

Feedback

ALIA Study Grant Award

In 1991 the recipient of the ALIA Study Grant Award was
Carla Mellor, Library Services Manager, SA Department of Agriculture

THE GRANT ENABLED Carla to visit agricultural library and information centres in the USA, Britain and Italy. The centres chosen were: in the USA, University of California, Davis; National Agricultural Library, Washington; and Cornell University, Ithaca; in the UK, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International; in Italy, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Carla aimed to identify information trends and services in these library and information centres and networks, study international models, look at libraries to get layout and design ideas that might suit the proposed agricultural information facility on the Waite campus, and establish professional links with overseas colleagues.



Carla Mellor

She noticed a number of interesting trends in the management of these services, including

- promotion of activities to the wider library community and to the public;

- raising revenue from outside sources;
- the availability of more research funding for projects such as preservation;
- the use of more formalised/management principles in conducting library business;
- the library becoming a revenue centre rather than a cost centre;
- development of more formalised collection development policies;
- an increasing tendency to contract out services.

Technology was an integral part of library service, for example the centres were producing both in-house and commercially marketed CD-ROMs of their own collections, using commercial databases on their library hardware, and using bulletin board services and national and international networks to inform their users.

Service ethics were a conspicuous feature, particularly in the USA. It was recognised that the prime purpose of a library was to provide a service to clients, not merely to make available a collection to them.

Carla will publish more specific information about each of the sites she visited later this year. Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about this topic, contact her at the SA Department of Agriculture on telephone (08) 226 0362 or fax (08) 226 0260. □

Edith Heinrich retires

EDITH LEFT the DSTO Salisbury library in April, while the organisation was undertaking what it was doing when she first arrived there in 1984—an administrative review. No, not the same review, and four of them in the last twelve months!

When she arrived in Salisbury, the library was part of a World War II munitions factory, and Edith experienced the challenges, frustrations and pleasures of overseeing its refurbishment and seeing the satisfaction of her clients at the result. In time, new technology was installed to enhance services to the library clients. Throughout, the DSTOS staff gave wholehearted support to the library, and affirmed the value of its services in their research and development work.

Edith can look back at many happy times working in libraries and in ALIA circles with young, competent and enthusiastic people.



Edith Heinrich

Her friends across Australia, who remember her from her days in Salisbury, as Training Librarian at the ANU, or from the many ALIA and ACLIS activities in which she participated, will want to wish her well in her retirement.

Peter Judge



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