

EDITORIAL

Since the *Mabo* decision the public's attention has been on the judiciary, and the courts in turn are becoming more aware that public relations matter. The Chief Justice of Australia, Sir Anthony Mason, A.C., K.B.E., recently gave an address to the Sydney Institute on "The Australian Judiciary in the 1990s" which has been much in demand. The speech is reproduced in this issue because the Committee felt that it considered matters of fundamental importance to the legal system, and that all law librarians would benefit by being aware of how the courts are changing.

On another topic the High Court Library has been trying to get on the Internet for five months. We worked through one communication software problem after another until we were beginning to wonder how anyone else managed to get connected. Consequently I identified immediately with the following comments in the latest *AALL Newsletter* (March 1994 p.294) :

'After feeling like roadkill on the information superhighway when other librarians talked about being on the Internet, I can finally boast about having access.'

Well, we are finally "on" too, but don't anyone think it is easy! Our experiences probably influenced me to commission a few articles on the Internet but, more than that, I always heard about people being "on" but never knew what impact it had on their reference service or how it improved their job. Clearly there is a fascination and a certain elation at being in touch with people

all over the world by the "movement of a mouse", but what are these librarians really doing?

Peter Sidorko, Law Librarian at the University of Newcastle, has contributed an article which tells us precisely what his Library is using the Internet for. Not only is this an interesting piece, but it might help you to make an argument for joining the "global highway" yourselves, if you are not already on it. Ian Duncan and Caroline Regan's instructive article explains how to use the Internet.

We have not heard what is happening up at the Parliament for a few issues - Richard Griffiths has kindly brought us up-to-date with two short articles on topical matters. Read his explanation of the changed procedure regarding Commonwealth Bills and despair!

Turning to other news, the Editorial Committee sincerely thanks Steve Porch who helped us with "Online" in 1993, and welcomes Christine Maher from La Trobe University, Melbourne, our new correspondent for the Online column.

Finally, **Sue Milne**, Senior Reference Librarian at the High Court, ALL Reference columnist, and serene Editorial committee member has resigned to go to live in Queensland. Sue will be leaving Canberra on 10 June 1994. The Committee has enjoyed working with you, Sue, and we thank you sincerely for your hard work and constructive ideas. Our warmest wishes go with you for "the good life" up north!

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT - EDITOR