

exchange of experiences and ideas on the ten topics set by the workshop leader and facilitators. Early analyses of Conference assessment forms indicate, nonetheless, that most delegates thought there was a place for more interactive sessions such as workshops at future conferences.

## Trade exhibition

The trade exhibition, held in conjunction with the Conference, was successful for both the forty participating companies and the delegates. Many delegates took up the unique opportunity to catch up with suppliers, meet new ones, undertake hands-on evaluation of systems and keep abreast of new technologies. The exhibition was literally at the centre of the Conference. Exhibitors joined freely with the delegates in all of the social activities, and many attended or presented papers within the program.

Des Tellis delivered a memorable Leslie Symes Lecture in his own inimitable style, complete with a jingle at its conclusion! His theme 'service' is still the crucial core of our profession. Following the lecture, Des was presented with a certificate and citation honouring his election as a Fellow of ALIA, an appointment that the delegates acclaimed loudly (see article below). In

her opening speech, the Convener challenged the delegates to widen their perspective and to sharpen the focus of their purpose during the 4 days of the Conference. She said, 'We must emerge with clear strategies for the next decade that will revolutionise attitudes about the nature and value of information, and about the unique place and role of special librarians as its pre-eminent manipulators and managers'.

The answer, and the way ahead, that consistently came through all sessions of the Conference was professionalism; that librarians across the profession must speak and act with one voice, and with a loud voice at that, if they are to promote and enhance a commitment to investments in information by the private and public sector, and thereby promote their own unique role in the information-transfer process.

This outcome was endorsed by the keynote speakers in their final panel session, who praised the Conference Organising Committee for dedicating the Conference to a timely and important theme, and who suggested that the Conference would be remembered and would remain, for some time in the future, a seminal one of its kind.

*Claire Conroy*  
Conference Convener

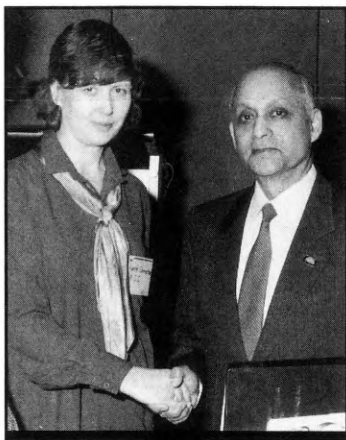
## Special thanks

The Committee of the Third Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference would like to thank all the suppliers participating in the trade exhibition, and the following sponsors for their generosity:

ACEL Information  
Ansett Airlines  
Bar Chambers  
Bennett-EBSCO  
Blackwells  
British Council  
Butterworths  
Butterworth Telepublishing  
Computer Power  
DA Books and Journals  
Federation Press  
Fisher Jefferies  
Hills Library and Information-Service  
Jane Klobas Information & Management Consultants  
Law Book Company  
Law Foundation of South Australia  
PressCom  
Piper Alderman  
South Australian Court Services Department  
Swets Subscription Service  
Thomson Simmons  
Ward and Partners



# Special champion honoured



The Third Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference provided a most appropriate backdrop for the announcement that the General Council of the Australian Library and Information Association had conferred a Fellowship on one of our most distinguished and active members — Des Tellis.

For the many who missed it, the citation is reproduced here in full.

'Des Tellis has brought to librarianship in Australia a combination of vision, intelligence, creation and pragmatism. He has made a distinguished contribution to the theory and practice of librarianship through his leadership on the role of information science and its importance to special libraries. His dedication to library and information services has enhanced the profession of librarianship well beyond its own boundaries.

'He began his career in Bangalore, in the Technical Information Centre, Electronics and Radar Development Establishment, where he was a Documentation Officer and subsequently Officer-in-Charge.

'His first job in Australian libraries was with the Research Service of the State Library of South Australia. From there he moved to the library of the South Australian Museum of Natural History and thence to the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories where he was a Report Editor and Infor-

mation Officer.

'In 1973 he was appointed as the first Librarian of the Australian Mineral Foundation (AMF) and his association with the AMF continues to the present. He is currently the Information Services Manager of the organisation — a position he has held for the past ten years. He has been responsible for the development of its library and information services and also for the substantial task of the development, coordination and running of the Australian National Geoscience database AESIS (Australian Earth Sciences Information System). The development of AESIS benefited not only the earth sciences industry in Australia, but had ramifications for the role of libraries and for special librarians as information professionals.

'Des Tellis has played a major role in

Continued 10 •••

8 From Left to Right: Lyn Carmicheal, President ALIA Special Librarians Section (National Group); Des Tellis.

The cost will be \$65 for SLS (NSW Group) members; \$70 for ALIA members; and \$85 for non-members. For more information, or to book a place at the workshop, contact Graham Whittall, Systematics Information Systems, PO Box 563, Chatswood NSW 2067.

## NSW Branch

### It's a bit like walking around in a supermarket

This is how Joyce Kirk described career planning and job hunting during a most successful seminar she co-led with Hilary Yerbury. (They are both lecturers at Kuring-gai CAE.)

The seminar, attended by thirteen information workers, was held in the new library of the Catholic College of Education, Sydney, on 26 May. It was a challenging exercise in self-assessment and assessment of the information environment. We worked by ourselves, were addressed by Hilary or Joyce, or worked in small groups.

Areas of information/discussion included:

- role planning versus career planning;
- the why — making informed choices and taking charge of one's own destiny;
- the how — deciding on what is important to self, planning for change, and developing a support network;

- the phases of career planning;
- goal setting;
- career anchors.

The seminar was well organised and managed by Hilary and Joyce. At the end participants had to make a commitment to one form of action that would be 'checked' by group members.

### What a seminar!

Good communication is definitely an acquired skill! This was the overriding message of the 'Communication and public speaking skills seminar' held at Bain & Co., Parramatta, by NSW Branch on 21 July.

The program included three hour-long sessions. Mairead Brown, University of Technology, Kuring-gai, spoke of the political nature of much decision-making. The focus should be on process rather than (only) content.

Alison Lavick from Toastmasters led participants through a series of practical learning situations. She stressed that successful public speaking is very much the result of training and practice, and her lively and humorous session — getting people 'to think on their feet' — was enjoyed by all.

Julian Barton from 3M stressed that 'people are visually minded' and persuaded the group — with numerous practical and colourful examples — of the need to 'speak visually'.

A short evaluation at the close of the

seminar revealed that everyone had an informative and enjoyable afternoon. In fact, most participants requested a full-day workshop!

Thanks go to three excellent speakers, to Bain & Co. for providing fine facilities, and to committee members, Ione Dean, Librarian, BZW Australia, and Bo Robertson, Librarian, Board of Fire Commissioners, for assisting in organising the afternoon.

Frank Willems

Professional Development Officer  
ALIA (NSW Branch)

## ACT Branch

ALIA's ACT Branch held its midwinter dinner on 18 July in the A.L.G. McDonald Room of the ANU Library. The occasion was notable for two reasons: first, because of the presentation of the annual awards to the prize-winning students at the Canberra CAE and the Canberra TAFE in library and information studies; and second, because of the remarkably high turnout of local, federal and territory politicians.

Federal Senator Bob McMullan and Federal MHR John Langmore were joined by six of their Territorial colleagues, including Chief Minister Rose-

Continued **11** ● ●

**8** From 8 ● ●

## Champion Honoured

the theory and practice of database development and information science in Australia. In 1984 he was awarded the Robt. D. Williamson Award for his "outstanding contribution to the development of information science in Australia" and "for demonstrated potential for positively influencing future directions in information science". He was subsequently elected a Fellow of the Institute of Information Scientists, London, in 1985.

'Des Tellis has published prolifically on a variety of subjects including online databases, communication, and access to information. He has not only written papers for conferences, journals and books, but has edited and produced many others including his contribution as co-compiler of various editions of the *Australian Thesaurus of Earth Sciences and Related Terms*.

'In all his written and spoken contributions, Des Tellis has been a keen advocate of the concept of information as a valuable resource for all organisa-

tions. His presentation of papers is always informative, entertaining and memorable. In addition, he conveys a keen sense of the value of information and of his chosen profession, taking every opportunity to promote the profession to non-librarians and librarians alike. Between 1984 and 1987, Des Tellis was invited to give guest lectures on corporate information at the Australian Administrative Staff College at Mt Eliza, Victoria. This confirms that his reputation as a speaker is also recognised outside of library circles.

'Des Tellis has ably served on many and varied committees. These include work in various capacities for the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographic Services (replaced by the Australian Council for Library and Information Services) and 3 years as President of the Special Libraries Section of the Library Association of Australia in South Australia. He was also instrumental in founding the Australian Geoscience Information Association. In the international arena, he has worked on several projects promoting informa-

tion services in other countries in the Asian-Pacific region including India, Pakistan and New Caledonia.

'It is significant that Des Tellis's commitment to information services has led to his membership of the Australian Academy of Science National Committee for Scientific Information and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering Information Technology Committee. His interest in, and enthusiasm for, information science is not restricted to this country or to our own profession. He knows the value of information for effective economic development and promotes the cause of librarians being indispensable members of any organisation by their provision of timely and relevant information.

'Des Tellis's significant and far-reaching contributions to library and information services in Australia and internationally make him a most worthy recipient of this Fellowship of the Australian Library and Information Association.'

