ACT

• **6/3 ACT Library Technicians**. *Sonia Street and Karen Vinoles on ISSN — unique or obsolete?* The Ferguson Room, National Library, 5:30–7pm. All welcome, come and join the technicians for dinner afterwards. Contact: Beth Clary, ph 02 6234 2225, beth.clary@radford.com.au

• **13/3 ACTive ALIA**. *Monthly meeting.* Nick Smith and Helen Roberts will talk on copyright issues. 4th floor Conference Room, NLA, 5:30pm, all welcome. Contact: Julie Ward (group secretary), jward@nla.gov.au

• **14/3 ACT Specials**. *Librarians Libations* from 5:30pm. A warm invitation is extended to all library and information colleagues to join the Specials in this Happy Hour for March! Confirm venue in *proACTive*, or contact: Julie Philips, ph 02 6208 5112, jphilips@nma.gov.au

• **20–21/4 ACT Library Technicians**. Albury workshop. Join NSW, Victoria and ACT technicians for a weekend of workshop, networking, friendship and fun. For further detail contact: Beth Clary, ph 02 6234 2225, beth.clary@radford.com.au

NSW

• **6/3 National OPALs**. *General meeting. Technology, online databases, CD-ROMs, search engines: where are they taking us?* Australian Consumers Association Library, 57 Carrington Road, Marrickville, 9:30–11:30am. By train to Tempe Station; parking available at the back of the building. *RSVP by 27/2 to:* Katherine Raper, ph 02 9577 3367 (w), karaper1@optusnet.com.au (h)

6/3 Trimagic Software *DB/TextWorks introductory training.* One-day course covering, introduction of the graphical user interface, editing and creating records, searching a textbase, report forms, QBE, screen design, linking databases, managing textbase elements and exporting and importing data. To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

7/3 Trimagic Software *DB/TextWorks advanced training.* One-day course, introducing textbase structures, linking textbases, data entry screens, QBE screen design, report forms, menus, introduction to managing images, exporting and importing data, interfacing with other applications and simple scripting. To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

• **20–21/4 NSW Library Technicians**. Albury workshop. Join NSW, Victoria and ACT technicians for a weekend of workshop, networking, friendship and fun. For further detail contact: Kevin Dudeney, ph 02 9636 5007, kdudeney@hotkey.net.au

24/4 Trimagic Software *DB/TextWorks webpublisher training.* One-day course, in-depth class designed to give you a head start in mounting your DB/TextWorks databases on the Web. To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

QLD

• **5/3 Pathways to CPD**. *From starting blocks to finish line: the information lifecycle at the Brisbane 2001 Goodwill Games.* Speaker: Jenny Hale. 147–163 Charlotte Street, Conference Room 2, Level 3, Queensland Health Building, 5:30 for 6–7pm. Cost: $5.50 to cover refreshments. *RSVP by 1/3 to:* Helen Laurelin, ph 07 3224 7833, laurelin@health.qld.gov.au

In brief...

Online content and regulation working group

The ALIA National Office is now developing a survey on internet access in public libraries with the assistance of the Online Content and Regulation working group. At ALIA's public library conference in November last year a brief survey on internet access in public libraries was handed out. The feedback from the brief survey and discussions with ALIA members was very useful.

The survey will assist ALIA in preparing evidence for the review of the *Broadcasting Services Act* which is due for review before January 2003. The review will probably take place in the later half of this year.

Intelligent island

Multiversity Digital has become the latest ICT company to be mentored by Intellic under the Intelligent Island program. Multiversity Digital will provide a distribution system for educational material. The distribution system allows clients with relatively slow internet connections to access multimedia content.

A digital hub to be installed in Tasmania will hold a range of educational content sourced form a variety of Australian educational institutions. This material will be made available online to education providers in South East Asia.

The Intelligent Island program is a component of the commonwealth's Building on IT Strengths program (BITS). Intellic, which received $8 million from BITS, provides nurturing for start up ICT companies. Intellic supports its clients in incubation for up to two years.

Online content report

The third bi-annual report on the operation of the Online Content Co-regulatory Scheme has been released by the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA). The ABA is required to report to the Parliament on the schemes operation every six months. The report covers the period of January–June 2001.

Consistent with the previous reports the number of complaints has been very low. The ABA received 215 complaints (a twenty-six per cent decrease from the 290 complains in the previous period) in the period between 1 January and 30 June 2001 and identified 190 items of prohibited content. During the reporting period 104 items hosted outside Australia were referred to the Australian Federal Police and twenty-three items hosted in Australia were referred to State or Territory police.

Copies of the report are available at http://www.dcita.gov.au. ∎

Moves to reduce 'spam'

As many internet users will know, unsolicited e-mail, particularly of an advertising nature, can be an annoying and costly by-product of active online participation. The National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE) has announced that it will conduct an examination in to the effectiveness of measures to counter 'spam'.

In the United States, the problem has occasionally reached such proportions as to threaten network stability and has prompted serious litigation. Unlike other forms of direct marketing, the cost of e-mail is borne by the recipient, not the sender.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission regularly investigate e-mail scams. There are also a number of regulatory and consumer awareness mechanisms in place to deal with the many aspects of spam. These include:

• extension of the *Privacy Act* to place some spam-related restrictions on business;

• measures in the *Crimes Act* to prevent a person being menaced or harassed or offended;

• consumer protection provisions in the *Trade Practices Act*; and

• the Internet Industry Association (IIA) codes of practice which prohibit IIA member Internet Service Providers from sending direct marketing messages without the recipient's permission and which require the service providers to advise consumers on how to minimise spam problems. ∎