

In Brief

Fast Track Issues

Self service in the library

Fast Track Issues (FTI) is an initiative of Waverley City Libraries in cooperation with RAECO and General Automation (GA) Australia (AWA Computers). It is an integrated self-service circulation system. The first installation, at the Glen Waverley Library, became operational on Thursday, 2 May 1991.

The FTI system incorporates the RAECO security system, the RAECO Alarm, hardware supplied by GA, and software developed by Skemac-Blustan for use in GA's point of sale solutions and modified for FTI. Hardware components include the RAECO security gates, processor, and security label deactivator and reactivator; a 286 PC with hard disc and colour monitor; a barcode reader/laser scanner on a 'smart stand'; a card swipe unit to read the membership card and a docket printer to record details of the transaction. A keyboard is available for use by the library staff. Messages about overdue books, fines etc. appear on the monitor if appropriate.

FTI will operate in any URICA library regardless of the processor or URICA version, and can be modified to work with any DOS, UNIX or PICK-based systems. It represents a new step forward in library automation, making it possible to work extended hours with fewer staff.

Inquiries to Sue Noble at RAECO on (03) 553 0255, fax (03) 553 2210.

Deakin goes Innovative

Deakin University has signed a contract with Innovative Interfaces Inc. of Berkeley California for the purchase of an integrated library system to replace its Dataphase system which was originally installed in 1981. The contract covers software only, with the supporting hardware being supplied locally. Two MIPS 3330 machines will support the system, each with 96 megabytes of memory and 3.9 gigabytes of disc storage. The configuration calls for the database to be duplicated on the two hardware platforms with all transaction processing being conducted on one machine and with continuous updating of the second machine which will support OPAC inquiries.

The University is taking the opportunity to replace some of its staff terminals with X-terminals for concurrent access through the local area network to multiple systems at the one workstation.

Installation and database load will occur during the second half of 1991 for a

'Frenchship' weeks La francophonie vous parle



At the opening of the Frenchship exhibition at the Menzies Library, Colin Steele (ANU Librarian) chats to Marc Cousineau (Canadian High Commission, at right) who chaired the Coordinating Committee and Dr Urs Stemler (Swiss Embassy).

The nine diplomatic missions of the French-speaking countries represented in Canberra organised a series of events during the latter half of May to promote the French language. Two libraries took part in the fortnight. The National Library of Australia exhibited interesting and valuable French language publications from the Rare Books Collection. The ANU Menzies Library displayed an exhibition of literature by contemporary French language authors from around the world, including African and Pacific countries. The French embassy will donate the exhibit to the ANU.

European information association to go ahead

A successful international meeting hosted by the Library Association of the United Kingdom made good progress towards setting up a new organisation linking all library, information and documentation associations in the member states of the European Community. Nearly every relevant organisation was represented at the 2-day meeting held in London on 18 and 19 May. It was agreed in principle to establish the new body by the autumn of 1992.

Questions of detail which a meeting of 40 people could not address in the time available were referred to a Working Group whose secretariat will be provided by NBLC (the Dutch Centre for Public Libraries and Reading). NBLC will also fund the secretariat costs of the Working Group.

The new organisation will act as an interest group for the library and information professions in the European Community. Its main tasks will be to foster communication between its members on European policy questions relevant to them, to represent their views to the European Commission 'whenever a sufficient unanimity allowed' and to keep them informed of initiatives emerging from the Commission which could affect their interests.

changeover in the December-February vacation period. The system will initially support 100 concurrent terminal sessions, but is easily upgradable with the addition of a third CPU. As it did with the Dataphase system, the Gordon Technical College in Geelong will be purchasing a share of the system and contributing to its running costs.

Tony Mays
Systems Librarian

R.I.P. Guust van Wesemael

Many Australian participants at IFLA meetings will have kind memories of Guust van Wesemael, the Deputy Secretary General. They will be sorry to learn that he passed away, after a short illness, on 5 June. Sue Kosse has sent condolences on behalf of ALIA.

The Hawkesbury Centenary



Aileen Stevenson, the University Librarian of the University of Western Sydney, is seen handing over a collection of glass photographic negatives to Janine Schmidt, the Deputy State Librarian of NSW, for preservation and future use. The occasion was the opening of a photographic display, on at the State Library until the end of July, to mark Hawkesbury's centenary.

IIS aims at moving target

The strategic goal of the Institute of Information Scientists, as defined in its 1991-1993 Forward Plan, is ... 'to establish the IIS among the leading associations in Europe in the field of information work, and to help our members prepare for the challenges, threats and opportunities presented by the single European market'. But Jim Ducker, Chairman of the IIS Council, asks: How can we adopt a strategic goal which directs us towards the post-1992 Europe, when the nature of that society will be fundamentally changed by information technology in ways which are still uncertain?

(from *Inform*, IIS newsletter, March 1991)

Work experience sought

Ms Deng Fangchu is a qualified medical librarian currently head of the Information Office in the library of JinZhou Medical College. She would like 6 months work experience in an Australian Library to familiarise herself with computerised library management. She is 33 years old, married, and can 'speak, read and write English fairly well'. Any offers directly to Ms Deng, please, at the Information Office, JinZhou Medical College, JinZhou City, LiaoNing Province, China. □

National Library Council

Sir Ninian Stephen has been re-appointed as Chairman of the National Library of Australia Council for a further 3-year term. □

TAFE study skills package

The Open College Network of the NSW TAFE Commission has just brought out this package, aimed at adult learners returning to or continuing with study, especially those studying in isolation.

The package is arranged in nine modules: What's in the package, managing your time, setting and achieving your goals, motivation, ways of learning, showing what you know, studying special subjects, coping with exams, and looking after yourself. Each module, of 30 or 40 pages, has a number of common elements, such as where to go for further help. The modules can be studied in any order, depending on the needs of the moment.

This package is given free to all the College's students, but the version reviewed is available for \$65 from The Open College Network, 199 Regent Street, Redfern, NSW 2001, telephone (02) 318 7222, fax (02) 319 1759. It seems a useful tool, in no way tied to the Open College courses and potentially a valuable resource in all libraries serving students.

Peter Judge □

Vital Link changes

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NSW Branch

President: Frances Bluhdorn, Library Coordinator, Royal Australian Historical Society, History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Ph: (02) 247 8001, fax (02) 247 7854.

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Rural and Isolated Libraries

Secretary: Roger Hawcroft's new telephone number is (050) 22 3666.

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Children's and Youth Services Section, Victorian Group

Secretary: Debra Rosenfeldt, c/- Box Hill-Doncaster Regional Libraries, PO Box 65, Box Hill, Vic 3128. Ph: (03) 890 1002, fax (03) 899 0076.

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Literacy Section, Victorian Group

Treasurer: Ann Le Lievre's new telephone number is (03) 650 5622, and new fax number is (03) 650 2265.

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School Libraries Section, National Group

All correspondence to the secretary to be sent to: Margaret Strickland, Woodlands CEGGS, PO Box 146, Glenelg, SA 5045.

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Special Libraries Section, ACT Group

Secretary: Mark Nearhos, PO Box 44, Barker Centre, Canberra, ACT 2603. Ph: (06) 295 4336.

Treasurer: David Bradley, PO Box 44, Barker Centre, Canberra, ACT 2603. Ph: (06) 242 2128.

Die Mauer — the Wall Monument of the century

Wolfgang Fischer and Fritz von der Schulenburg, Berlin, Ernst & Sohn, 1990. Distributed by DA Books and Journals. \$42.25.

The Berlin Wall was begun on 13 August 1961 and was opened to allow free passage between East and West on 9 November 1989. This beautifully produced book was published in November 1990 to mark the anniversary of that astonishing event, coming out only a few months after the wall was finally demolished in June 1990.

The wall was always an anachronism. It succeeded as a symbol and was effective in stopping the loss of 20 000 East Germans to the West every month — cumulatively, 15 per cent of the population. 'Monument of the century'? Perhaps not, but of enormous importance.

As such, this book will be of great interest to historians, politicians and all who have seen the wall and made the heart-stopping crossing through

Checkpoint Charlie. The book's appeal is to the emotions: there are superb photos illustrating the wall's origins, the escapes, the failures, the graffiti, the demolition. A long interview about the wall with Willi Brandt, an essay by one of the authors on his visit to East Berlin and a detailed chronology comprise all the formal text. Otherwise the story is told in the captions to the photographs.

Your Editor was a member of the Berlin garrison during the Blockade of 1948-49 (the Wall's earliest antecedent) and has returned on business a couple of times since to both sides of the wall. He found this book fascinating, disturbing and necessary. Necessary in the sense that only by keeping alive the memory of this monumental enormity perpetrated by one group of human beings on their fellow humans can we try to ensure that it will never happen again.

Peter Judge □

A showcase for academics

The Australian Directory of Academics First edition. Glyn Edwards and Terese Sullivan. v + 663 pp. ISBN 0 646 03148 1

The intention of the compilers is to publicise the professional skills of academics in order to open up to the wider community a 'sometimes overlooked but undoubtedly valuable pool of knowledge'. This first edition includes details of over 2500 academics

specialising in around 5000 different subject areas, from *14/15th Century Italian Art* to *Zooplankton*. It is a substantial book: A4 format, well bound and made to last, although the next edition is already planned. It is available, price \$69.95 plus \$5.95 p/p from the publishers, Universal Consultancy Services, PO Box 1140, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450, telephone (066) 52 7833, fax (066) 51 2198. □

Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA)

This new association was set up in February, with President, Dakio Syne (Federated States of Micronesia); Vice-President, Michael Hamerly (Guam); and Executive Secretary, Arlene Cohen (Guam).

Interested librarians and archivists are invited to join PIALA. The annual

subscription is \$20. The first general membership meeting is planned for October 1991, in Koror, Belau. For further details contact Arlene Cohen, Executive Secretary, Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives, c/- University of Guam, R F K Library, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96921. □

Changes to *Vibra* '91

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Other representatives

School Library Association of Victoria (SLAV)

new representative is: Judy Buckley, 8 James Street, Ringwood, Vic 3134. Ph: (03) 807 8064.

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Office bearers

Reference and Information Services Librarians (RAILS)

new office bearers are:

President: Christine Maher, Reference Division, Borchardt Library, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Vic 3083. Ph: (03) 479 2926. Fax: (03) 471 0993.

Secretary: Maryna Mews, 35/177 Power Street, Hawthorn, Vic 3122. Ph: (03) 819 2791.

Treasurer: Julie Marshall, Reference Division, Borchardt Library, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Vic 3083. Ph: (03) 479 1927. Fax (03) 471 0993.

Exchange in Scotland

Lynne Lambie of 79 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 433, Scotland is interested in an exchange position with an Australian library. Lynne is the Reference Librarian for the Inverclyde District Libraries (Greenock and nine branch libraries) and is responsible for the collection (including local history), enquiries, staff management and some community projects. The exchange proposal includes a flat close to the Central Library. Interested? *inCite* has the details, or contact Lynne directly. □

Archives and records courses at Monash University

The Graduate Department of Librarianship, Archives and Records at Monash University offers a 2-year full-time Master of Arts (Archives and Records) and a 1-year full-time Diploma in Archives and Records Management. The courses may also be taken on a part-time basis.

Originally set up on a trial basis, the courses have now been established on a more permanent footing with the appointment of Sue McKemish to the position of Senior Lecturer. Sue has 15 years experience as a practitioner, and has worked in senior management positions with Australian Archives and the Public Record Office Victoria.

Applications for enrolment are now invited. An updated brochure of their 1992 program and application forms are available from the Department, from Frank Upward (03) 565 2949 or Livia Iacovino (03) 565 2957. □

Book fair in Tehran

Saeed Damadi, an ALIA member in Iran, writes to tell us that the 4th International Book Fair of Tehran was held in May.

Around 100 publishers from many countries showed 140 000 Persian titles and 45 000 titles in other languages but there were no Australian publishers among them.

There were 750 000 visitors this year and the foreign publishers sold books worth about US\$11 million.

Saeed has offered to help potential Australian exhibitors at future Book Fairs — contact him on fax number 0011-98-21-4162525. □

For sale

A History of Australia — Fairfax, Syme & Weldon complete set. Excellent condition. Price \$625. Free delivery Sydney metropolitan area.

Please contact Brad Hinton, Bankers Trust Australia Library, telephone (02) 259 3544.