

## *Christine Maher*

Electronic Information Services Librarian  
La Trobe University Library  
email : c.maher@latrobe.edu.au

## *Internet News*

An Australian Internet Index to rival some of the best overseas Indexes has recently appeared on the World Wide Web. It is Commerce and Law Internet Bookmarks compiled by Peter Jones at the University of Tasmania.

The Uniform Resource Locator is : <http://babel.its.utas.edu.au/docs/comlaw/>

Commerce and Law Internet Bookmarks (CLIB), as its name implies, is heavily oriented towards indexing law resources on the Web but also includes an extensive range of links to general Internet resources such as Search Engines, Directory Services such as White and Yellow pages, Computing information and of course, economics, commerce, government and politics resources.

The law information is particularly well structured under the hypertext link Indexes of Law. The arrangement is by Major Legal Topic and the listings under Australian Law look to be very comprehensive.

One of the nicest features of CLIB is the invitation to its users to supply "bookmarks" i.e. URLs, of newly-discovered resources and so contribute to keeping the Index very current. Another good feature is the evaluation facility which encourages users to provide an assessment of the service based on speediness, value of the information provided and the quality of the design and layout. I would like to see many other Web information providers following this example and encourage readers of this column to provide Peter Jones with the desired

feedback. Librarians have been worrying at the issue of quality and standards in relation to information provision on the Internet for quite some time and I believe we should offer positive reinforcement to providers of high quality resources.

Surfing around Lawnet recently revealed that there are several issues of the *Law Institute Journal* for 1995 mounted at URL : <http://lawnet.com.au/~faris/journals/livj.html>. Most of the issues provide the full text of the feature articles only. For November there are many news items, including practice notes, although not yet the feature articles.

Butterworths have launched an electronic newsletter called *The Legal Express*. Published daily and delivered to your email address, an annual single-user subscription costs \$195.00 and a network annual subscription \$390.00. Butterworths must believe in the "try before you buy" philosophy as they provide the recent and retrospective issues on the Web at : <http://www.butterworths.com.au/legalexp/legalexp.htm>. Butterworths aim to provide important legal news items from Australian newspapers and the latest law-related government press releases in this service.

The Victorian Bar now has its own Web Server and Home Page at : <http://www.lawnet.com.au/law/vicbar>.

Menu items include "Find a Barrister or Solicitor", "The Victorian Bar Disputes Resolution Scheme" and "The Victorian Bar News". Some Victorian barristers are so enthusiastic about the Internet that they have set up their own Home Page. Aickin Chambers are found through the Victorian Bar Home Page and in turn provide a fascinating set of links to forensic sources on the Web.

Aficionados of Internet search engines will be interested in a new rival to Lycos and Web Crawler, called Inktomi. The developers claim

that Inktomi is "the first fast web indexer with a large database", claiming 13 million documents as against 118 million documents for Lycos, 200,000 for InfoSeek and 150,000 for WebCrawler. I tested the speed of Inktomi, Lycos and WebCrawler by searching for AustLII on each in turn. Lycos was by far the slowest in returning a result at almost a minute, while Inktomi and WebCrawler were almost equally fast, a matter of a few seconds each. Inktomi can be found at : <http://inktomi.berkeley.edu>

Inktomi is based at the University of California at Berkeley and is part of a bigger project called the "Berkeley NOW Project" which is "building system support for using a network of workstations to act as a distributed supercomputer.", i.e. something like a virtual parallel supercomputer. You will find detailed papers about NOW and Inktomi at the URL listed above.

## ***World 1 (formerly NDIS)***

The NDIS Joint Project Office issued a press release on 16 November on the theme of "One Step Closer". Three key components of the development project have now been finalised. They are the Search and Browse Interface, the System Support Functions and Client Services.

The interface permits a range of search types to cater for different levels of user experience and will be "point and click", i.e. what is commonly known now as a graphical user interface. It has been subjected to useability testing by potential customers who included a cataloguer, a reference librarian, a lawyer and an undergraduate. The prototype will be demonstrated at presentations throughout Australia early in 1996. Dates and venues will be notified shortly.

The development team has begun work on a Web browser, which will permit Internet access to World One. Work is also well under way on the document requesting, item delivery, billing and

other user-support functions such as the ability to load new data.

For further information contact Christine Clay, WORLD 1 Marketing at : [C.Clay@nla.gov.au](mailto:C.Clay@nla.gov.au)

## ***Internet Reading***

Those enthusiasts not overwhelmed by the avalanche of the Internet may have enough energy left or may prefer to read the following:

Rosenfeld, Louis, Janes, J. and Vander Holk, Martha, eds. *The Internet Compendium: subject guides to social sciences, business and law resources*. London: Mansell, 1995.

Liu, Cricket [et al.] *Managing Internet Information Services*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates, 1994.

## **Do you need someone in Canberra who can supply answers?**

Capital Monitor provides law librarians with information and document services tailored to their needs – policy statements, legislation, Hansards, speeches, publications and a highly experienced team to answer (or find out the answers to) those really tricky questions that partners ask.

Capital Monitor covers all the levels of information that makes the national capital tick – Federal, Commonwealth, State and ACT local government. Call Richard Griffiths on (06) 273 4899 to discuss your needs. Before you do that, perhaps you should talk to some of your colleagues and other special librarians to get their assessment of the value of our services and our responsiveness.

Capital Monitor aims to provide whatever service law librarians need from Canberra. Let's talk.

**CAPITAL MONITOR**

Capital Monitor Pty Limited ACN 008 656 666  
Press Gallery Parliament House Canberra  
GPO Box 2891 Canberra City ACT 2601  
Telephone (06) 273 4899 Fax (06) 273 4905