Connections

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our readers are advised that further to an article on SCIS in Vol 6 No 3 of ACCESS, we have accepted their invitation to provide a contribution to the journal.

As we consider CONNECTIONS to be our major communication with our subscriber, I am taking this opportunity to observe that while the advocacy of the ACCESS article is appropriate and welcome, we have some disquiet about the way that argument has been mounted.

Simply stated Curriculum Corporation has no intention of diminishing the value of our library products and services. Just the opposite. Our Board is in the process of approving enhancements to program management delivery that can only act on support of improving satisfaction of system, school librarian and teacher needs. We are confident of the future. We believe we will be taking the best choices, as we will be so doing in the spirit and context of collaboration. We are very much in business and your continued support and involvement is essential. SCIS is not only alive and well, we are insistent it remains so.

David Francis
Executive Director

NETWORKING WITH PERIODICALS

Networking sounds like such a good idea, but in reality we know that most of our experiences of networking land up being a sharing of ideas and a return to the limitations of our own collections or the maintenance of inter-library loans which can be a job of its own.

This is not the experience of a group of school and Municipal libraries in the Central Eastern Area of Melbourne. They have taken the bull by the horns and put their periodicals to work with a fax machine.

The idea was conceived by two librarians (Janie Gibson, Xavier College & Catherine Ryan, Gennazzano College) after the 1992 ALIA Conference in the Blue Mountains. After hearing about the Queensland Periodical Centre for Schools they wanted to know how they could extend the use of their periodical collections.

Firstly, the Queensland periodical storehouse is an organisation which collects periodicals indexed by Guidelines. They undertake to send articles as requested to member schools for the cost of a photocopy. Out of this idea the Melbourne group, CENET (Central Eastern Network) Periodical Union, was born.

A request for interest was sent to 30 local government and private schools and Municipal libraries and the response was overwhelming.

The idea was not that the periodicals be kept in this one place or that one person administer them. On the contrary, each participating school undertook to fax 4 pages to another participating school for free. Any more than that could be negotiated between librarians. In many cases this means that the article is sent in the mail instead of wasting time at the fax machine.

A list was prepared of holdings, member schools and fax numbers. So far the system has been in operation for 4-5 months and most users seem more than happy with the service. As one user put it, this is a network which makes every library benefit on a day-to-day basis in their own library.

As a result of this there has been no trouble with finding people interested in investigating further projects for the group. There is currently a task force in operation investigating how user libraries can rationalise their

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IN THIS ISSUE

So far, in Connections, articles have discussed CD-ROM and on-line services. In this issue, the topic of document delivery is addressed. Once students have used the technological tools to gain access to this largely bibliographical data, how do they actually acquire the full text? An article by Catherine Ryan describes a periodical-sharing network being developed by a group of schools in Melbourne. There are also reviews of some CD-ROM products which provide document delivery. Also in this issue are profiles of the new Curriculum Corporation staff, some letters to the editor (keep them coming!!) and a questionnaire for you to complete.

Do you have a project or idea that you would like to share, or a comment on the newsletter or on the SCIS operation? Please write to The Editor c/- Curriculum Corporation.

Dianne Lewis

CD-ROM REVIEWS

periodical collections, this will hopefully mean access for all schools to a greater variety of journals. This is becoming so much more important nowadays with schools having access to more comprehensive indexes such as SAGE and the AUSTROM indexes.

Another task force is investigating the possibility of producing the list on computer disk so that it can be loaded onto the PC used to access the indexes.

The advent of this list in many libraries is seen as a vital tool to assist in the provision of resources for VCE students. It encourages students to endeavour to use the indexes if they are almost assured of success in their search.

There are a number of libraries in the inner eastern suburbs of Melbourne who have listed a fax on their 1993 budget submission. This is now seen as a central part of library service. Many prospective new members have made enquires about joining the union. In these days of instant gratification the success of this group speaks for itself.

Catherine Ryan

CENET
c/o Genazzano College Library, Kew

AUSTLIT is produced by INFORMIT in association with the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA). Like AUSTGUIDE and the other INFORMIT discs, AUSTLIT operates on the KAware software. Students find this software very easy to operate, particularly as the search commands are constant from one INFORMIT product to the next.

AUSTLIT indexes critical and creative writing by or about Australian authors, excluding children's literature. This unfortunately limits its use in schools to senior level English and Literature classes. It indexes a comprehensive range of periodicals and Australian daily newspapers. Some monographs are also indexed.

Searchable fields include the ubiquitous and ever useful CROSS SEARCH, as well as variations upon AUTHOR, TITLE, TOPIC and SOURCE. It also includes fields such as LITERATURE TYPE, AWARDS, and AUTHOR GENDER/ETHNICITY.

The ADFA library has an extensive collection of reviews which are indexed on AUSTLIT. It is possible to obtain copies of these reviews from the ADFA library at a cost of $8.00 per article. This author has received copies of requested articles by fax within the hour, a wonderful service indeed.

It was particularly appreciated by a year 12 Literature class in need of a range of reviews of a specific work of fiction. They were able to search AUSTLIT and print out a list of relevant citations, find several articles in monographs and periodicals held in the school library and select a small number of newspaper reviews to request from ADFA, which were received on the same day. It was an extremely rewarding experience for the students.

The **AUSPORT** database on the AUSTROM CD-ROM disc (also available on-line via Ozline) indexes an enormous range of material on all aspects of Australian sport published since l989. It includes periodicals, monographs and audiovisual material. It is terrific material for senior students of Physical Education.
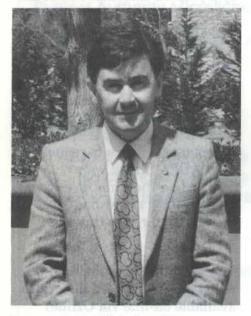
All of the material is available from the National Sport and Information Centre (NCIS) in Canberra. Forms are available which encourage students to request material themselves at $3.00 per item. The usual inter-library loan requests and vouchers can also be used. NCIS claims that requests for material can take from 2 - 6 weeks. This author's recent experience was a delay of approximately 3 weeks. It is a terrific service to enable students to gain access to this specialized collection.

Dianne Lewis

STAFF PROFILES:

Lance Deveson: Senior Information Officer.

Lance started his teaching career as a classroom teacher then furthered his qualifications with study in teacher librarianship and computing. He worked in city and country schools in Victoria for 15 years before becoming a Library Consultant in the Central Highlands-Wimmera Region for 5 years. During this time he was able to further his interest in Library automation by assisting many schools to begin and complete the process. Lance has been fortunate to have taught in England and USA where he broadened his educational experiences. Lance is a member of both the School Library Association of Victoria (SLAV) where he was President in 1989-90 and ALIA.

In 1990 Lance came to work at the Curriculum Corporation on a 12 month contract to assist with the professional development program of the Information program leading to his current appointment as Senior Information Officer.

Barbara Burr. Library Technician.

Barbara has worked at Ascis now Curriculum Corporation for 3 years, previously half time but now full time. Prior to her current position Barbara worked as a Library Technician at 2 state secondary colleges while undertaking qualifications in that area at Box Hill College of TAFE, being in the first batch of graduates of the updated course Associate Diploma of Social Sciences (Lib. and Info. Services). Barbara has also teaching qualifications and taught in government secondary schools in Victoria for 14 years. She is a member of ALIA (Tech).

Ellen Paxton. Cataloguing Coordinator.

Ellen comes to the Curriculum Corporation from a secondary school where she was Teacher Librarian in charge of a large automated school Library. Ellen has also worked as a year level coordinator and classroom teacher where her methods were history, english and politics. Ellen has experience on a variety of the major automated systems both as a cataloguer and user.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nicole England.
Client Services Officer.

Nicole comes to Curriculum Corporation as a graduate in Teaching and Librarianship. Nicole has a joint role of Library Technician and Client liaison. Nicole graduated in 1991 and has had a variety of jobs before coming to the Corporation including work in Public libraries and voluntary work in School libraries.

Q. *IN THE PREVIOUS EDITION OF "CONNECTIONS" YOU ADVISE THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE BAUD RATE TO ACCESS AN ONLINE DATABASE IS 2400 BAUD SO WHY THEN IS FULL ACCESS TO SCIS ONLY AVAILABLE AT 1200 OR 300 BAUD RATE?*

A. Schools are able to access the SCIS database at 2400 Baud rate via AUSTPAC. For country schools this is a cheaper rate than dialing in via STD. This is a communications network set by Telecom Australia AUSTPAC has to joined by the school as a separate subscription.

However access via AUSTPAC to our current on line system, Dobis/Libis, is limited to SEARCHING ONLY and therefore schools cannot use Quick Search, Product Ordering, Bulletin Board or E-Mail.Schools would need to contact their local Telecom office to ascertain pricing for the service.

The SCIS database is available after school hours and ON weekends therefore STD access is still a viable way for country schools to access the database.

Remember it is important to DO THE THINKING about/ORGANISING of the resources BEFORE accessing the database, this can save time and money.

NEW SOFTWARE and COMMUNICATIONS.

Curriculum Corporation has commenced the search to replace the current software system onto which the SCIS database is mounted. This software will include a number of new features including AUSTPAC access.

Schools considering investigating an AUSTPAC licence should wait until Curriculum Corporation chooses the new software as the new solution could include the Corporation taking out a license for all schools rather than asking schools to subscribe to individual licences. This solution would make access equitable for city and country schools.

Another point to keep in mind when purchasing a Modem is that speed of access to Databases is increasing all the time. Therefore look to purchasing a Modem with speeds up to 9600 Baud rate, as this would allow future downloading of records into an Automated software system from the SCIS database.

SCIS SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1993

Microfiche

Full Cataloguing Records and Subject Authority	$150.00
Abbreviated Cataloguing Records and Subject Authority	$110.00
Subject Authority Microfiche	$30.00

Tertiary Institutions Public Libraries, Individuals etc

Full Cataloguing Records	$250.00
Subject Authority	$50.00

Catalogue Cards

$0.65 per set of cards

No change in postage

Subject authority cards $0.25

ASCIS 80

Prices unchanged from 1992

$0.60 per record

ASCISRECON

Program	$140.00
MRR per record	$0.15

Packaging and Handling unchanged from 1992.

Dial Up Registration

Schools

Option 1: $120.00 annual registration plus $30.00 per hour connect time

Option 2: $40.00 per connect hour

Schools re-subscribing to Dial Up before December 1992 will be enrolled as a User until December 1993.

Schools re-subscribing to Option 1 during 1993 will be given a sliding scale up until December 1993 i.e. Re-subscription in March 1993 will be $100.00 plus the hourly rate.

From January 1994 all Dial Up subscriptions will be on a School Year not a Calendar Year.

Tertiary Institutions etc.

Registration Fee: $250.00 plus $60.00 per connect hour.

User Questionnaire on New Software cont.

Your additional comments are welcome...

Connections

USER QUESTIONNAIRE ON NEW SOFTWARE

Curriculum Corporation is commencing the search for new software to replace the existing DOBIS/LIBIS software that hosts the SCIS database.

The Corporation is conscious of the need to involve the school users in the process.

Curriculum Corporation would like Users to reply to the following survey to assist in ensuring that the correct decision is made with the new software.

In what format would your school like to receive SCIS products in the future?

Microfiche ❏

Cards ❏

Machine readable Records ❏

CD-ROM ❏

Paper ❏

Download machine readable records directly from the database ❏

Other (please specify)

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If SCIS was to offer gateways to other databases would you use that as a service? ie access AAP news through SCIS.

Comments:

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What features would you like to see included in the new system to host the SCIS database?

Downloading of bibliographic records via modem. ❏

Electronic Mail. ❏

Bulletin Board. ❏

Pull down Menus to assist with searching on the system. ❏

ON Line Help screens. ❏

A tutorial built into the system. ❏

Changes displayed for time on the system when you log off.. ❏

Pre paid dial up. ❏

Modem speeds up to and including 9600 BAUD rate. ❏

Other (please specify) ❏

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Please complete the survey, put in an envelope and return to:

REPLY PAID 1181

Mr L Deveson
Senior Information Officer
Curriculum Corporation
P.O. Box 177
CARLTON STH VIC 3053.

No stamp required.