

Biggest library computer network in Australia

The biggest library computer network in Australia will be installed by NCR to streamline the total library operations of five lower North Shore Councils – North Sydney, Manly, Mosman, Willoughby and Lane Cove.

The contract, valued at over \$700,000, includes supply and installation of the NCR 3300 mainframe; a specially designed book application software programme developed by Stowe Computer Consultants; and 66 VDUs for five libraries.

Council authorities have hailed the new, fully computerised Shorelink library service as a break-through with tremendous benefits for the book borrowing public. It is estimated that 100,000 people borrow two and a half million books a year from the five libraries.

The inter-linked library system will give a vastly improved service. With the installation of the VDUs – 10 to 16 in each library – all linked up with the NCR mainframe computer, book borrowers will see at a glance whether the book they want is available or out on loan, and through the computer system they have access to books at other libraries in the Shorelink network.

Shorelink's Project Manager, Kay Clark said that the system reduced tedious clerical duties such as checking on overdue books and book reservations, freeing staff to do more professional work. The routine duties could now be carried out almost by the touch of a button with the memory bank of the computer doing the work.

The new computer system will increase the efficiency of book control, through automated ordering and cataloguing – quite a mammoth task when the five libraries involved carry 530,000 books. Membership of the Shorelink network will entitle people to use all five libraries.

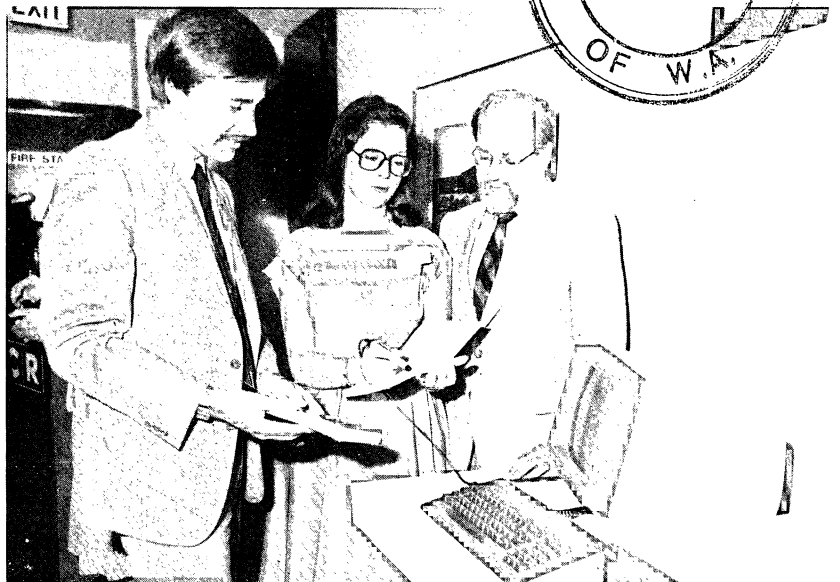
In addition to book borrowing facilities, the computer system can be used by the public for all forms of community information, from such services as who to contact for meals-on-wheels, to providing a history of the local area or information about sporting groups in the district.

The new computerised system represents the most advanced EDP technology available in Australia, ideally suited for libraries with easy-to-use information, processing and management file systems.

The unique software feature of the Shorelink library management system, developed by Stowe Computer Consultants, are speedy access and short response times. The programme has been carefully designed to handle the most complex assignments quickly, such as keyword searching and Boolean logic.

The NCR-Stowe combination was selected by the Shorelink Authority because of the two companies' performance record with other library installations in Australia and the responsiveness of both companies to the networks needs.

It is hoped that the system will be operational by June.



Five lower North Shore Councils have combined to install the biggest public library computer network in Australia. Inspecting the new equipment, left to right: Keith Monte of NCR, Kay Clark, Shorelink Project Manager, and Terry Fogarty of NCR.

Name the new award!

At its November meeting, General Council resolved that a new award be created as proposed by the Honorary Awards committee. The award, for a distinguished non-professional employed in librarianship, is one of the three most prestigious awards of the LAA.

General Council may confer the award on any person who is or has been employed in libraries, who is not eligible for Associate-ship of the Library Association of Australia, and who has rendered outstanding service to a library or libraries, the promotion of a library or libraries, to the theory or practice of librarianship or an associated field such as systems, conservation, management or bibliography.

The award is yet to be named and General Council has resolved to canvass the membership at large for a suitable name. The name may be that of a distinguished person, as in the Redmond Barry and H.C.L. Anderson awards, or it may be something completely different.

Suggestions for the award name should be sent to Jenny Adams, Executive Director, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo 2007 not later than Friday, 16th March 1984.

Nominations for the award are called for elsewhere in this issue of InCite. The name will be decided at the March meeting of General Council and announced when the award is first conferred.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

Librarian stops press!

ONE OF the world's most famous newspapers, *The Times*, may come to an end soon, with its 200th birthday only a year away – because of a librarian.

For the fifth time since Rupert Murdoch gained control of *The Times* three years ago, the presses have stopped rolling. The latest stoppage is due to the 'calls procedure', a system whereby print unions have the right to nominate members for job vacancies. And in this case *The Times* appointed a librarian without consulting the relevant print union and gave the job, normally held by a clerical member of the union, to a member of the union's supervisory section.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THOSE NOT EMPLOYED IN LIBRARIANSHIP

The matter of fees for members not employed in librarianship is being considered by the Executive Committee at the request of General Council for recommendations on action.

All members who have written to the Association have been advised of this and a decision regarding this category will be made at the March meeting of General Council.

Members who are affected by this are advised not to renew their membership until a final decision has been made. Continuity of membership will not be affected. A notice on the outcome of the March meeting will be placed in InCite.