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(advertisement)

## More benefits of the PACC3

The PACC3 colour photocopier was reviewed in the September edition of *inCite*. This Australian-developed machine uniquely provides full colour as well as black and white copies on the same public access copier. In addition, library staff only can access several other functions, most usefully the production of full-colour overhead transparencies.

Feedback from librarians tells us that the colour facility increases revenue by 300% to 400%, thus more than covering the increased cost of providing this service. An unanticipated bonus is the decrease in vandalism whereby expensive volumes and serials are plundered for their colour photographs. Apparently when these can satisfactorily be copied the need is expunged (another budgetary benefit of the PACC3).

Contact Langley Park Manufacturing, telephone (02) 415 3624 or on fax (02) 415 3951 for further details.

## Politics, lib assocs and education

**Maxine Rochester found much of professional interest during her South African visit last July-August**

South Africa has highly developed library and information services for the 'developed' section of the population and poor library services for the 'developing' section of the population, mainly the Blacks with poor levels of literacy. Since the 1980's many alternative information services have been set up, outside the mainstream library services oriented to white users, to serve the Blacks.

Services for near literates, living both in rural areas and in hostels and townships on the fringes of cities, are oriented to a democratic future. One of the chief needs is for a place to study, as Blacks live in overcrowded conditions and may do not have electricity. Basic literacy classes, information services and meeting places are also provided. Most Black Africans have never used libraries, and there were few Black librarians or library school students.

It was only in 1990 that the Separate Amenities Act was repealed (opening services such as public libraries to all races, although many libraries were already open to all races). However some well-financed public libraries in white areas are still evading making their services available to Blacks by demanding hefty fees from non-residents.

There are three associations for library workers in South Africa: The South African Institute of Library and Information Science (SAILIS), formerly the South African Library Association; the African Library Association of South Africa (ALASA) which was founded in 1964 after the South African Library Association restricted membership to whites only; and the recently established in 1990 Library and Information Worker's Organisation (LIWO). LIWO parallels alternative organisations for teachers, doctors and journalists. LIWO, based mainly in Natal and the Western Cape provinces, sees itself as providing a counter to SAILIS, which was viewed as associated with apartheid, accepting discrimination and segregation. LIWO members want to facilitate the free and equal exchange of information among all South Africans, and development of services responsive to user needs.

All three library associations contributed in 1992 to the library and information services component of the National Education Policy Investigation (NEPI), formulating policy for education for a

new democratic government. All three are contributing to Transforming our Library and Information Services (TRANSLIS), where regional groups are looking at library provision and needs in each region. Libraries and information services should play a vital role in formal and informal education in places where 50% of the population is below the age of eighteen and a large proportion of the population is illiterate.

Recently there has been an official delegation from IFLA headed up by the President Robert Wedgeworth to investigate the library situation in South Africa. The report to the IFLA Council recommended a review in three years time, with IFLA assistance, to encourage communication and promote co-operation among the race-differentiated library associations.

Professional qualifications in four-year undergraduate and one-year graduate diploma programs are available in thirteen universities in South Africa. Some of these are in English-speaking and some in Afrikaans-speaking universities. There were some programs originally designed for black and Cape coloured students, but they are now open to all South Africans. There are only a few programs in school librarianship, as there are few teacher librarians in the schools. There are five programs at technical education institutions (technikons) developed in the 1980's. The courses are at diploma level and last three years.

The two library schools I visited are making efforts to attract black students and faculty members. The School of Librarianship at the University of Cape Town, which has always had open racial admission, now has over 50% black students. Faculty members are working towards equal opportunity and contributing to the 'new South Africa'. The School of Librarianship, to become the School of Information Science in 1994, at the University of South Africa (UNIS) offers programs only in distance education mode, the only one in South Africa. The School has 1000 mostly part-time students and 21 faculty members. UNIS now has 46% white students, 42% black students, 8% Asian and 4% Cape coloured students. ■



Maxine Rochester