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NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

THE LIBRARY BOARD  
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## Excellence bound

The Library Bindery at the Curtin University of Technology was one of the nineteen nominees to receive an EXCEL award for 1989 from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Maloney. The awards, which recognise and reward outstanding contributions by University staff, were initiated by the Vice-Chancellor this year.

The Library Bindery staff — Bob Carr (Head Binder), Shelagh Buddery (Book Sewer), Mary Bowen (Book Sewer), Trevor Parker (Bookbinder) and Bill Robertson (Bookbinder) — are jointly responsible for significant improvements made in operating this important University support service.

During the period 1986—89 the staff

of the Bindery experienced a major restructuring of their work routines and the introduction of significant new technology. The positive way in which they adopted the new technology and refined work routines has resulted in a significant rise in productivity, while maintaining a very high standard of work. Evidence of their achievements can be seen in a major increase in throughput, plus a reduction of approximately 50 per cent in the time taken to bind journals.

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The Curtin University of Technology Library Bindery team: Bob Carr (left), Shelagh Buddery, Mary Bowen, Trevor Parker and Bill Robertson.



## ALIA ELECTIONS

Closing date 15 November 1989.

See page 13.

## 43 Aussie librarians found in Seine

Paris — hi-tech capital of Europe — celebrated France's Bicentennial by hosting the 55th IFLA Council and General Conference, 19-26 August. The largest ever IFLA registration included — despite earlier pessimism — forty-three members of the Australian library profession: ALIA's Vice-President, Director-General and senior colleagues of the National Library of Australia, a group of CAUL Librarians, and heads and faculty members of several schools of librarianship.

Despite record (almost Australian) temperatures, delegates attended more than 230 sessions on the general theme

'Libraries and information in yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's economy'. Several significant papers were presented by Australian delegates, who figured so prominently in some sessions that they were thought by some to be the largest delegation.

The Conference addressed many of the issues that concern us: rapidly converging and developing information technology, the identity of the information professions, the nature and status of library education, declining budgets, the astringent economics of the publishing industry, performance measurement, user pays, and private funding of higher education. *Deja vu!*

The fabulous Palais des Congres proved an efficient venue for such a large and complex meeting, and extensive trade exhibition. As always, the conference was the occasion for renewal of friendships, exchange of news and information, and acquisition of new knowledge. Delegates were generously entertained by their official hosts at a number of venues, including the controversial IMPei pyramid in the Louvre. They were also able to enjoy the special pleasures of *le snack* in pavement brasseries in the benign northern twilight.

*F.C.A. Exon*

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