world*, by Warren Horton

*Icons, symbolism and recordkeeping: The Lindy Chamberlain and Eddie Mabo papers in the National Library of Australia*, by Adrian Cunningham

*Sir Harold White: Australia's first national librarian*, by Peter Biskup

*Benchmarking academic libraries: An Australian case study*, by Margaret Robertson and Isabella Trahn

*A comparison of the retrieval performance of multi-disciplinary table-of-contents databases with conventional specialised databases*, by Anthony K Cavanagh

### September

*Which library is mine? The university library and the independent scholar*, by Juliet Flesch

*Distance education research students and their library use*, by Peter Macauley

*Measuring service quality: From theory into practice*, by Philip I Calvert

*Academic library seating: A survey of usage, with implications for space utilisation*, by Michael Organ and Margie Jantti

*Who are the authors?* by Maxine Rochester

Distance Education special interest group conferences are friendly, networking, information-sharing occasions and this year's conference will be no different. The conference committee have worked hard to keep costs to a minimum — recognising that there is never any money around in December! The conference fee is: ALIA members \$100, non-ALIA members \$125, unwaged \$75, a late registration fee of \$20 will apply to all registrations received after 7 November 1997.

The conference program will cover the following:

- On-line support: issues of

communication, access and equity

- Research in distance education
- Prisoners: special users? specific needs?
- Servicing OLA: the University of South Australia perspective
- Infrastructure/telecommunications and distance education
- Academics' forum on library distance education support
- Students' view of library distance education support
- Electronic delivery issues.

Delegate accommoda-

tion has been reserved at the University's 'International village' at a rate of \$38 for bed and breakfast.

A barbecue dinner at the Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga Staff Club, Boorooma Campus has been organised for Friday night at a cost of \$25 per person (with drinks). A social gathering is also planned for early arrivals on the Thursday evening.

For further information, program and registration forms, contact Elizabeth Law, Library, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, telephone: 02 6933 2130; fax: 02 6933 2900; e-mail: elaw@csu.edu.au ■

## On-line information in Hong Kong

Sinead Williams, La Trobe University Library Information Services

Earlier this year I was lucky enough to be invited to present a paper to the *On-line information* conference in Hong Kong. My paper, 'The use of the Internet in an Australian information broking service — opportunity or threat' argued that the advent of the internet does not have to pose a threat for info-mediaries despite its promise of 'free' information to all. To illustrate this, I outlined ten ways in which a broker can turn the Internet into a money-spinning opportunity. I also explored the contrasts in my experiences of working in broking and in the United Kingdom and Australia, with particular reference to the difficulties encountered by brokers in Australia trying to get the business community to pay for on-line information.

I presented my paper on the morning of the first day, so I was able to relax and enjoy the other papers. Dr Arthur Winzenried's paper 'Future information provision — burn-out, boom or bust?', reported on a Delphi investigation of the future of information management. Dr Winzenried, who works at the Lilydale Adventist Academy in Melbourne, is currently rounding off his second PhD focussing on a Delphi method analysis of expert opinions on the future directions of library personnel and his talk was both lively

and informative, entertaining us with descriptions of librarians struggling to be proactive and user-oriented whilst suffering from information overload.

I also enjoyed Kim Yung Fip's presentation, 'Selecting Internet resources: experience at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology library', which outlined the library's world wide web project in which all professional librarians on staff were assigned to one of four groups, and described the goals, guidelines, pitfalls and achievements of the 'Selection of Internet resources group'.

Anna-Maria Courage's paper, 'Electronic information services in Central Asia from 1993 to 1996: results of an investigation', was interesting in that it described internet developments in an area of the world which is going through much change and upheaval.

In addition to the wonderful location with its views of the harbour, and the interesting papers and exhibitions, delegates also enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with so many information professionals from around the world. I had the chance to meet with many old colleagues from London and heard plenty of information-world gossip. It was a truly enjoyable week. ■