

Information Science Section (ISS) (National)

ISS's 1995 activities commenced in January with the seventh *Australasian online and on disc conference* and exhibition, held in Sydney. The conference attracted 1337 delegates, and over 2000 people visited the exhibition at which 63 online and CD-ROM suppliers exhibited. *Information trails*, led by expert information professionals, gave an introduction to the online and CD-ROM industry and a free guided tour through the exhibition.

Keynote speakers were Reva Basch, author of the bestseller *Secrets of the super searchers*, Peter Jacso of the University of Hawaii, Lee Olsen and Patrick Teirney, CEO and president, Knight-Ridder Information Services.

The ISS and the National Library of Australia jointly sponsored a pre-conference seminar on electronic document delivery services. A post-conference seminar on *Empowering your PC for multimedia*, presented by Peter Jacso, was co-sponsored by the ISS.

Our AGM was held in Sydney in May with guest speaker Mr Barney Blundell of AAP Information Services Pty Ltd. He presented a most interesting paper *Australian information and communications in the year 2000*.



Maree Enright and Mary Turner, members of the organising committee, with keynote speaker Dr Lee Olsen, of IBM Multimedia Consulting at the conference dinner held during *Information online and on disc 1995*.

In October Katie Wilson, manager, information technology

training unit at Macquarie University Library, addressed an evening meeting on *Searching not surfing the internet*.

Planning by the ISS conference committee has commenced for the

eighth *Australasian information online and on disc conference*, which will be held in Sydney from 21–23 January 1997.

Jennifer Affleck, President

Reference and Information Sciences Section (WA)

The WA Branch of RAISS organised four functions in 1995 looking at reference services over a range of libraries.

Who staffs the reference desk? was a very popular evening with a panel

composed of different groups involved with delivering reference services. Representatives from public, academic, state and special libraries looked at the role of librarians, library technicians and other library officers,

and how each can contribute to providing a quality service.

In April, Vicki Williamson gave us *Impressions of North American trends* as she related her experiences in the USA, including attending the *Computers in libraries 95* conference in Washington. The trends in collecting, electronic services, internet and staff development provided very interesting directions for those providing reference services.

Julie Turner who had also ventured to North America in 1995 brought back an idea from San Diego for an interactive ideas exchange. Entitled *Are you being served?*, the theme focussed on helping clients help themselves. The event was a considerable success which, because of its free-form, encouraged networking.

Finally we had a report on the RAISS conference *Fantastic futures* from Adelaide. Janine Douglas and Dawn Palm provided very interesting feedback on the many ideas presented at the conference that sparked lively discussion. Unfortunately numbers were small, coinciding as it did with the wettest October day on record and the day of protest in WA.

Julie Ham, Treasurer

TAFE Section (NSW)

Since the Group's official formation in February 1995, a number of exciting activities have taken place including an entertaining evening with Alan Pease at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre at Penrith in May; a dinner meeting at Ryde TAFE in August, where we were given an inspiring speech by Aileen Stevenson on *Mateship and myth in managements*; and in October, a tour of the new premises at OTEN (Strathfield), where we looked at the new collection services area for TAFE NSW libraries.

The committee sponsored Jenny Vaughan, a TAFE librarian from Wagga, to attend the TAFE national conference in Brisbane.

Our last activity for 1995 was a dinner meeting at Werrington on 20 November where Jenny spoke on her impressions of the conference in Brisbane.

The section has been active in promoting both TAFE and ALIA. Kathy Wilk, our treasurer, has developed a promotions package which encourages library staff to join ALIA which she brings to all our meetings.

On 23 January 1996, we will be holding our AGM at Ryde TAFE, followed by a dinner. This meeting will also involve a brainstorming amongst members to glean ideas for our 1996 program — do not miss this opportunity to shape your section in 1996.

Cathy Shepherd