OCCASIONAL BULLETIN

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NEWS

CAUL

F *acilitating cooperative endeavours by Australian university libraries.*

Established in 1928, the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) represents all Australian University libraries and promotes collaboration among them and with other Australian and international libraries and organisations. CAUL is committed to

- excellence;
- cooperative advantage;
- access and equity; and
- leadership in the development of university libraries.

West Review

A SUSTAINABLE INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT FOR RESEARCH AND STUDY:

The CAUL submission to the Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy (known as the West Review) recommends:

1. That universities should recognise the need for greater investment in information and technology services to support the expansion of flexible and open learning.

2. That the AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY materials payment should be increased to allow students to purchase personal computer hardware and software over, say, three years.

3. That it is imperative that Australia's intellectual property laws should enshrine the principle of fair

Alex Byrne, CAUL President and Director of Information Services, Northern Territory University

dealing for research or study in a technology independent fashion without further delay.

4. That a university quality framework should be introduced which respects university autonomy but requires that teaching and research be supported by adequate library and other resources.

5. That the Commonwealth should establish a National Information Infrastructure Fund to support information infrastructure of national importance.

6. That the 150% R&D taxation provision should be restored and extended to include investment in research infrastructure.

7.That Government and universities actively support strategies to preserve the scholarly record in all formats

Full details of the submission can be found at http://www.deet.gov.au/divisions/hed/hereview/submissions/C/CAUL1.htm

Inside This Issue

Database Services for Australian Universities

I n 1996, the Database Access Working Group called for expressions of interest in the provision of web-based, full-text database services suitable for research and teaching, to be in place by February 1997.

Two publisher/providers were selected to provide universal access to their services for a 12 month period. During this time they will also establish a mirror site for their services in Australia, or provide an alternative method of access which will ensure a response time equivalent to that of a local mirror.

Expanded Academic ASAP
IAC's flagship academic database contains more than 1,500 indexed titles, with over 520 of them available in full text. Coverage includes 1980 to present - updated daily. Expanded Academic ASAP is an excellent one-stop database for undergraduate studies in all but the pure sciences.

Computer ASAP
A comprehensive information technology research database, covering computer science, electronics and telecommunications. Computer ASAP (also from IAC) indexes over 150 titles, with over 100 of those in full text. Coverage includes the current year plus most recent 3 years, and is updated daily.

Academic Press IDEAL
Access to the full-text of 173 titles published by Academic Press will be provided by this project to all staff and students of 37 AVCC member institutions. Coverage is predominantly science/technology and is of greatest interest to researchers.

The Database Access Working Group is a sub-group of the Standing Committee on Information Resources, established in 1992 by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee in response to the Ross Review of university libraries in 1990. The funding for these services comes from the final allocation of the Federal Government's $5m National Priority (Reserve) Fund for university information infrastructure.

Conferences in 1997

C AUL is sponsoring or supporting three conferences in 1997:

April - CAUSE '97 In Australasia: Information Technology - The Enabler held in Melbourne. CAUSE is the association for managing and using information resources in higher education, and this is the third conference of the regional arm. Full details at http://www.unimelb.edu.au/CAUSE/

June 16-17 - Beyond the Beginning: The Global Digital Library. This international conference is being organised by UKOLN in association with JISC, CNI,

BLRIC, CAUSE and CAUL. Full details at http://www.anu.edu.au/caul/mirror/global/ and at http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/global-digital-library/

July 1-4 - QUESTnet '97: Networking about Networking: The National Conference for Information and Networking Professionals. QUESTnet is the Queensland Education, Science and Technology Network. Full details at http://www.gu.edu.au/qnet97/

Copyright reform slow

A ustralia's copyright regulations relating to educational institutions specifically exclude digital copying. Over the past three years, the universities have been attempting to reach an agreement whereby they can utilise the new technologies to enhance services, specifically by providing electronic access to their reserve collections. CAL, the Copyright Agency Limited, which represents copyright holders in the print environment, but not yet in electronic licensing, has sought to use the distinction to gain a financial windfall at the expense of the educational institutions, and as a side issue, to extinguish the principle of fair dealing.

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and CAL, responsible for collecting the fees imposed for educational copying, are currently before the Copyright Tribunal in an attempt to set a cost on digital copying proposed by the universities. This action is not likely to have a result for some years.

In the meantime, the universities are effectively precluded from digital copying for such services as Electronic Reserve. Monash University Library, in a project similar to the UK's Project ACORN, is testing the efficacy of direct approaches to individual copyright holders, usually publishers, to seek permission to "publish" material on Electronic Reserve. Results so far show long turnaround times for permissions to be received, and a wide range of charges imposed by the publishers.

Contacting CAUL

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