

In the News

Prize-giving and launching party

The 1990 annual Christmas function held jointly by the Department of Information Studies at the ACT Institute of TAFE and the Centre for Library and Information Studies at the University of Canberra to thank ACT librarians and supporters of both programs was held on the 6 December at the recently refurbished TAFE Library at the Watson Campus.

The following awards were presented to TAFE students:

The Tom Triffitt Memorial Prizes for 1990

- Virginia-Anne Lyon: best results in Audiovisual I
- Antoni Rudnicki: best results in



Sue Kosse formally hands over the certificate of CLIC's registration to Peter Judge to symbolise the launch.

Audiovisual II presented by Geraldine Triffitt

ACT Cataloguers' Section of ALIA

- Ralph Bruhn: best results in Descriptive Cataloguing presented by Dale Chatwin

ACT Library Technician's Section of ALIA

- Ralph Bruhn: best results in Basic Reference presented by Kate McGlynn

A student with special significance to both institutions was Weidong Chen, who graduated from the ACT Institute of TAFE with the Associate Diploma of Arts in Library Studies and followed the progression program established at the University of Canberra to complete the undergraduate program in librarianship.

The occasion also saw the launch of Canberra Library and Information Consultants (CLIC) by Sue Kosse, Executive Director of ALIA.

Sue spoke about this new consultancy venture, which brings together the varied expertise and enthusiasm of a group of people associated with the University of Canberra. (For further information on CLIC contact Peter Judge on 251 2415, or fax 251 5586) □

ADDLIS workshop

A little known but important group in the Australian library world is the ADDLIS (Alcohol and Drug Dependence Librarians and Information Specialists) Network.

This is a diverse group of 13 services representing all States, which support government and non-government, policy, research, treatment, education and promotional activities.

In October a 2-day workshop of the network was conducted in Canberra and

eleven people representing eight of the services attended.

This has resulted in closer networking and a number of initiatives.

Decisions were made to develop or expand three directories. These are a Directory of Alcohol & Drug Information Services; a Union List of Journal Holdings and a Union List of Film and Video Holdings.

In the spirit of cooperation the network

commenced a collection rationalisation process using a 'Conspectus-style' method. This will enable more efficient acquisition policies by determining the core collections and allowing further development of the identified specialist collections of each member.

Participants unanimously supported the development of a national database which will be an expansion of the existing database in the Library of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Australia, in Canberra.

Journal articles, conference papers, unpublished papers and stand-alone book chapters are indexed onto the database. Australian coverage is exhaustive and overseas material is selective and relevant.

The workshop was opened by Dr Geoff Elvy, Executive Director of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Australia (ADFA), who stressed the need for rationalising and focusing of ADDLIS resources. He also announced a name change for ADFA to ACADA (Australian Council of Alcohol and other Drug Associations).

For further information contact Merrelin Robbins, Senior Librarian, ACADA, PO Box 269, Woden, ACT 2606, telephone (06) 281 1002.



Back row: Judi Martin, ACADA, Canberra; Gillian Wood, Drug and Alcohol Department, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney; Denny Watson Smith, ACADA, Canberra; Eve Congreve, National Drug and Alcohol Research Unit, UNSW, Sydney; Audrey Christie, Health Education Unit, University of Sydney. Front row: Janet Watson, CEIDA, Sydney; Greg Fowier, Drug and Alcohol Services Council, Adelaide; Merrelin Robbins, ACADA; Di Piper, ACADA; Lorraine Lowcock, Drug ARM, Brisbane. Wilma Hewitt, Health Promotion, Canberra missed the photo.

Festschrift for Edward Reid-Smith, FLA

The School of Information Studies and Centre for Information Studies at Charles Sturt University — Riverina have recently released *The Education and Training of Information Professionals: Comparative and International Perspectives*, Scarecrow Press. Compiled and edited by G E Gorman, this collection of essays is a celebration of Edward Reid-Smith's contribution to librarianship and library science education.

Edward retired as Principal Lecturer in Library Science at Charles Sturt University — Riverina at the end of 1989, having made his mark as the founding head of the first library school devoted to distance education in Australia.

The book contains twenty papers from contributors around the world reflecting Edward's range of interests: professional education in several countries, continuing and adult education, and internationalism. Australian contributions have been provided by John Balnaves, Gary Gorman, James Henri, Pat Layzell Ward, Edward Lim, John Mills, Thelma Rungkat and John Yocklunn.

In the Foreword Dr C D Blake, University Vice Chancellor, has described Edward Reid-Smith as a pioneer in his work in library science education, particularly in the distance education mode. Speaking of Reid-Smith's arrival in Wagga Wagga in 1974, Professor Blake

said: 'Offering advanced courses in librarianship in a small country town like Wagga Wagga was bad enough; even more scandalous to traditional professionals was our intention to offer the courses by correspondence.' Reid-Smith played a leading role in the difficult early years of the School and throughout his time as Principal Lecturer fostered the growth of the School of Information Studies into the largest library school in Australia and one of the largest in the world, as well as a world leader in the provision of undergraduate and postgraduate library science education in the distance learning mode.

Gary Gorman □

Distance education Library services and external students

Eight Distance Education Centres (DECs) were formally established in 1990 to provide and facilitate external studies in the higher education sector. (Charles Sturt, Curtin, Deakin, Monash, Murdoch, UC's of Central and Southern Qld, UNE, U of SA, WACAE). Eleven libraries on different campuses of these institutions recognise their responsibility for providing services to students enrolled with their own DEC, and are exploring new ways of providing such services.

Good news for new readers

During International Literacy Year the Bible Society in Australia researched and developed a publication titled *Good News for New Readers* — a series of graded adult reading booklets designed for new literates to strengthen their reading skills. The publication (7 booklets and audiocassette, \$17.50) is due for release next month. It seems likely to fill a gap which the shortage of basic adult reading material has created. For further information contact James Evangelidis, The Bible Society in Australia Inc, GPO Box 507 (Garema Place), Canberra, ACT 2601, telephone (06) 248 5188, fax (06) 249 6168. □

The libraries of Distance Education Centres offer and promote services for their own students. The assistance provided by various other libraries in Australia is welcomed. While students do approach any conveniently located library, they are encouraged to use the library of their home (DEC) institution.

Further information from the *Distance Education Librarian*, Charles Sturt University, Private Bag 45, Bathurst, NSW 2795, telephone (063) 31 1022, fax (063) 33 2163. □

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The Australian Conspectus Database: how to be part of the action!

The Australian Conspectus Database is now in place at the National Library of Australia. It provides libraries with a means of describing their collections systematically by subject, using standard collection levels, and consequently is a useful management tool and a good basis for a collection development policy. It can be applied in all kinds of libraries. Use of the tool will help to build up a national overview of collections which should enhance resource sharing in the future.

Conspectus worksheets with an Australian emphasis are now available, and can accommodate Dewey, LC, NLM and Moys classification schemes. The Manual costs \$12.50 (\$10 to ACLIS members),

Worksheets cost \$60 (\$50 to ACLIS members) for a complete set. Orders can be sent to ACLIS, Box E202, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600. Please specify classification required when ordering.

Training will be offered during 1991 throughout Australia. The standard course lasts one and a half days and costs \$100 (\$80 for ACLIS members). Courses are already scheduled in Canberra (18/19 February, 3/4 April, 16/17 May) and in Darwin (19/20 June). Anyone wanting to discuss training or to seek advice should contact Margaret Henty on (06) 262 1157, or fax (06) 251 1703.

Margaret Henty
Conspectus Officer, NLA □

Hong Kong Library Association/HK Urban Council Libraries — Joint Conference, November 1990

Hong Kong was a delightful setting for the conference on 23/24 November 1990, following 2 days of workshops to help meet the training needs of local professionals.

With the Urban Council Public Libraries as co-convenor, some splendid facilities in the City Hall were available for the conference sessions and workshops.

Our overseas speakers included Bryan Bacon, Canada; Lynn Fortney, USA; Jenny Parmenter, UK; and Professor Patricia Layzell Ward of the Curtin University of Technology, Perth, WA.

The title of the conference was 'Managing now: fact or fiction?' Particular attention was paid to the needs of staff in 'one-person libraries' in Hong Kong — mostly special libraries or school libraries. Almost 200 delegates, including several from overseas (and not just Macau!) attended the conference.

The papers given at the conference will be published in the forthcoming issue of the Journal of the HKLA. Enquiries to the Secretary of the HKLA, GPO Box 10095, Hong Kong. The price is US\$20 or HK\$100 — cheques payable to HKLA.

Roy Stall □

ELISS Conference 27-28 June

'Educating for change — grasping the vision'

This 2-day conference will be held at Ormond College Melbourne University. Organised by the Victorian Section of ELISS (Education for Library and Information Services Section) of ALIA at the request of the Board of Education, it is hoped that participants will help to determine future directions for the education of the profession.

During the conference, major themes are organisational change, industrial issues and staff development issues. There will be considerable opportunity for involvement and participation by those attending, and it is hoped that a wide cross section of the profession — students, practitioners, managers, and educators — will contribute to very lively and fruitful discussions. On the third day, there is a seminar at which educators will consider the issues raised during the conference and their implications for curriculum planning.

Twenty nine lucky interstate visitors

will have the opportunity to purchase a ticket for 'The Phantom of the Opera' for the night preceding the conference! In addition, the organisers have managed to keep the cost of the conference down to \$155 — so enter the dates in your diary now, and plan to join us! Contact the Conference Management Unit at the ALIA National Office for further details.

Jennifer Evans □

The Renaissance Ball State Library of Victoria

A grand Ball in aid of the Renaissance Appeal will be held at the State Library on Saturday, 16 March 1991.

The evening is designed in the European style. Guests are encouraged to arrive at approximately 10 pm after having enjoyed either private dinner parties, or dinners out. A delicious champagne supper will be served at the Ball in The Queen's Hall — Melbourne's most beautiful Victorian room. Dancing will take place on the ground floor.

WA public librarian wins inaugural IMM Foundation

Duncan Furphy, City Librarian at the City of Cockburn and President of National Public Libraries Section of ALIA was one of two Australian local government officers to be awarded the 1991 IMM Municipal Mutual Overseas Foundation.

This foundation which is awarded by the Federal Council of the Institute of Municipal Management will enable him to go to the SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) Conference to be held in Northampton, England in April 1991 and to undertake a research project. Duncan hopes to look at the development of community information systems with particular emphasis on those which are automated.

A particularly gratifying aspect of this award is the recognition of a public librarian as a local government manager by the peak local government officer's professional organisation. □

Information Careers

Graeme Johanson and Marianne Broadbent

This slim volume published by RMIT begins with a definition of information and looks at associated activities and skills. Brief statements follow from 14 very different information specialists, discussing what they do and why they like doing it. The impression they give is of the variety of work available in this broad field, and the satisfaction they find in it. A list of addresses for 'Further Information' completes this well designed little book, available from the RMIT Bookshop, 330 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000. Price \$10 plus \$1.50 postage in Victoria, \$2.50 elsewhere in Australia. The authors are to be congratulated on a clever combination of the informational and the inspirational that responds to an important need.

Peter Judge □

Kevin O'Neill has generously offered his time and talents to design the Ball, and with a live band, beautiful flowers, and a grand supper we are assured of a very elegant evening indeed.

Tickets will be \$80 per head, which will include dessert, supper and champagne, coffee, dancing and many other amusements, as well as making a contribution to the Appeal.

For further information about the Ball contact Gail Evans on (03) 699 9932. □

News from VALA

Networking plus

Joanna Richardson from Bond University recently reported on her overseas visit as one of Victorian Association for Library Automation's (VALA) 1990 Travel Scholars. She presented some interesting insights into the ways in which diverse hardware platforms are being linked to enable users to access multiple information sources from a single point on a network.

Libraries on campuses across the US are no longer relying on their library software packages alone to provide the focus for information. They are using broader based search packages to handle the searching of databases both on campus and off through the network.

Joanna noted that the use of CD-ROM for library OPACS and as access points to commercial databases was less common in the US than in Australia. US libraries are opting to purchase commercial databases

on tape which they load onto their own hardware.

The call from EDP managers was for libraries to become more actively involved in total campus information provision by assisting in the setting up of networks which allow access to both the library's resources and the resources of other cooperating libraries.

Joanna will present the full results of her investigations at the 6th Biennial VALA Conference 11-13 November 1991.

ADLIB at Telecom's National Information Resource Centre

The manager of the NIRC, David Richards, began the evening with a brief description of the centre and of some future information plans for Telecom.

ADLIB is now benefiting from a more standardised approach in the design and

maintenance of this software, with support being supplied by Data Basics.

In addition to developing a Serials module for ADLIB, Data Basics are working on the capability to port the software from the Primos operating system to UNIX.

At the NIRC, circulations and acquisitions are up and running, with the extension of circulation to State offices planned for the near future. communication will be via dedicated lines to be installed by Telecom. Customers from outside Telecom are given preference over those within.

The NIRC user network will extend throughout Telecom with access planned for up to 22 000 users. An in-house executive information system based on full-text records is another of the hopes for the future.

Susan Liepa □

Non-English languages for library students

Library students at the University of Canberra's Centre for Library and Information Studies (CLIS) have recently enjoyed a teaching project which helps them handle non-English language books and journals. The Department of Employment, Education and Training awarded CLIS a grant under its multicultural program to present lectures and tutorials introducing the structure, similarities and differences of the principal European and Asian languages.

Australia is an increasingly multicultural society. Public, university, government department and even school libraries have growing collections of non-English language materials. The larger libraries may have staff who read some of these languages, but most libraries do not.

Few Australian-educated library students are proficient in another language. Once they reach their first jobs many of them must deal with non-English language books and journals: cataloguing, lending and offering advice to readers. With no previous exposure to the range of languages likely to be encountered, a beginning librarian can feel helpless and threatened by this material.

The aim of the project was to 'demystify' foreign languages and give students more confidence in working with them. CLIS also encourages the students to take up language studies, as part of their librarianship course or outside it.

The project was assessed by both the students and the guest lecturers. Both groups are convinced that such training is

worthwhile, and the results will be widely reported. CLIS hopes for a greater awareness of non-English languages in the library studies curriculum across Australia.

Peter Judge □

In the news continued on 13...

Honorary doctorate for WA's first State Librarian

Francis A (Ali) Sharr, the first State Librarian to be appointed in WA, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree by Curtin University of Technology. This is the first doctorate of letters to be awarded by Curtin since it attained that university status in 1987.

Ali Sharr was responsible for the establishment of the State Library in its present form and for the enormous expansion of public libraries in the State. He has always had a fervent belief in the importance of free public libraries and this is expressed in all his writings and speeches.

He will be awarded the degree at a graduation ceremony on 2 May at which he will be giving the occasional address. □



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