Connections

Issue No 22 Winter 1997

Servicing at a distance

While many T/Ls have experienced their own professional training in an off-campus, external mode, not many have had to teach information skills via radio frequency to students sitting hundreds of miles away from any library.

At a recent visit to the Charleville School of Distance Education, I spent the day with Margaret Rose, the T/L in charge of the library which services the resource-based needs of some 400+ students from pre-school to year 10. Describing it as 'one huge interruption' and 'erratic' does not make it sound too unusual for the many of us who work in busy understaffed libraries. However, when you consider that it is rare for Margaret's students to visit the library and yet she still describes her day in this way, you begin to get a picture of the unique challenges facing the T/Ls who service educational needs to an 'unseen' client group.

The school is located in the grounds of Charleville State High School and the two educational institutions share many facilities including the library. The library services 300+ day students and is staffed on a similar basis: one T/L and a Library Aide. The two libraries have different funding but they do share most resources. As the Distance Ed. students have items out for longer periods of time, some resources become temporarily 'off limits' to the other students.

Margaret's day starts with a check of her schedule lessons on-air for the day. At around 9.30 she starts issuing the books selected by teachers and students for mailing the following day. The mail-out day each week includes resources for assignment/project activities, extension material for weak/strong areas, and some recreational reading. The Queensland Department of Education covers costs of one mail-out and return per week to each child.

There are the usual administrative tasks to handle next: cataloguing and processing new resources, database entry, and managing the overdues list, interspersed with teacher requests as resources are selected for the following days. The L/A assists with processing and parcelling of resources for dispatch to around 80 students each day ... not to mention the endless re-shelving! The 1997 introduction of the Scholastic Book Club and $1,000 worth of orders each month now adds extra mail to Margaret's busy schedule.

With years 1 and 2 due for a library lesson, Margaret has chosen a storybook appropriate for the current theme: *rules*. Until the technician actually has her and the students on-air, Margaret is never sure if her class for the day will be four, eight or fifteen students! Once the roll is marked and the lesson begins, each student response is marked on a sheet which Margaret keeps to monitor student input and interaction over the year. The lesson is reliant not only on Margaret's organisation and the story, but also on the frequency remaining on-air and students remembering to press the button when it's their turn to speak.

While students may receive as little as 30 minutes library instruction on-air per term,

Margaret picks up extra lessons when teachers are away from the school running workshops for students elsewhere. She uses this time for various aspects of information skilling: research, note taking, report writing, etc.

This is Margaret's second year at Charleville Distance Ed. and while she feels she has much to offer students in remote areas, she does miss the face-to-face interaction with her student group. She also wishes she had more time for information skilling and teaching.

Margaret's procedural organisation and her dedication to supplying the 'right' resources has been an inspiration and confirms that T/Ls are very special professionals.

Heather Kelsall
Editor
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NEWS FROM CURRICULUM CORPORATION

1998 SCIS Subscriptions

This issue of *Connections* brings you advanced notice of two exciting new SCIS products for 1998: a SCIS downloading CD-ROM that will allow you to download SCIS cataloguing records (ie, you will not need to order them from Curriculum Corporation); and, at last, access to the SCIS database over the Internet, via a World Wide Web (WWW) browser which will allow you to download SCIS cataloguing records online.

We believe that these two products provide the highest level of service that school libraries could want, and will be the basis for SCIS into the next millennium.

As part of a strategic review process that we have undertaken in conjunction with the introduction of these two new products, we are also streamlining the SCIS invoicing and billing process. In essence, we are moving away from the complex (for us and for you) process of charging per record ordered and are proposing an annual subscription fee, graduated by school size, which will give you unlimited access to SCIS cataloguing records. Details are provided below. Please note that while the initial cost may appear high, in comparison with current costs (including the per record charge), the total cost for a year is comparable with current costs.

You may notice that the SCIS Abbreviated Cataloguing Microfiche will not be available in 1997 and the current search only SCIS On DISC (CD-ROM) will be replaced by the new SCIS downloading CD-ROM in 1998. Curriculum Corporation also wishes to inform its customers that the ASCISRECON program and subsequent processing of ASCISRECON and Rapid Retrospective records will cease after the last processing date on 4 December 1997. These two products will be replaced by the new and more efficient SCIS downloading CD-ROM and/or SCISWeb access (via the Internet).

We are providing you with this information to assist you with your financial and equipment planning. However, please note that these are proposed fees and some details may change over the next several months. Updates of this information will be available on Curriculum Corporation's web site: **http://www.curriculum.edu.au** and through bulk mailouts from Curriculum Corporation. Final details of 1998 SCIS subscriptions/products and prices will be in the SCIS subscription form due to be forwarded to you in October.

Further technical details for the new products will be available by October, but in short, please note the following:

To use the SCIS downloading CD-ROM, you will need access to a CD-ROM drive. The CD-ROM drive does not necessarily have to be connected to your library computer. You may download SCIS records from the CD-ROM to a floppy disk, and it therefore could be on any computer in your school.

For web access to the SCIS database and SCIS cataloguing records, you will need a connection to the Internet via an Internet Service Provider (ISP). There will be no online charges by Curriculum Corporation, but you may need to pay connection fees to the ISP.

We are pleased to answer any queries that you may have however, we would prefer the query either faxed or emailed to our SCIS Customer Service staff on:

Fax: (03)9639-1616
Email: scisinfo@curriculum.edu.au

We look forward to bringing you this improved service in 1998.

Lance Deveson
Assistant Manager: Information

DDC21 Update

As reported in earlier editions of *Connections*, SCIS has been reviewing its standards in relation to the new edition of DDC21. We are pleased to report that this review has now been completed and as of the 26 May 1997 all new records added to the SCIS database are classified with DDC21 numbers.

Product*	School size / No. of students			
	0-100	101-400	401-800	801+
1998 SCIS Downloading CD-ROM (MRRs available only)	$300	$400	$600	$800
1998 SCISWeb (MRRs available only)	$200	$300	$500	$700
1998 SCIS Online (ASCII OPAC)** (Both MRRs & Catalogue Cards available)	$300+ online time	$370+ online time	$570 + online time	$770 + online time
1998 SCIS Full Cat. Microfiche** (Both MRRs & Catalogue Cards available)	$400	$600	$800	$1,000

*Includes unlimited SCIS Cataloguing records   **Postage and handling charges are included

Let SCIS save you time and money!

Have you ever calculated the amount of time that a T/L spends cataloguing resources for the school library? Have you considered the amount of money that could be saved if your T/L used SCIS instead?

The Schools Cataloguing Information Service (SCIS) database contains approximately 600,000 bibliographic records of educational books, audio-visual materials and computer programs. From this database, Curriculum Corporation produces a wide range of information services and products for schools and school libraries throughout Australia and overseas.

SCIS reduces the cost and duplication of effort required by T/Ls in cataloguing resources in schools. Approximately 3500 catalogue records are added to the SCIS database each month by SCIS cataloguing agencies around Australia. Recently published book and non-book materials are evaluated for their suitability in supporting school curriculum programs before being selected. Each record has complete cataloguing details and includes title, author/editor, Dewey Decimal Classification numbers (from the latest editions of DDC and ADDC), SCIS subject headings (designed specifically to suit school needs), ISBN, publisher, publication place and date, a brief physical description and a SCIS Order Number.

The products and services of the SCIS database are based on agreed national standards in classification, descriptive cataloguing and subject headings. The establishment and implementation of these standards has been instrumental in improving the quality and consistency of cataloguing materials for schools.

Based on figures provided by an independent consultant, we have used the following formula to calculate the approximate annual cost of cataloguing resources in a school library:

[No. of resources catalogued per/ year] x [no. of hours per/week spent cataloguing] x [T/L salary + on costs] divided by [42 weeks] divided by [40 hours] = Cost to catalogue resources per/year ($).

For example, take an average school: T/L salary ($45,000/year inc. on costs), working 40 hours/week, 42 weeks/year, cataloguing 300 resources/year with each resource taking 1/2 hour to catalogue would cost $4,017.85 or nearly four weeks per/year. If your school used SCIS for cataloguing, it would not only save your school library money which could be spent on resources, it would also allow your T/L to spend more time on curriculum-related tasks such as teaching students research and information skills ... after all, we are TEACHER-Librarians.

INTERNETTING CORNER

http://www.science.org.au/nova.index.htm
The Australian Academy of Science's new site for 'Nova: Science in the news', current affairs of the science world.

http://www.treasury.gov.au/fsi/index.html
Report on the Wallis Inquiry into the Australian financial system released by the Federal Treasurer on April 9.

http://www.coicjc.qld.gov.au
The effectiveness of the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission has been under review by the Connolly-Ryan Inquiry and is now available with terms of reference, news, profiles and public transcripts.

http://www.macquarie.com.au
Contains the latest stock market information with a twice daily market commentary, stock quotes and research data.

http://australian.aust.com
'The *Australian*' newspaper online with the latest news, sport and business stories and news updates during the day.

http://gw2k.com.au
'Gateway 2000' web site with the latest technology information and prices.

http://www.ibm.com.au
Connect to the latest technology news at IBM.

http://www.mtrl.toronto.on.ca/centres/bsd/astronomy
Contains a large number of links to astronomy sites organised via Dewey Decimal Classification.

http://www.cyberdyne.com/~jkohnen/naut-lit.html#nfl
A list of novels, novelettes, short stories poetry and drama on the sea, containing over 1600 titles and around 550 authors.

http://www.sirius.com/~reeder/egypt.html
Greg Reeder's site on the art, archaeology and ancient history of Egypt.

http://www.eskimo.com/~billb
A site to encourage kids to view science experiments as fun from the creator of 'Amateur Science', Billy Beaty.

http://www.enn.com
'Environmental Network News' aims to educate all in the preservation of our environment and is updated daily with the latest issues.

http://anake.advanced.org/3120/HTML3/index.html
The chaos theory from a scientific viewpoint.

http://www.yfu.org
The 'Youth for Understanding' site promotes international understanding and world peace for high school students.

Happy surfing...
Heather Kelsall
Editor

Jenny Carroll promotes New Zealand writers this month

In this issue I have decided to review some New Zealand books for children that we think (and the kids also!), are really good reads.

Reliable friendly girls is a collection of twelve stories by **Jane Westerway**. All are real, often comical and surprising and explore many of the more serious issues of keenly observed teenage life.

Jack Lasenby's latest *Because we were the time travellers* is the story of two travellers, a lame boy and an old woman, who have been cast out of their nomadic society for being too slow. We experience their anxiety as they struggle to survive and search for a place to settle.

Mercury beach is the new title from **Tessa Duder,** author of the *Alex quartet*. This is a very New Zealand story which revolves around a fundraising queen carnival at a beach resort on the Coromandel Peninsula. The characters are very 'with it', joke and swear with ease, and have complete disregard for the rules.

Picture magic book features nine of New Zealand's well known book illustrators. They are interviewed by **Chris Gaskin** (also an illustrator) about how they work, what inspires them and what their ambitions are. The artists featured are Robyn Mahulawa, Christine Ross, Gavin Bishop, Trevor Pie, Murray Grimsdale, Bob Kerr, David Elliot, Robin Belton and Lynley Dodd.

Two of these illustrators feature in picture books selected for the NZZIA Russell Clark Medal. **Robyn Belton** and author **Jennifer Beck** have created *The Bantam and the soldier* - a story of an unusual friendship in wartime. The story reminds us of what ANZAC is all about. **Murray Grimsdale** teamed up with **Amanda Jackson** in *George's monster* a book about how night noises can be distressing but perfectly understandable once explained.

This is but a small sample of some wonderful material being published by New Zealand writers. Do read them: I am sure you will not be disappointed.

Jenny Carroll
School Library Network, New Zealand

HAVE YOU READ THIS?

Conference & Common Room recently published the experiences of three artists-in-residence organised by Wellington College. Lavinia Greenlaw spent the Christmas term as poet-in-residence and discusses her role in stimulating student interest in her favourite topic and the personal experience she gained from the visit. For T/Ls contemplating such a venture: take heart, both students and artist can gain great joy and understanding.

'Artists in residence'. *Conference & Common Room.* Vol. 34 No. 2 p: 25

The abridged version of the paper delivered by Roxanne Missingham at *Online and On Disk '97* provides a reminder to T/Ls that change is ever present. The twenty-first century is shaping up to be the setting for a totally new and different style of library and we are yet to have a clear perspective of what new

information services will be expected. What is required however, is the development of new competencies and communication strategies to tackle the emerging roles.

'Will you still need me when I'm 64?' *Incite.* Vol. 18 May 1997 p: 10

Many T/Ls are concerned that students can easily access anti-social material on the Internet. Dr. David Maddison is also conscious of this but he is more concerned about taking away people's access to information sources to protect the few not supervised by parents. He questions the right that Government has to increase controls and restrictions via censorship and encourages readers not to take freedom of the Internet for granted and become active in their 'online rights'.

'Censorship: paedophiles, pornography and pyrotechniques'.

Internet Australasia. **Vol. 3 Iss. 4 May 1997 p: 25**

The April edition of *Principal Matters* **(Vol. 8 No. 4)** looks at vocational education in secondary schools with several case studies of schools which have integrated it into their curriculum. While some may view it as a cunning guise to hide youth unemployment, or a powerful mechanism for forging school-to-industry relationships, it is a real option for some students. Bruce Wilson from Curriculum Corporation provides an overview for consideration, and T/Ls will find this perspective of interest if they are to resource such topics within the curriculum.

'Where to for vocational training in Australia?'. *Principal Matters.* Vol. 8 No. 4 p: 3

Heather Kelsall
Editor

WIRED TO THE WEB?
A WHIZ AT A QUIZ?

Test your education savvy in EQ Australia's online quiz at
http://www.curriculum.edu.au

Coming Soon!

Curriculum
CORPORATION

Attention Teacher-Librarians

New SCIS products for 1998 – *The 21st century has arrived!*

Cataloguing your library resources will be as easy as 1, 2, 3...

❶ Search our new Web or CD ROM products...

❷ Click on the records you want...

❸ Presto! – into your library system!!

No handling disks or faxing papers...

No waiting weeks for delivery...

No rehandling of resources when the records arrive...

INSTEAD ... 600,000 cataloguing records,
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS, ON YOUR DESK, ON DEMAND!

The new 1998 products

SCIS via the Web: You have been able to search online (via SCISLINK),
now you can download the records. All you need is your modem, access
to the Internet, and an Internet browser. No online time (except your
ISP costs), no postage and handling, no waiting. Create an ISBN/SCIS
Order Number file offline and upload via the Web – your records
delivered online in USMARC format to your desk. Full OPAC searches
available.

SCIS Downloading CD ROM: You have been able to search SCIS on
Disc (CD ROM), now you can download the records from it. Five issues
per year. Search by ISBN, SCIS Order Number, Author, Title, Subject.
Select records – download immediately to your library system in
USMARC format. Available in Windows 95 and 3.1 formats only.

What do you do next? ... Turn over to find out!

Make sure you have Internet access – buy a modem, get a dedicated phone line, and choose an ISP. OR make sure you have a CD ROM drive connected to your library system. OR negotiate access to Web or CD ROM equipment elsewhere in the school – you can download records from the Web or CD ROM onto floppy disks and load them into your library system.

More Information? Preliminary information is in the current *Connections* newsletter. Full details will be in the mid-October SCIS subscription form mailout. In the meantime check Curriculum Corporation's Web site at **http://www.curriculum.edu.au** or use the faxback sheet below.

SCIS Customer Service fax number (03) 9639 1616

Please forward information on

☐ SCIS via the Web

☐ SCIS Downloading CD ROM

☐ Other _____

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School _____

Fax No. _____

Email address _____

Address _____

_____

Postcode