

Preserving the national collections

The long-term preservation of the national collections is the chief goal of a small staff of twenty in the Preservation and Photographic Services section of the National Library of Australia (NLA). Of course the section is fighting an uphill battle — there is no successful treatment to economically restore badly deteriorated library material, and many objects contain materials that inevitably lead to their own decay and destruction.

Since the rate of deterioration of library collections far exceeds the possible rate of preservation of the original items (NLA FOCUS Lectures 1988), the section must restrict its treatments to high-priority material. Most of the Library's collections are paper based, and the majority of conservation staff work in this area. Seven permanent conservators and support staff are assisted by contract workers from time to time in carrying out preventive conservation and treatments.

Sound Preservation and Technical Services (SPATS) is a subsection of the Preservation and Photographic Services section, and has two staff members. It is charged with the role of restoration and preservation of the National Library's taped and recorded audio collections, the provision of all technical recording and replay facilities, overseeing the storage of audio materials, supervising the technical component of all recordings, and being actively involved in the field recording program.

New sound studios

NLA is currently upgrading its technical facility for the restoration, preservation and recording of material relating to oral history and folklore.

The refurbished area, consisting of control rooms, studios, tape storage, dubbing room, listening rooms and staff work area, should be operational by June. It will improve efficiency and allow better access to users wishing to listen to material in the collection.

There is a range of possible

audio standards available for recording. SPATS has selected a standard that it considers appropriate for the long-term storage

6 Kevin Bradley (pictured), officer in charge of Sound Preservation and Technical Services, NLA, recently lent a hand to demolish a wall to make way for new sound studios. Kevin claims that it was 'an enjoyable experience — one that could be therapeutic to many members of staff'.



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Australian Library and Information Association LIBRARY MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are now being called for this award for 1989.

Aim

- To recognise and encourage good management practices within Australian libraries and information services.
- To encourage the development of an organisational climate within libraries and information services which promotes innovation and a better working relationship between managers and their staff.

Eligibility

The award of ALIA Library Manager of the Year is open to any personal member of the Australian Library and Information Association responsible for the management of a library service, an individual library or information service, or a significant organisational unit within a larger library or information service.

The award is for management rather than supervision, and nominees should be able to demonstrate outstanding performance in planning, resource allocation and the organisation of staff. A nominee will be expected normally to be responsible for the direction of staff including professional staff.

Nominations

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by two members of the staff of, or clients of, the organisation in which the nominee is employed, including at least one person within the library or unit which the nominee is responsible for managing.

Nominations should include:

- Name of nominee.
- Title of position held.
- Name and address of organisation.
- Number of staff whom the nominee is responsible for managing.
- Major achievements of the manager in the previous three years.
- Reasons why the nominee is regarded within his or her organisation as an outstanding manager.

Selection

The award is administered by a sub-committee, consisting of one member of the ALIA Board of Education, one member of General Council, and the Past President of the ALIA. Criteria which will be considered by the sub-committee in making a recommendation for the award include:

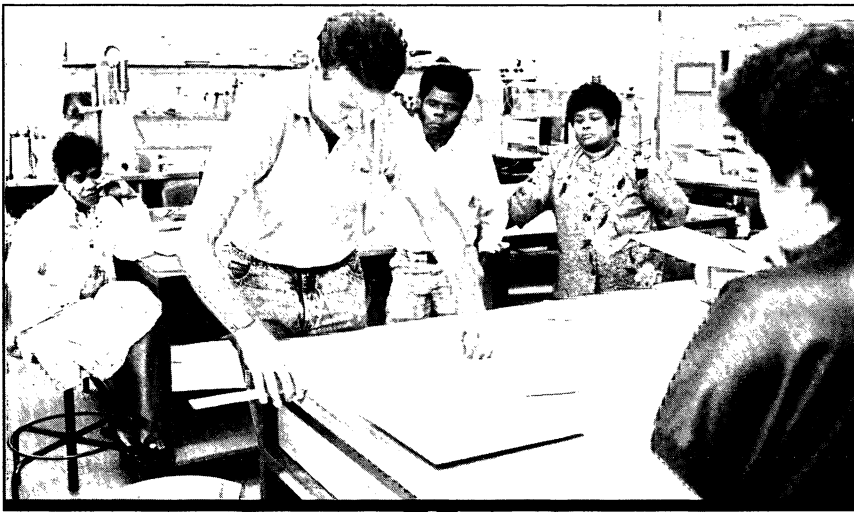
- 1 Demonstrable improvements in service delivered to the library or information service's clientele, as a result of decisions for which the manager is responsible, or through submissions made by the manager to higher funding/decision-making authorities.
- 2 Demonstrable improvements in working productivity obtained in the library or unit for which the manager is responsible.
- 3 Implementation of innovative approaches to services delivered, or to the organisation of work.
- 4 Improvement or establishment of successful relations between the service and its clientele, the manager and his/her staff, or between units in the service.
- 5 Examples of effective planning and implementation of new services or procedures.
- 6 Demonstrable improvements in decision-making procedures and/or communication (amongst staff or to/from users), in areas for which the manager is responsible.

Nomination forms are available from the Membership and Divisional Services Manager of ALIA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo 2007, Tel: (02) 692 9233. Toll free (008) 22 1481.

Nominations close on 1 June 1989.

This award is sponsored by
ACI Computer Services.

ACI Computer Services



Australian Library and Information Association
LIBRARY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are now being called for the award for 1989/90.

Aim:

- To promote the role of library technicians in library and information services.
- To promote the role and image of library technicians in the library and information workforce and the wider community.
- To encourage library technicians to join and support the Association.

Eligibility:

The award of Library Technician of the Year is open to any member of the Australian Library and Information Association, Library Technician Section, and who holds a library technician qualification recognised by ALIA.

Nominations:

Nominations may be made by members of the Association, divisions of ALIA, or employers.

Nominations should include:

- Name of nominee.
- Title of position held.
- Name and address of organisation.
- Contribution to the advancement of Library technicians.
- Reasons why the nominee is regarded as a worthy recipient of the Library Technician of the Year Award.

Selection:

The award is administered by a sub-committee, consisting of 2 (two) representatives of the Library Technician Section, one other member of ALIA appointed by the Executive of the Library Technician Section and chosen in consultation with the Executive Committee of ALIA.

Criteria which will be considered by the sub-committee in making a recommendation for the award include:

1. The nominee has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of library technicians.
2. The nominee has written a paper or papers on some aspect of library technicians' work or activity and presented at a conference or published a journal or monograph of library science or any appropriate publication.
3. Personal achievement in the development of library and information services or for development within the Australian Library and Information Association.

Nomination forms are available from the Australian Library and Information Association, 276 Jones Street, Ultimo 2007. Telephone (02)6929233 or toll free (08) 221481.

Nominations close June 16th 1989.

This Award is sponsored by Auslib Press.

7 Kim Morris, Conservator, NLA, demonstrating box-making techniques to participants in a course on *Library and archive preservation in a tropical environment* held at the Canberra CAE between 22 January and 3 February. Funding was provided by UNESCO, AIDAB, and the NLA under its Regional Cooperation Program. Delegates from more than a dozen Pacific countries attended.

needs of the Library. Material being collected by and for the Library is recorded to this standard.

Since the original medium is of little significance in comparison to the information it carries, media transfer forms a significant part of the long-term preservation of sound material. SPATS staff physically repair (if necessary), then sonically restore material recorded on unsuitable or unstable media. They then transfer it to the archival standard, and produce preservation, working and access copies so the material can be used.

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