

Pink Ribbon Wins Award

Pink Ribbon Publishing, run by Debra Fallon and Paul Hannah, recently won their category in the Queensland Small Business awards and later went on to win a "Highly Commended" award to take out the top prize for businesses employing less than six people. Pink Ribbon have been very successful with their product *CaseBase*, through which they provide an excellent annotation service to Australian lawyers. *CaseBase* is available on floppy disk or CD-ROM and contains the names of over 65,000 cases which are cross-referenced with case annotations, judicially considered statutes, words and phrases, and catchwords.

Congratulations to Pink Ribbon Publishing on a well-deserved award!

NZLIA/ALIA Joint Conference: Embarking Together

The NZLIA/ALIA Joint Conference was held in Wellington in the last week of September. The conference was valuable for professional development and relevant to the issues facing many libraries. I was fortunate to represent the Federal Court of Australia at the conference. The following brief report covers some of the sessions I attended during the conference.

Law Special Interest Group Day Legal Information Sources

Economics and the law

This session included theory on economics and the law (Bob Dugan from Law Faculty, Victoria University of Wellington, used the Chicago model as the basis of his paper) and real-life situations of the way economists are involved with the legal environment. Alan Bollard, Chairman of the Commerce Commission and the first economist to head such a body, gave examples of judges and lawyers working together with economists who are called as "expert witnesses" in court. The economists sit on the bench to advise the judge in matters requiring the economists' analytical skills and expertise.

Relevant references

- *Resource list for economics and law a selection drawn from journal titles, texts and article on the subject*

Treaty Claims Information Navigation

The NZ Waitangi Tribunal handles land/sea claims and has a similar role to the National Native Title Tribunal. The claims are settled by a combination of the Court of Appeal and the Waitangi Tribunal. This session covered how to use the National Library's collection when researching claims; the role of the researcher; the types of documents used for research and where to find them. It also explained the role of National Archives, the resources they provide and how they assist in claims research.

A Crown counsel explained the role of the Crown in Tribunal hearings and how the team prepares for a case. All Waitangi Tribunal decisions and publications are available to the public.

Relevant references:

- *Resource list "Treaty claims: information navigation"*
- *'A guide to the Waitangi Tribunal', Dept of Justice, 1993.*

The "New Public Law"

Mai Chen, Senior Lecturer in Public Policy and senior solicitor, Russell McVeagh McKenzie Bartleet & Co., presented this session which focussed on her speciality of public law. She covered in broad terms why the traditional view of public law needs to be widened to reflect the constitution and parliament.

Relevant reference:

- *Resource List for the "New Public Law"*

Importance of International Law for New Zealand

This session was presented by Sir Kenneth Keith, Law Commission. He gave an overview of the role of international legislation in New Zealand and the resources which can be used to access international legal materials (e.g. LEXIS), international treaties, standards and the international implications of national legislation.

Relevant References:

- *International law and New Zealand: Resources - includes a paper presented by Sir Kenneth Keith*
- *'Guide to International Legal Materials'*

Forum for News Services

Mediasearch, Newztel, NZPA Newstrack, Capital Monitor, Reuter and Factfinders gave brief outlines of their news services, (e.g. profiles, clippings service, news index, legislation services, current awareness) and how libraries can use them. Each representative explained how to access their services which are designed for the legal & management environments. Copyright issues raised included who should pay for copyright, how many times copyright should be paid,

the definition of intellectual property and the difficulty in determining who is the owner of the property.

General Conference

Library & Information Services in the Pacific

Karen Peacock, University of Hawaii Library, Donita Simmons, University of South Pacific Library, Heather Moorcroft, Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Northern Territory, Library, and a representative from New Zealand contributed to this session. Each presenter discussed how they were improving indigenous access to information and how each is assisting other libraries in her region. It was interesting to note that Donita Simmons excluded New Zealand and Australian libraries from the Pacific Region (IFLA) as they are affluent countries.

Resource Sharing

What is the National Document and Information Service? How this joint computer redevelopment project between NZ and Australia will improve resource sharing.

Information Justice

Jo Bryson, policy analyst, WA, and Liz Longworth, policy advisor, New Zealand, spoke on the impact of legislation covering freedom of information, official secrets, human rights and privacy. They also discussed public access to information, i.e. what the public needs, and whether the ordinary person could obtain it and how to go about it.

Key Issues for the Profession - Marketing

This stimulating session was presented by Kathy Knott, Public Relations Consultant, Moira Collyns, Corporate Information Manager, and Faye Nicholson, Library/Information Consultant. Many valuable and commonsense suggestions were provided such

as: concentrate on what you do well; not to spread yourself too thinly and do nothing well; say no to tasks that you do not have the resources or staff to undertake; and develop alliances with peers in the organisation. Also evaluate your methods by statistics, observations, surveys, case studies and interviews.

Creating an Environment for Change

Reg Garters, General Manager, NZ Institute of Management, gave a lively presentation on how to use management techniques to create an environment for change. He stressed the difference between the management of resources and the leadership of people. He recommended the book *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and quoted examples of Wilfred Jarvis's leadership techniques such as: the efficiency of the colleague increases as the control of the leader decreases. He also stressed the importance of feedback, performance appraisals and encouragement to enhance staff performance.

Co-operation Within and Across Traditional Library & Information Service Sectors

In the Public Sector - This was a working session run by Helen Meehan, NZ State Services Commission. It gave public service librarians an opportunity to work out a strategic plan for their library. As the Federal Court's Principal Registry library has recently been involved in developing a strategic plan it was useful to hear about the progress of strategic planning in other government libraries.

The main points to consider when drawing up a strategic plan were:

- strategic thinking - where the information you provide must match the context of the organisation in which the library is situated;
- information principles and information policies: need to be set out in an

information management policy where the role of the library is defined;

- customer focus: covers what you need to do to meet customer expectations and how to develop a management role;
- how to take advantage of opportunities by becoming the 'knowledge officer' for your organisation;
- strategic alliances: co-operation, resource sharing, your place in the organisation, strategic alliances within and outside your organisation.

Special Interest Sessions

Travelling the Internet

Gary Jones, University of Newcastle, Aaron Roydhouse, Victoria University Computer Science Department, and John Shipp, University of Wollongong, discussed how they access information on the Internet, the various protocols and operating platforms, databases e.g. ARCHIE and a range of tools including WAIS, WWW, FTP and URL. The World Wide Web (WWW), a network protocol, a mark-up language and naming scheme, looked very easy to use. WAIS, according to Aaron Roydhouse, is more difficult to use than Gopher and WWW.

Standardisation and Library Computer Applications

This workshop was mainly about Committee IT/19's (established by Standards Australia) work on the information retrieval standard ANSI Z39.50. The Australian implementors are Stowe, CIIRI and General Automation. Brief mention was made of other standards the Committee is working on, such as the ones for interlibrary loan and document image. Representatives from ACLIS, ALIA and CAUL who are members of the Committee ran the workshop. NZ participants were sought by the Committee and three names were put forward.

Trade Exhibition

The main suppliers of library software were represented e.g. Dynix, Inmagic Plus, Stowe, Topic, Image II etc.

The legal publishers were well represented and included Law Book Co, Ebsco, CCH and Butterworths. The exhibition also included good exhibitions of online services, book suppliers and the regular library conference stands.

Mary Smart

Federal Court of Australia Library

Parliamentary Library Changes

In time for the Spring Sittings of the Australian Parliament, the Parliamentary Library introduced a new Central Enquiry Point (CEP) to simplify access to its services and also expanded its subject information teams. As well as answering enquiries at the CEP, all information specialists now have a home base within one of six subject information teams. The team of Law Information Specialists has been expanded to five to respond to the large and varied number of law-based requests made by Senators, Members and the staff of the Parliament.

Reed Elsevier Buys LEXIS

Reed Elsevier, the parent company of Butterworths, has bought Mead Data Central for US\$1.5 billion. This means LEXIS and NEXIS will have a new manager. The purchase was announced after several months of speculation as to who would buy MDC. Reed Elsevier beat rivals Thomson of Canada and Times Mirror in the takeover battle. Reed plans to increase investment in its electronic publishing businesses.

Report on Alta Conference

The 1995 Australian Law Teachers' Association Conference was held at the University of Tasmania, Hobart from 29 September to 2 October. The Law Librarians' Interest Group met on several occasions to discuss a number of issues including the University Law Library Standards, a proposed national statistics gathering programme and a suggested new ALIA interest group on legal research education. The following is a brief summary of the meetings with particular reference to those three topics.

1. Standards

Since the last revisions to the Standards at the Gold Coast Specials and Law Librarians' Conference in 1993, CAUL had suggested some further amendments. Most of these were relatively minor and all except one, concerning serials accessioning being centralised, were adopted.

Major changes were made to the "core standards" section and the minimum size of a standard law collection. All reference to a volume count has been dropped and we have instead followed the model adopted in the recent American Law Library Standards for the core. That now consists of Australian, UK and New Zealand material and a statement to the effect "that material from such other jurisdictions as is required to support the courses taught in a particular institution should be collected". Inclusion of references to access through electronic media rather than print ownership was also considered.

The schedules relating to physical accommodation, equipment and resources were also replaced with simple references to appropriate Australian library standards. Rather than lose this material however, Terry Hutchinson undertook to publish the schedules in the *Australian Law Librarian*.

Dick Finlay remains responsible for the ongoing drafting work and will incorporate next meeting, and to CAUL.

2. Statistics

The Interest Group discussed the lack of any comprehensive statistics on university law libraries and agreed that an effort should be made to gather these on an annual basis - modelled on the Court Library Statistics which Jacqueline Elliott presented and explained.

Nicholas Pengelley offered to coordinate the development and collection of statistics which would probably hope to begin in earnest by 1996 after a period for development and testing. The Centre for Legal Education offered to provide a means of publication and dissemination for the statistics and to provide analysis.

3. Legal Research

Terry Hutchinson suggested the establishment of a new ALIA interest group which would focus on legal research education. There is a national move towards establishment of legal research instruction courses in university law schools and a growing interest in the issues connected with teaching them. Although law librarians have a strong interest in the topic and usually discuss related issues at their interest group meetings, that interest is not confined to us and the proposed new interest group would certainly attract academics. There was strong support expressed at the ALIA AGM and at the discussion group where Terry presented the idea.

Terry also presented a paper entitled "Taking up the Discourse: Theory or Praxis" which will be published in the ALIA Conference papers.

Nicholas Pengelley is the new convenor of the ALIA Law Librarians' Interest Group and will be responsible for co-ordination of meetings and liaison with CALD (although, as noted, Dick Finlay will remain responsible for the Standards, including liaison with relevant bodies). The next meeting of the Group will be held concurrently with the 1995 Specials and Law Librarians' Conference in Sydney where a major topic of discussion will be the statistics programme.

D. Finlay
T. Hutchinson
N. Pengelley

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