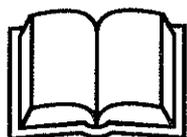


June 1998

# National Newsletter



**Health Libraries Section**  
**Australian Library & Information Association**

## ERIN, Informit Online and AUSThealth

*Australian health and medical research is now enhanced by the addition of new databases to the CD-ROM AUSThealth and the development of Internet access through the Educational Resources & Information Network (ERIN).*



**AUSThealth**

RMIT Publishing has included three new databases on AUSThealth – AusportMed, Health & Society and DRUG. These three new databases add scope to the existing range of resources available on AUSThealth, which includes the Australasian Medical Index (Australia's leading medical resource), Rural Health, and ATSIhealth (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health).

Produced by the National Sport Information Centre at the Australian Sports Commission, AusportMed is a bibliographic database that indexes and abstracts articles from published and unpublished material on all aspects of medical and health issues in sport. The database began in 1989 but includes selected earlier items. Most items are available through the National Sports Information Centre's document delivery service. Subject coverage includes medicine, health, biomechanics, psychology, nutrition and diet, physiology, physical fitness diagnosis, treatment, etiology and drugs in sport.

The Health & Society Database is produced by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. The subject coverage includes the health and well-being of families and individuals; health policy; health services; quality of life, morbidity, mortality and life expectancy; mental health and illness; health issues of particular concern to the aged, children and youth; Aboriginal health; pregnancy, birth; ethical aspects of health such as those surrounding abortion, euthanasia and reproductive technologies; health education and promotion; health administration and economic issues.

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**Strait to the Future Update**

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The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) in Canberra produce the DRUG Database. DRUG covers the psycho-social aspects of substance abuse. More specifically, it covers the political, social, economic, psychological and legal aspects of prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug use. Both legal and illegal drugs are included.

From July 1998, the AUSThealth databases currently published on CD-ROM will also be available as an Internet publication through the Educational Resources & Information Network (ERIN). RMIT Publishing is establishing ERIN as a means to provide Australian databases and full content information through a commercial Internet site. ERIN will provide online access to a number of resource areas that will include some full text publications and the Informit range of databases. The databases will be marketed as part of Informit Online, the subset of ERIN dealing with Australian database resources.

The AUSThealth database providers join over fifty other Australian database providers who have shown interest in publishing online through ERIN and Informit Online. These databases include leading Australian resources such as the Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS), Family database, Management Edge (MEDGE) and ALISA.

SilverPlatter's WebSPIRS software will be used allowing sophisticated searching through your standard web browser. Flexible subscription options are available for ERIN and Informit online making Internet-based, desktop access to reliable health research an attractive option. Further information is available at <http://www.erin.com.au>.

**For further information about AUSThealth please contact Tim Dolby on (03) 9341 3271, or email [timd@rmitpublishing.com.au](mailto:timd@rmitpublishing.com.au).**

## *Comment....*

### **The National Library of Australia and Medical Journals**

Sandra Henderson (NLA) presented some interesting statistics in the March newsletter on the coverage of Medline titles by Gratis libraries. May I make several comments on these figures?

First, they are incomplete. The information presented accounts for only 75% of the titles in the survey (51% held by Gratis libraries, including 1% only held by Gratis libraries, and 24% not held in Australia, or held by only one Australian, presumably non-Gratis, library). We may deduce that there is a further 25% of Medline titles which are held by more than one Australian non-Gratis library. A second key fact, namely the extent of the holdings of Medline titles by non-Gratis libraries, and especially by NLA, was omitted and cannot be deduced from the figures presented.

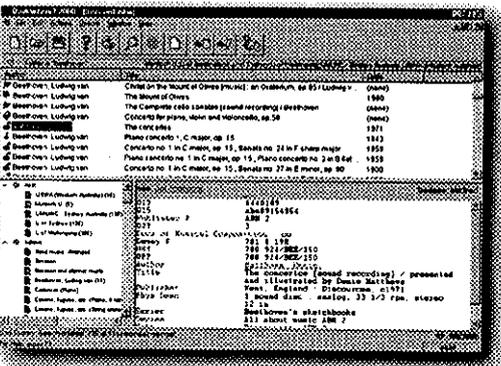
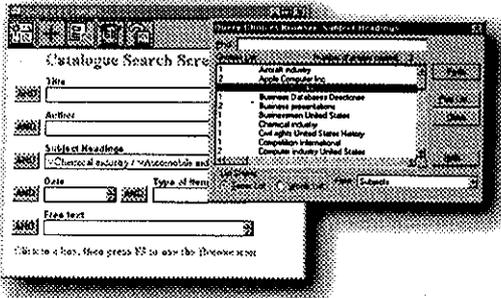
Secondly, there is perhaps a hidden agenda in the presentation of these figures. It is well known that NLA has cancelled many medical titles, and the assumption might well be that NLA is attempting, or is thinking of attempting, to shift the burden of responsibility for national access to medical titles onto academic and Gratis libraries - or at least to justify its actions in reducing its own level of responsibility and support in this key area.

Thirdly, the issue of national access to Gratis holdings, and consequently to Gratis as a document supplier, is carefully avoided, although it is obviously a vital issue from the point of view of the NLA and the nation as a whole. The fact that half the Medline titles are held by Gratis libraries obscures the important fact that this half is undoubtedly the most used and the most useful portion. Obviously we have very little interest in foreign language titles, for example. These, along with highly specialised titles in esoteric areas of research for which there is little demand, would make up the bulk of the other 50%.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Executive Planning Committee Report for 8th Asia-Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians' Conference Strait to the Future 22-26 August 1999

<http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/strait/index.html>

The latest Executive Committee meeting was held with the Conference organizers on 1st May. Broad themes for the Conference have been approved and are:

### Looking Forward, Looking Back

The roles of information, reading, research and archives - future, present, past  
Islands: overcoming isolation  
Innovations: Meeting the challenges

### Information Ecology

The information landscape  
Knowledge management  
Transience and permanence, access and ownership  
Training and education

*(Continued on page 6)*

**RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING: A FUTURE WINNER  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GAMBLING STUDIES CONFERENCE**

The 8<sup>th</sup> National Association for Gambling Studies Conference Proceedings are now available. The Proceedings comprise over 45 papers and over 400 pages, making it the largest in the NAGS Conference series to date. The Proceedings are an ideal resource and reference, incorporating papers from the many different aspects of gambling and gaming, including research, industry, government, regulatory authorities, welfare groups, and community education and problem gambling treatment agencies. At \$35 each, these proceedings represent excellent value. However, only a limited number have been printed so please order early so you don't miss out.

To order your copies, please send a completed order form together with your cheque or money order payable to "NAGS Conference '97" (credit card facilities not available).

Send order form and payment to:  
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Editor, NAGS Conference 97,  
Suite 7/36 Daniell Place  
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**««««Wanted««««**

**Items for this newsletter:**

- State news**
- Internet sites**
- Book reviews**
- Journal article reviews**
- Conference reports**
- Library profiles**
- Creating Web pages**
- Evidence Based Practice**

**~Internet~**

Two good UK sites for finding UK Government publications and information:

UK Official Publications on the Internet  
<http://www.official-documents.co.uk/menu/ukpinf.htm>

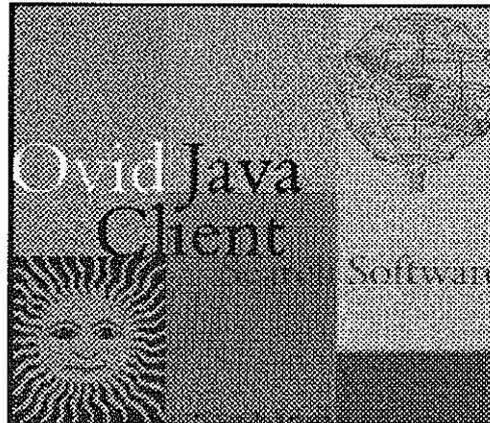
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*(Continued from page 2)*

Gratis, therefore, is far and away the largest and most comprehensive holder of biomedical information in Australia. I would urge Gratis libraries to maintain their solidarity at any price. Furthermore, I believe Gratis should become a commercial document supplier in competition with NLA, which is clearly positioning itself to dominate the document supply market in Australia - a move which has the potential to deprive smaller libraries of business which is vital to their survival.

If the will was there, Gratis could be a very profitable enterprise. Gratis libraries are highly efficient document suppliers, as repeated HLS surveys have shown - much more efficient than NLA itself, or the large academic libraries, or the big US document suppliers. We have by far the largest and most comprehensive holdings in Australia. What's stopping us?

Stephen Due  
Geelong Hospital Library



The assistance of the Health Communication Network and  
Ovid Technologies  
is gratefully acknowledged in the production of this newsletter.

(Continued from page 3)

### The Vision

Technovision: boon or bust

The wired planet: information and IT trends

Communication networks

Balanced lives on the cutting edge: Human resources issues

The specialist niche in cyberspace

Experience and visions / invasions and colonization's on the WWW

### Strait to the Future

Scenarios

Hypothetical

Panel of a range of people

- The Treasurer's Report has been received from Perth Committee and a draft budget is being prepared for consideration at the next Executive meeting.
- Subcommittees have been meeting on a regular basis.
- Additions to the Web Site shortly will be the themes and photographs of the Committee members.
- A report will be presented at July General Council meeting.

**Don't forget to check out the Health Libraries Section Page  
on ALIANet**

**Put forward your suggestions for improvements, changes, etc.**

### National Executive Health Libraries Section, 1998

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### Newsletter Deadlines

**The Health Libraries Section National News-  
letter is produced quarterly in the first week of  
March, June,  
September and December.**

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