

EDITOR'S NOTE

At a recent committee meeting, it was decided to raise the subscription to A\$15 per annum. While this is a large increase in percentage terms, we do not feel that the sum is outrageously high. The previous subscription rate of A\$5 per annum did not reflect the true cost of producing and distributing the Newsletter, and members were in fact being subsidised. At the same time, we are aware that with an infrequent newsletter, news items are often out of date by the time they appear, and we may consider increasing its frequency. In any case, we plan to bring out an extra issue whenever we have enough material.

INNOPAC software is a discussion topic at the moment; it has been mentioned quite frequently over the Internet and is enjoying wide use in a number of different countries. We look forward to trying it out at the Australian National University in 1994.

A couple of concerns have been raised in this Newsletter.

Firstly, we have a letter from a colleague in a public library expressing his concern at the gap between academic and public libraries in expectations and resources for Asian-language materials in general, and Chinese romanisation practices in particular.

Pinyin has been accepted on the Australian Bibliographic Network pragmatically without any real discussion or investigation of the most appropriate form of word division. Ease of conversion between the two romanisations is a factor which suggests the same word division for each romanisation. However, a linking device could be put into effect so that syllables are input and stored separately but displayed as joined according to agreed rules.

Secondly, the loss of several key Asian specialist staff from the Australian National University Library is reported with no mention of replacements. The ANU Library owes a good part of its high reputation to its Asian collections, and to its Chinese collection in particular. If staffing levels are allowed to drop significantly and any significant downgrading of the Asian collections occurs, ANU Library will become less prominent among Australian university libraries.

The Editor is collecting email addresses of members, so that notices of events which do not make the newsletter can be circulated. You are invited to make contact and supply your email address!

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