Libraries Online/Rural Libraries Online

Progress Report   October/November 2000

- **Forums**

Forums are now been conducted at

Thursday 16 November:	State Library of Victoria
Monday 20 November:	Beechworth
Tuesday 21 November:	Bendigo
Wednesday 22 November:	Hamilton

and a further forum is scheduled for

Monday 4 December:	Mildura

A further forum scheduled to be held at Maffra, primarily for Gippsland libraries, had to be rescheduled and will now be conducted in January.

The numbers were down on the previous forums conducted but are still a worthwhile exercise.

1. Victorian Rural Libraries Online Project

- **Stage 2 Satellite Dish Rollout**

All dishes have now been installed and thirteen sites are fully operational. Five others have been installed but are awaiting local network configuration changes. Traffic flows can be seen at http://noc.vicnet.net.au/.

The two remaining sites to be installed are Glenelg at Hamilton and Wellington at Sale. The former will be installed in the first week in December and the latter is going to be an installation involving some Stage 3 elements and some pre-installation reorganisation is required.

Various backchannel and network performance issues are being addressed along the way. The Datafast link to Geelong has been performing well for about 6 weeks and has now been used for a backchannel link from Wangaratta. Further extension to Colac and and Camperdown will also occur soon.

Discussion will be held with Datafast in the near future to determine whether it would be possible to broker an arrangement with them as our backchannel provider on a statewide basis.

- **Stage Three**

A contract is ready for signing with the Contractor on the Geelong Stage Three Pilot, who is busy finalising details with the Vicgrain and Vodaphone re the Silo and Hotel sites.

The Geelong Regional Library IT Consultants, Think Technologies, has presented an alternative network plan, which should reduce project costs and fit in with Geelong requirements with respect to security and other matters and VICNET will take this into account when constructing the network.

A simple draft project plan for Stage Three has been submitted to the SLV Tender Group for approval of the process proposed and we have verbal approval. Frances will now prepare an Expressions of Interest document for advertisement as soon as possible, but probably during January.

SLV Building and Property will appoint a contracted Project Manager to oversee the construction aspects of Stage Three.

2. Libraries Online Project

- **Gulliver**

The Gulliver Reference Group continues to work towards the establishment of a consortium. Julie Rae, the Group Chair has been presenting at the LOL Forums, to explain the process and invite input.

- **Melbourne Infrastructure**

Seven of the original 19 metropolitan sites are now operational. Of the rest, two are still deferring installation, one (Wyndham) has decided not to go ahead, two are still waiting on planning permission to install the dish, two are awaiting work by Netconnect in the US, one is waiting on a part, one has hardware problems and one is ready to install. The final two will need follow-up to determine their status.

Some interesting traffic use comparisons are now possible;

Library Service	Average Traffic Level in kb/s (based on weekly figures)
Eastern	44.2
Greater Dandenong	39.6
Brimbank	29.8
Whitehorse Manningham	29.0
Goulburn Valley	28.1
Maribyrnong	28.0
Casey Cardinia	25.5
Hume Moonee Valley	21.6

North Central Goldfields	18.9
Upper Murray	17.3
Geelong	16.9
West Gippsland	11.2 (Warragul)
	2.9 (Leongatha)
East Gippsland	10.8
Mitchell	8.9
Central Highlands	5.8
Wimmera	4.2
Gannawarra	3.6
Corangamite	1.3

Some of these figures should be treated with caution as work is not complete and the period of data collection is still short.

Victorian Virtual Library

Site Statistics are now being analysed by a new program, Webalizer, and the results are at http://libraries.vic.gov.au/LOGS/webalizer/.

- **Hot Topics**

The Hot Topics web site is now operating on a server at VICNET. Because this move had to happen ahead of schedule because of problems at the original host site, some work, particularly to do with graphic design and layout, has yet to occur.

However, the site is again operational and is being maintained.

- **Z39.50 cluster searching**

There have been insufficient resources within Libraries Online and VICNET during the current rollouts to do any further work on the GeoWeb software. This will revisited during December and January.

- **Disabled Access**

Jacques Kosky has now been visiting libraries installing adaptive technology and is about three quarter done, with all country libraries completed (by Monday 4/12). Training is also well under way.

- **Open Road and LOTE access**

The Open Road Conference was held at Monash University Caulfield and the site launched by Minister Panadazopolulos. There are 11 languages now provided for and more to come, as well as a substantial resources for librarians on the MCL-Net section of the site.

Multilingual training has also commenced.

- **Evaluation**

I&J Management Services are now in the process of considering their recommendations and preparing their final report, due at the end of January.

Stuart Hall
Manager, Online Projects
17 December, 2002

Victoria's Virtual Library: Web Site Statistics

Note that web statistics are now being analyzed by the Webalizer package rather than the previous Analog package. Full statistics are at http://libraries.vic.gov.au/LOGS/webalizer/ and the following is an extract. Future reports will compare month by month performance.

Monthly Statistics for November 2000

Total Hits	130,024
Total Files	79,597
Total Pages	11,485
Total Visits	5,511
Total Kbytes	248,209
Total Unique Sites	2,109
Total Unique URL's	377
Total Unique Referrers	353
Total Unique User Agents	701