

About IFLA

IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is receiving increasing mention in the columns of *InCite* these days. Some readers may not be as familiar as they'd like with the organisation; this article is to provide some background, including information about IFLA clearing houses.

IFLA's aims

The principal objective of IFLA is the promotion of international cooperation, discussion and research in all fields of library activity. It aims to extend its membership into all countries, embracing all areas of library work.

Founded in 1927, IFLA is a democratically structured organisation with members in 120 countries. Although 67% of the member countries are from the Third World, an actual breakdown of membership reveals that the major proportion comes from the industrialised countries of the world. Not surprising of course, because it is in those countries that more libraries and library schools are found.

During its more than half century of operation, IFLA has become the global voice of librarianship. It has Consultative Status A with Unesco, which means that Unesco, its General Information Programme, and sometimes other Unesco divisions, consult with IFLA on international or regional programmes coming within IFLA's area of expertise. Unesco enlists IFLA's help by offering contracts for study and research, and for organisation seminars and workshops.

For example, during 1983, approximately \$US50,000 was channelled by Unesco through IFLA for research and organisation of seminars. In addition, the IFLA headquarters receives approximately \$US35,000 annually for the organisation of the annual General Conference.

IFLA Clearinghouses

In April 1971, IFLA appealed for librarians willing to distribute IFLA Conference Papers to members and other interested parties. This was pursued by IFLA's Executive Board and 17 Clearinghouses have been established.

The operation of these has not been without its problems. In many cases they have been run by volunteer staff on an irregular basis, which led to delays in the distribution of papers, difficulties in publicising that they were available.

Many of the problems are external however, such as poor reproduction of papers, late arrival of papers and the difficulties of handling the sheer bulk of them. Many of the Clearinghouses do not have the necessary personnel to index the papers, yet requests for copies of papers reach the Clearinghouses shortly after a Conference is held.

To overcome this problem, Ms Andrea Polden of the IFLA Clearinghouse in the Library Association at the British Library offered to prepare and distribute indexes immediately after the IFLA Conferences.

Another significant problem is the general

continued on page 4

The Darlings have come to stay



EARLY PORTRAITS ACQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library of Australia has just acquired two historically valuable paintings of early New South Wales Governor, Major-General Ralph Darling and his wife, Eliza.

The portraits, by 19th century portrait and landscape artist John Linnell were painted in England in January 1825. They complement a group portrait of Mrs Darling and two of her children which was painted at the same time but which has been in the Library's possession for more than 20 years.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA PHOTOGRAPH by Lee Atkinson

CULTURAL IMPACT OF THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION

Professor Stephen Hill of the University of Wollongong's Sociology Department will speak at the opening plenary session of the LAA-NZLA Conference on the 'Cultural Impact of the Information Revolution'.

Professor Hill's background in natural science, business administration and sociology, and his main area of research interest — the relationships of science, technology and sociology — qualify him well to address this topic.

He will explore the role of information and its transmission, to highlight the profound changes that have occurred in this field. The impact of the Information Revolution on labour, leisure, the development of new élites, new structures of social control, and relationships between people will also be discussed.

Finally, the address will project a picture of the day when the last library of humankind is a museum of antiquity where tourists marvel at the past civilization which read books. The shape of things to come — or not?

A prolific writer in the fields of science, technology and society, Professor Hill has produced books such as *The Human Face of Development and Future Tense? — Technology in Australia*.

Professor Hill is also director of the Centre of Technology and Social Change at the University of Wollongong, a member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO, and is associated with a range of international professional bodies.

He has been a consultant to numerous international and governmental bodies such as UNESCO, the Australian Departments of Education and Youth Affairs, Immigration Science and Technology, and the Australian Academy of Science.

If you have not already received your registration brochure for the LAA-NZLA Conference, contact the LAA office NOW! Registration closes June 30 1984.

Today's Computers

Ken McGregor, formerly of AFRIS (Australian Financial Review Information Service) has become Managing Editor of a new publication entitled *Today's Computers*.

The magazine is a joint venture of *The Age* and *The Australian Financial Review* — newspapers which have previously combined to produce *Business Review Weekly* and *Personal Investment*.

Today's Computers is aimed specifically at business, educational and government users of personal and small computers. It has been established to fill the gap between magazines catering primarily for the hobbyist/enthusiast and those catering for the data processing market.

The first issue includes items on PCs and the Public Service, using PCs to plug into networks such as Midas or Auspac, a software guide of 60 business products, PCs in the education sector and a Telecom answerline.

Ken McGregor says that the magazine will regularly include items on computer applications in libraries.

Jenny Adams