

# NSW State Library Expands High Tech Courses

*Julie Young shows how a successful in-house program has now gone public*

**C**OMPUTER TRAINING offered to librarians through the Technology Access Program (TAP) at the State Library of New South Wales has proved so



*Julie Young, the Coordinator of TAP, teaches students WordPerfect 5.1*

successful that it has been expanded to include the general public.

The program offers training on networked NCR desktop computers which were provided to the State Library by NCR Australia

as part of a special arrangement in support of TAP.

It is available to 400 staff at the State Library and staff from public libraries, educational libraries,

government department libraries and special libraries, such as company libraries.

The program was established in 1989 for library professionals to update their skills as information technology continued to develop and

change. Since then more than 1,500 librarians have been trained through TAP. In 1991 alone 886 students attended the courses and more than 400 bookings have been made for the first half of 1992.

Courses currently being offered for library professionals cover microcomputing, MS-DOS, dBASE, marketing, CD-ROM and online services.

Special courses on WordPerfect and MS-DOS have now been introduced for the general public, and half-day information technology seminars will begin in a couple of months. The courses range from a half day up to two full days.

TAP is just one of many technology oriented services currently being provided at the State Library. Others include CD-ROM and online searches for family historians, microcomputer services and services for the disabled such as reading machines for the blind.

The Multimedia Library Link is developing technology to allow the transmission of voice, data, images and video, using Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) and Video Compression technology. In the future, this technology could give libraries throughout NSW access to information and images held at the State Library. □

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