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International Dateline: OCLC and Others Revisit New Zealand

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OCLC and Others Revisit New Zealand
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When OCLC revisited New Zealand in May once again the University Librarians had gathered in Wellington for a CONZULS meeting. FirstSearch which entered the University libraries arena here late last year, had become part of the University library scene. When Mr. Andrew Wang, Director Asia Pacific Services, gave a presentation on what else OCLC had to offer, it was time to think collectively again. Prism products PromptCat and PromptSelect were on their way with prospects for further streamlining Acquisitions, Collection management, and Technical services.

There was a workshop on the Prism service or the OCLC Online Union Catalogue for two and a half days which was attended by librarians from all over New Zealand. In addition, we heard more about EJO or Electronic Journals Online, Netfirst or index of Internet resources, and of the availability of a US business directory, and telephone books on FirstSearch. More and more questions followed. If universities moved to use these products, how could our holdings still be included in our national database NZBN? Can the new products be used with an individual library’s automation system? Does the US business directory or the US telephone books on FirstSearch include Fax numbers?

Also in May the Dynix users in New Zealand had their annual DUGNZ meeting in Wellington. It provided the opportunity for Dynix NZ to inform us what they had in store for their users and provided an opportunity for the users to once again seek answers to questions which have concerned them for long. There was an interesting mix of sessions on new releases and different modules sandwiched with healthy morning and afternoon teas and sumptuous lunches and dinners at some of Wellington’s special venues.

Being part of a ‘Global system’ is not always easy. We seem to be always behind in getting the new releases, and in finding out what is coming in the future. DYNIX-L has been great even though we are at least three steps behind — US libraries are loading 150 when we are still on 135 and are hoping to load 140 at the end of the year. Moreover not all Dynix libraries have access to the Internet and Dynix-L.

We were grateful for the feedback from the Australian contingent who attended CODI ’95 at Utah earlier this year, but the reports also brought great disappointment. For the past four years at least we have looked forward to electronic ordering. Else how can we take advantage and plan for the future to use OCLC’s new services such as PromptCat or PromptSelect?

In June, Mary Bushing of Pacific Northwest Conspexus fame revisited New Zealand. In Wellington she was involved with a two-day workshop on ‘Conspexus for New Zealand’ National Library of New Zealand. Particular attention was given to Conspexus and Collection Management. The time had come to discuss in earnest the place of these topics in an NDIS environment when the National Library’s one-stop information service becomes a reality. In Auckland she spoke to an enthusiastic gathering of librarians on the “Factors for success in Collection Management: Authority, Knowledge, Judgment, Vision and Self-confidence.”

We have also had demonstrations of Infotrac, and Ovid CD Plus Technologies, both displaying the full text search and retrieval capabilities available. We already have access to databases such as ABI/Inform by other methods. While the coverage of databases available is ever-increasing, there is an even more pressing need to constantly evaluate what we already have before committing more of the limited resources. Therefore we can hardly expect the questions which accompany these new products and services in a fast-moving world to decrease.
On July 10, 1995, publishers met with library and information professionals from countries within the European Union to discuss the first steps towards a model contract on electronic copying.

The meeting was organized by the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Association (EBLIDA) in Amsterdam, as part of the European Copyright User Platform (ECUP) which is sponsored by the European Commission (DG XIII-E3). Members of the ECUP Steering Group were present, representing among others — the National, Academic and Public-library sectors and the European Commission. The following publishing organizations were present — STM (International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers), FEP (Federation of European Publishers), Blackwell Science, Ltd., Academic Press, Ltd., Kluwer Academic Publishers, Elsevier Science and Chadwyck-Healey, Ltd. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ross Shimmon, President of EBLIDA.

The ECUP was set up to make library and information professionals aware of copyright, to identify the problems with copyright and electronic copying, and to discuss possible solutions with publishers. Copyright awareness workshops were conducted in 14 Member States of the European Union and in Norway. At these meetings library and information professionals gave their views on possible solutions for the existing problems in this area. The results of the workshops were analyzed and processed by the ECUP Steering Group.

At the meeting the library and information professionals stated that onsite use should be free of charge and that the delivery to external users should be paid for by the end user taking into account the principle of fair use. They acknowledged that copyright protects the legitimate rights of the rights owners, but it was stressed that this should not frustrate technical developments of access to information.

A result of the meeting was that the publishers expressed their willingness to participate in the process of creating a model contract. The publishers made the following statement:

“The electronic delivery of information significantly changes the commercial relationship between publishers and user groups. Electronic uses of copyright material will be facilitated by individual contracts between publishers and user groups, including librarians. Such contracting will allow for Electronic Document Delivery directly from publishers to users and this excludes Interlibrary electronic document delivery carried out in the name of Interlibrary lending. One way forward might be the development of a model contract between publishers and user groups.”

The outcome of the meeting was very promising. The publishers will discuss the results within their organizations and a follow-up meeting will be organized by EBLIDA. In September a report on the results of the ECUP will be available from the EBLIDA Head Office in The Hague.

Editor’s Note: The EBLIDA Head Office is located at P.O. Box 43300, 2504 AH The Hague, The Netherlands. Telephone: +31-70-3090608, FAX: +31-70-3090708. — KS