Hindmarsh Island bridge Royal Commission
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Transcript of Proceedings

A Transcript of Proceedings of the Hindmarsh Island bridge Royal Commission is now available on the World Wide Web. Marie Robinson and Alan Keig of the Barr Smith Library have converted the text of the Transcript into WWW format, and it is now available through the Library Information Service.

If you want to look at it, the URL is: <http://library.adelaide.edu.au/gen/H_Islnd/>

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There is an online searchable Index to the Transcript and also a also a List of exhibits.

The Transcript is in .pdf format which may be read on either Macintosh or PC equipment, using Adobe Acrobat software. If you do not have this application, instructions for downloading a free reader are given on the page.

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Faster access to electronic databases

Access to the Library's Silver Platter electronic databases is now simpler and faster. Using Quality money, the Library has invested in an Electronic Reference Library [ERL] server to provide the University of Adelaide community with greatly simplified access to, and faster searching of, over forty popular Silver Platter databases.

The Library has now transferred all Silver Platter databases to the ERL server. An added advatage is that there is now some free space on the existing DEWEY servers for the expanding range of non-Silver Platter databases.

More details of the new service, including a list of available databases, are given in the latest issue of NEWSLINE; if you didn't see a copy there's an online version at:

<http://library.adelaide.edu.au/ual/publ/Newsline/NEWSLINE_78.html>

More information about the ERL server is at:

<http://library.adelaide.edu.au/gen/edb/erl.html>

where you will find specific instructions for setting up your computer to take advantage of the ERL technology.

Although not yet implemented to its full potential, the ERL server already offers dial-up access and several interfaces, delivering the information to Macs as well as PCs. When implementation is complete, there will also be access via Telnet and the World Wide Web. In addition, the Library will be able to offer information on its journal holdings: users will no longer have to go through the two-step process of using the database to identify the reference, then going to the Library's computer catalogue to check availability.

Please contact your local computing support officer if you need help in setting up your equipment to take full advantage of the new ERL server facility. Advice on individual database searching is available from your Subject Librarian.

Steve Cramond

Training in electronic information resources

New technologies and electronic information sources continue to grow apace. To make sure that our users are kept informed, the Barr Smith Library has developed additional user education programmes, and, from the beginning of this year, has had in operation a training room devoted to teaching the techniques of electronic information retrieval.

The training room has a suite of nine PCs: a demonstrator's PC and 8 user PCs, each with space for two users so that a group of 16 may be trained. The PCs run Microsoft Windows, as well as WinQVT/Net and Netscape, and are able to access electronic databases on the University's network as well as information resources available over the Internet.

Subject Librarians have used the room heavily in first semester for the whole range of information services. Training has been given in use of the computer catalogue, in using general databases such as *Current Contents*, as well as subject-based databases such as *Biological Abstracts* and the literature index, *MLA*. In addition, the information resources available over the Internet, and especially using the Library Information Service pages as a starting point, have been demonstrated to students in a training situation.

An example of the difference that the training room has made is that all first year Medicine students were able to have 'hands on' training sessions in the use of *Medline*, the primary information source for research articles in that discipline, whereas previously this training had to be by demonstration only, or one at a time using the computers near the Information desk. This training complemented the *Medline Workbook* that was introduced this year to build on the skills that the introductory *Medicine Library Skills Workbook* imparts to first year students.

Margaret Emery

Reciprocal borrowing for undergraduates

After discussions with the Library Liaison Committee and with the University Library Committee, it has been decided to negotiate agreements with the other two university libraries in Adelaide for reciprocal borrowing for all students and staff. An agreement was reached at a meeting of the three university librarians in late November.

In response to the discussions held at this University, the agreement took into consideration the special needs of University of Adelaide undergraduates, and of users of the branch and campus libraries, especially the Law Library. The agreement will restrict all reciprocal users to four loans at one time for two-week loans, with only one extension possible. The Reserve collection, one-week loan material, and journals are not included in the agreement. Branch and campus libraries can organise special restrictions. Similar loan qualifications will exist for our own staff and students who use the other university libraries.

The agreement includes compensation to the net lender to cover the costs of the service (it does not involve any costs to the end users), this amount to be indexed annually. The agreement also assumes automated registration.

The agreement will be reviewed at the end of 1996.

Ray Choate

Loans - renew your own

Very soon it will be possible for University of Adelaide Library users to renew/extend the loan period of books they have borrowed, by using a new menu option on the Library catalogue.

The new function will be available from all libraries (Barr Smith, Law, Performing Arts, Roseworthy and Waite) or from a remote location.

To renew the loan period of a book that you have on loan, first choose Option 12. Borrowers Loan Details from the main menu on any catalogue terminal. From this menu choose Option 1 Items out. Use the R [=Renewal] option on the command line to extend the loan period of the item. If the renewal is successful, a message will appear with the new due date by which the item must be returned.

If it is not possible to renew the loan (because the item has been requested by another user, you have already had the maximum number of extensions on that item, you are barred from borrowing or your Library Card has expired) an appropriate message will appear.

Renewals/Extensions may still be done by telephone (303 5759) or in person at the Loans desk.

Robina Weir

Information desk service interruptions

Wednesday 17; Thursday 18; Tuesday 23; Wednesday 24 July

On these dates the library staff who usually provide service at the Information desk will be involved in an intensive forward planning programme. The aim of the exercise is to develop strategies to ensure that we will continue to provide excellent service to our users in a rapidly changing information environment. Part of the process will involve a close analysis of the responses to our recent questionnaire on Information desk service.

Librarians from other areas of responsibility, and from the branch libraries, will provide a basic Information desk service on the four dates above, to enable all regular Information desk staff to participate in the programme.

Because they will not necessarily be familiar with all aspects of the Barr Smith Library Information desk services, it may happen that the person on duty will not be able to answer your enquiries immediately or fully. It will be possible to record the details of your enquiry so that your Subject Librarian can follow it up.

We apologise for the inconvenience that we may cause by this temporary interruption to the normal Information desk services.

... comes to the University of Adelaide

'**Britannica Online** is the best information database to appear in quite a long time. It incorporates many of the wonderful features of the printed volumes of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* with refined search tools and resources of the Internet. They should post a warning: "This information may be highly addictive. Use only under the care of a librarian or information professional." Once you use it, you'll wonder how you ever lived without it.' So reads an article from *Database* magazine describing the 1994 prize winner in its annual Product of the Year award.

For 12 months, starting 1 July, the full text of Britannica is available online to all University staff and students with access to a Web browser such as Netscape Navigator. Access to **Britannica Online** has been funded, in part, by a grant to the Library from the 1994 Quality round, for the creation of an Electronic Library. Its use will be evaluated towards the end of the trial period.

The following databases — fully searchable and browsable — are available in **Britannica Online** :

Encyclopædia Britannica, 15th edition — text from the 1995 printing, along with essential illustrations and maps, plus hundreds of new articles, and article updates, that do not appear in the print version.

Britannica Book of the Year — text of the 1994 and 1995 editions, covering the events of 1993 and 1994.

Nations of the World — an alphabetical list of countries, with hotlinks to statistical summaries, flags, maps, and articles in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and the *Britannica Book of the Year.*

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary— fully searchable online dictionary!

New files are added or updated daily , and many articles include pointers [hyperlinks] to relevant Internet resources, outside the boundaries of the Encyclopædia itself.

Widely adopted in the US, **Britannica Online** has been taken up in Australia, so far, by the University of Newcastle and now, by a CAUL [Council of Australian University Librarians] consortium of Adelaide, Monash, Curtin, Canberra and Charles Sturt universities.

While it was expected that students would be heavy users of Britannica Online, the beta-testing also showed up heavy use by academics on the campus networks. **Britannica Online** gave them an opportunity to learn from an established and familiar authority about other areas of enquiry, beyond their immediate areas of expertise.

Connect to Britannica Online

As soon as the direct access URL is known we'll issue a *NEWSLINE* with full details, or you can ask your Subject Librarian. If you would like a preview, point your Web browser to:

<http://www.eb.com>

Please note that **Britannica Online** will be set up so that only users from [or dialling into an account at] the University of Adelaide network can access the database. You may, for example, have problems if you are dialling in from home via a commercial Internet service provider.

Steve Cramond