Have you registered yet?

**ALIA2000 Capitalising on knowledge —
the information professional in the 21ˢᵗ century, 24-26 October 2000**

If you still have not made up your mind to attend ALIA 2000, here are some additional very good reasons to register now. The conference will be an excellent opportunity to hear many key national and international speakers whose business is information. Your committee has achieved an important balance between speakers from within the library profession, who bring a depth of experience from the inside, and a large number of speakers who do not work within a library framework. This latter group will provide additional social, economic, legal and technical perspectives in which to explore the role of the information professional as this century unfolds.

The technology stream is a highlight of the very full program. This stream extends, in different guises, throughout the three days of the conference.

Highlights include:

- Geoff Huston (Telstra), Stewart Fist (long time contributor to the computer pages in *The Australian*) and Rob Durie (Australian Information Industry Association) will present their views of the technological future. Sufficient time has been allocated so that all speakers can take questions from the audience. This should be a stimulating, interactive session.

- A session by Chris Batt who is chief network adviser at the UK Library and Information Commission. He is responsible for project managing the implementation of a high bandwidth digital communication grid providing high-speed links between public libraries. Chris will discuss the future of public libraries in a wired world.

- Neil McLean (Macquarie University) will discuss the convergence of IT and library services. In the digital information services environment, where users are empowered in terms of choice and both old and new information service providers are creating new service models, libraries are being challenged to rethink their role and capacity to add value. Neil will present an analysis of the key factors inherent in meeting this challenge.

- Dr Warwick Cathro (NLA) and Dr Brewster Kahle (Alexa Internet) will discuss the role and future directions of digital libraries in widening access to information. Dr Kahle invented the Wide Area Information Server system and in 1989 founded a pioneering electronic publishing company.

- Jay Jordan (president and CEO, OCLC) in a mini-keynote address will look at the major factors in the design, implementation and operation of library and information systems, focussing on user needs. Senator Kate Lundy will follow this with her viewpoint on information needs in today's society. Senator Lundy was the first federal politician to establish a home page on the web and still maintains it herself.

These are just some of the excellent technology theme sessions that have been organised. Full details are in the registration brochure and on the conference web-site.

Stop press

A special session on electronic publishing has been added to the conference program on Wednesday 25 October. It features Donald W King and Deb deBrujin. Donald W King is a statistician who was recently named Pioneer in Science Information by the American Chemical Hertiage Foundation. His past work has included collaborative projects with Jose-Marie Griffiths to develop methods and measures for assessing the usefulness and value of information services and products. This year King, with co-author Carol Tenopir, has published *Towards electronic journals: realities for scientists, librarians and publishers.* Their publication focuses on the relationship between scholarly scientific journals, electronic journals and electronic journal article databases. It is the result of over 20 000 readership surveys and cost studies involving publishers, librarians, and scientists. The intent is to help scientists, publishers and librarians understand one another's participation in scholarly communication and how the transformation to e-journals should be approached.

Deb deBruijn has a background in consortium management and the licensing of electronic resources. As the new executive director of the Canadian National Site Licensing Project, she will provide an update on CNSLP, discuss the impact of the project and how this initiative fits into other national and international developments.

This dual session should be excellent so do not miss it.

For more information about the ALIA2000 conference contact the conference secretariat, Conference Solutions, PO Box 238, Deakin West, ACT 2600, e-mail alia2000.conference@alia.org.au. The latest conference news can be found on the conference web page at http://www.alia.org.au/conf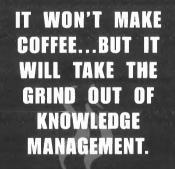erences/2000.html together with an online registration form. ∎