

Buddy wins VALA award

Buddy, the University of Melbourne Library's web-based gateway to electronic resources, has won the prestigious Victorian Association for Library Automation (VALA) Award for 1998. Open to all libraries and information centres in Australia, this biennial award is made to the library or information centre which has made the most innovative use of computer technology to improve services to users. Julie Rae, president of VALA, announced the 1998 winner at the Annual VALA dinner on 25 February.

In accepting the award Dr Angela Bridgland, deputy university librarian, commended the hard work and collaboration of the University of Melbourne Library staff. 'I believe we have created a product that balances the sophisticated demands of our customers

with the need to create a simple and sustainable delivery mechanism that truly extends the expertise of our library staff.' Dr Bridgland highlighted the library's collaborative response to the 'access challenges of the hybrid library in the digital age,' and praised the achievements of the Buddy management group.

The Buddy program provides staff and students with direct access to over 3000 individual electronic resources by using subject-based menus constructed by library staff, and direct point-and-click access to each title. Buddy connects to databases, full-text electronic journals, exam papers and selected websites, and can be accessed from PCs within the library, or from anywhere on the WWW. This has proved to be a great success with library users, local students and staff working from



David Cunningham, Buddy project manager and Andrew Gfrerer, Buddy programmer with the award

home, and by distance learners at remote sites. Buddy connects students and staff to over 14 000 individual titles each week. Over thirty per cent of users are connecting from outside the university network.

The award, an engraved bronze medallion by Michael Meszaros, will be displayed in the library. ■

Nominate now

Northern Territory ALIA Awards 1999

Nominations are now being sought for the 1999 Northern Territory Library Awards. The awards will consist of a cash amount of \$500 and a certificate.

There are three categories of awards:

Northern Territory Librarian/ Library Technician/Library Assistant of the Year

This award recognises the exceptional contribution of an individual's service to a library or libraries by way of a specific project, event or research; or for demonstrating excellence in customer service over a period of time. Nominees must be financial individual members of ALIA or their institution should be a financial member of ALIA.

Northern Territory Library and Information Service Community Award

This award recognises an individual's out-

standing contribution to the promotion and delivery of library and information service to the Northern Territory community by way of a specific project, event or research; or for demonstrating such service over a period of time.

Northern Territory Library and Information Organisational Innovation Award

This award recognises organisational innovation by a Northern Territory library in a particular area of managerial and or operational practice.

For nomination forms and further information, contact Rennison Taaffe at the Northern Territory University Library on 08 8946 7026 or e-mail: rennison@library.ntu.edu.au.

Nominations close on **12 May 1999**. Presentations will take place at an awards ceremony during Australian Library Week 17-23 May 1999. ■



ACT

• **5/5 ACT Library Technician section.** General meeting discussion on final preparations for the reunion and networking for the Perth conference. CIT Reid, D Block, 5:30-7pm. Contact Marion Boyd, ph 02 6270 6912, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au

• **6/5 ACT Cataloguers section.** Andrew Wells will talk about the progress of Kinetica, NLA, Fourth Floor Conference Room, 12.30pm. All welcome. Contact: Steven Cremer, ph 02 6268 6167, cremers@bigpond.com

• **13/5 ACT Special Libraries section.** Pre-ALW drinks at Duntroon House. 5:30pm. Relax and chat to colleagues in front of a log fire. Bar will be open and nibbles provided. RSVP by 10/5 to Karyn Hall, ph 02 6265 9694 or fx 02 6265 9052.

• **15/5 ACT Library Technician section.** Celebrating 20 years, 1979-1999. A celebration dinner will be held at the start of ALW for all who ever participated in the course, as teachers or students. 7 for 7:30pm, at the Hellenic Club of Canberra, cost \$26. RSVP by 30/4 to Beth Clary, ph 02 6234 2225, beth.clary@radford.com.au or Marion Boyd, ph 02 6270 6912, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au

• **19/5 ACT UCRLS.** Dr Nancy Lane, Australian Academy of Science, on Writing successful grant applications. ANU Menzies Library, McDonald Room, 12.30pm. Nancy is well qualified to speak on this topic, having been highly successful in attracting grants to the Academy. Contact: Nancy Clarke, ph 02 6209 1117, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au

• **12/5 ACT Branch Council meeting.** NLA, 4th Floor Conference Room, commencing at 5:30 pm. Contact: Sally-Anne Leigh, Branch secretary, ph 02 6201 5522, sal@isd.canberra.edu.au

• **2/6 ACT Library Technicians.** General meeting, guest speaker: Carolyn Cherrett, EBSCO Australia: There is life outside libraries. CIT Reid, D Block, 5:30-7pm. Contact: Marion Boyd, 02 6270 6912, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au

NSW

6/5-7/5 Arts Training NSW. Entertainment, Libraries and Museums Training package workshops. Newcastle Civic Centre (6/5), Newcastle Library (7/5). Contact: Helen O'Moore, Arts Training NSW, ph 02 9251 7044.

• **6/5-11/11 NSW CVSS section.** Committee meeting — all welcome, 5:30pm. 6/5 (Auburn Library); 8/6 (Pre-book week extravaganza); 20/7 (tba); 8/9 (Parramatta City Library); 22/10 (Management seminar); 11/11 (Burwood Library). Contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, fx 02 9413 2038.

13-14/5 Kinetica client cataloguing. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **15/5 NSW Library Technician section.** Committee meeting — all welcome. UTS City Campus Library, Video Conference Room, Level 2, Cnr Quay St and Ultimo Rd, BRDway. 2pm, lunch provided. Contact Kevin Dudeney, ph 02 9804 5448, kdudeney@graeae.unilinc.edu.au

20/5 Kinetica web seminar and Kinetica web laboratory. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

21/5 Kinetica document delivery. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Ar-

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