

EDITORIAL

The last issue of the *ALL* with the Internet articles seems to have been well-received. As libraries join the global network we all receive yet another contact address, another line on our card, to add to the mailing address, the telephone number and the fax number. I am talking about the e-mail addresses that are burgeoning on all sides. In fact, I have started a special address book just for e-mail addresses! In the light of this explosion, Colin Fong has suggested that we use the columns of the *ALL* to call for law libraries' Internet addresses so we can publish at least a brief directory for everyone's information. If this interests you please refer to the notice in Spotlight.

This issue concentrates on legal research mainly in relation to practitioners and those preparing for practice. In regard to the latter, Mr Tony Thew, Director of the ANU Legal Workshop, has made a special effort to broaden his students' knowledge of legal bibliography. His article on the legal research programme will interest law firm librarians in particular.

Two articles by Steven Reynolds and Terry Hutchinson result from earlier studies of the legal research needs of solicitors. The results of these surveys have been conveyed to a limited number of law librarians in Sydney and Broadbeach. We thought they deserved a wider audience and Mr Reynolds would be

interested in feedback on his paper. If you have anything to add to his findings please contact him at the Law Foundation of New South Wales.

Lorraine Weinman has contributed a lively account of her recent visit to Nauru, and complementing this is an annual progress report in *Pacific News* on the Pacific Twinning Scheme. There is a steady flow of books and information to the Pacific and many expressions of appreciation from those libraries taking part in the Scheme. As the islands acquire computers and join networks such as the Internet the flow of information will become more two-way thus compensating for the present gaps in Pacific holdings in Australian and New Zealand law libraries.

There is no doubt that computerisation is bringing us closer together. The trouble is finding the time to digest, act, and respond to all the information!

This is the last issue for which Sue Milne contributes the Reference column. Sue has reflected on some interesting topics in the last year and a half and she has given us much to think about. Fortunately, law library patrons never stop asking questions, and the Committee looks forward to finding someone who can be equally stimulating in relaying the issues that arise in reference work.

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT - EDITOR

NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES



I am pleased to start off the notes this month with the news that James Butler, Supreme Court Librarian in Victoria, is this year's recipient

of the Butterworths BIALL Scholarship. James has been a hard-working member of the ALLG (Victorian Division) for many years, including two years as State Convenor. He will be attending the BIALL Conference in September and will be writing an article for the *Australian Law Librarian* on his return.

The Report written by Rob Brian on the National Law Collection has been looked at by a small working group at the National Library to examine the practical implications of what can be done. Responses to the Report were received not only from the ALLG, but also the Attorney-General's Department, the High Court, ANU and the University of Canberra. A Decision Paper has been prepared for the Management Council meeting on 3 June. The response of the Council will be passed on to the ALLG as soon as possible.

One of the immediate benefits of the review has been that there is a refocussing within the NLA on the cataloguing and binding issues in the law collection, as well as a greater realisation of the importance of Australian legal materials within the Collection.

In general it appears that Rob's recommendations have been taken on board, and there will be action taken on them, although it seems action may be limited by availability of resources. At present, we should continue to be optimistic of an improvement in the NLA's approach to its legal collection.

The Directory is not far from completion - unfortunately a couple of states have been tardy in sending their 1994 listing of members. All being well, it will be available soon - and once we have the process in hand, I hope that the 1995 Directory will be available early in the calendar year!

If you are, like me, Internetted-out (is that a phrase?), please note that we have only touched the tip of the iceberg. Every international law library journal of late has carried several feature articles on this terrifying and wonderful tool, and its potential.

If we as librarians feel that there is information overload, with Internet, CD-ROM publishing and other electronic legal materials, spare a thought for our users, and how disenfranchised they must feel at times. What a challenge for us, not only to master, as well as we can, the vast range of information sources, but to demystify them for our users so that they too can feel some level of control over this information avalanche.

I will report in the next issue on the NZLLG Conference as well as the AALL Conference in Seattle and hope to catch up with some of you there.

RUTH BIRD - NATIONAL CONVENOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I appreciate the flattering review of *Subject Index of Legislation Victoria* in your last issue. Mr Siebel's comments are representative of the many favourable comments we have received about the *Index*. The Law Printer published the *Index* in association with the Office of Chief Parliamentary Counsel. We have just released a *Consolidated Supplement*, which brings the *Index* up to date by covering all legislation passed in 1992 and 1993. The *Subject Index* (\$75) and the

Consolidated Supplement (\$25) are available from The Law Printer Bookshop, PO Box 292, South Melbourne 3205. We would be delighted to hear from your readers if they have suggestions for further improvements in future editions.

Yours faithfully

Louis de Vries

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