

# High university honour for state librarian

**D**agmar Schmidmaier, state librarian and chief executive at the State library of New South Wales was one of six notable Australians to be awarded honorary degrees by the University of New South Wales.

Mrs Schmidmaier received an honorary Doctorate of Letters at the university's Jubilee ceremony on Friday 19 March. Chancellor, the Hon Sir Anthony Mason presented the doctorate.

Mrs Schmidmaier, who holds a Masters of Librarianship from the university as well as a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney, has maintained close links with the university. In 1997 she initiated the State Library's Metcalfe Scholarship to advance the profession of librarianship, and the university's Asia-Australia Institute's Seminars are held at the State Library.

Prior to her appointment as state librarian and chief executive in 1995, Mrs Schmidmaier held senior academic and managerial positions in the fields of technology and information systems, education and librarianship.

Mrs Schmidmaier also worked as a consultant to national and international organisations, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1988/89, and served on an OECD working group on the quality of learning in distance education.

She is widely acknowledged among librarians and information professionals for her knowledge and skill in planning and managing computerised systems for the organisation and dissemination of knowledge.

Public committees on which she currently serves include the New South Wales Board of Studies; the New South Wales selection committee for the 'Face of Australia' stamp series; the *Australian Academic and Research Libraries* editorial board; the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and the Council of Australian State Libraries.

Commenting on the award of her honorary degree, Mrs Schmidmaier said: 'I am excited and honoured to be recognised for my professional contributions at this time in my career.'



Dagmar Schmidmaier

Honorary degrees were also conferred on former deputy prime minister and attorney-general Lionel Bowen; CSR chairman Ian Burgess; International Council for Social Welfare president Julian Disney; architect Harry Seidler; and the board director of the New South Wales Zoological Parks, Ronald Strahan. ■

Australian Library and Information Association



**LIBRARY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Nominations are now being called for the 1999 award**

This award promotes the role of library technicians in library and information science, and the role and image of the library technician. Nominees must be a personal member of the Library Technician Section and hold a library technician qualification recognised by ALIA. Members should note that any nomination for the award must be made in strict confidence.

Entries should be sent to ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604 phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249 e-mail [awards@alia.org.au](mailto:awards@alia.org.au) URL <http://www.alia.org.au/awards.html>

**Nominations close 1 June 1999**

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**NOMINATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIPS**

Fellowships are awarded to recognise a members distinguished contribution to the theory or practice of library and information science. Nominees usually have a minimum of eight years standing as an Associate or Library Technician member, be a minimum of 30 years of age, and a personal member of the Association. Fellowships may be conferred throughout the year. Members should note that any recommendation for Fellowships must be made in strict confidence.

Nomination forms are available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604 ph 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249 e-mail [awards@alia.org.au](mailto:awards@alia.org.au) URL <http://www.alia.org.au/awards.html>

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**ALIA MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Nominations are now being called for the 1999 award**

The ALIA Manager of the Year (previously *Library Manager of the Year*) award recognises and encourages exceptional management practices within the library and information sector. Nominees may be a personal member responsible for managing a library service or individual library, or responsible for a significant service or project within a larger organisational unit.

Entries should be sent to ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2600 phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249 e-mail [awards@alia.org.au](mailto:awards@alia.org.au) URL <http://www.alia.org.au/awards.html>

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