

# Information and the social scientist

ACADEMIC and research librarians and social scientists from a variety of disciplines are brought together during a professional development course organised by WAIT Department of Library and Information Studies/WAIT-Aid Ltd.

The course, entitled 'Information and the social scientist' featured Michael Brittain, a senior lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Studies, Loughborough University. Mr Brittain discussed the 'myth' of the information explosion and the non-internationalism of the social sciences.

Future courses at WAIT include 'Automation of circulation systems' (June/July) and 'Supervisory skills' (Sept). More information from Ted Thacker, WAIT-Aid Ltd, Hayman Road, Bentley 6102.



Patrick Moore, Library Board of Western Australia; Nancy Lane, WAIT; Michael Brittain, Loughborough University and Malcolm Traill, Murdoch University, carry on their discussion of the information needs of social scientists over morning coffee at the WAIT professional development course 'Information and the social scientist'.

## ONLINE INFORMATION RETRIEVAL KIT

THE AACOBS Working Party on Systems and Communications plans to produce an online information retrieval kit aimed at the person wishing to set up or use an online service, but who has no idea where to start.

Included in the kit will be very basic, practical information on such questions as: what it is; What are the benefits/drawbacks; What is involved in setting up such a service — equipment, telecommunications, training, documentation requirements, costs and services of data base vendors.

The Working Party is anxious not to duplicate the efforts of others. If you or your group are doing anything which may be included in such a kit, please contact Louise Jones, Divisional Librarian: Systems Development, The Library Board of Western Australia, 102 Beaufort Street, Perth, WA.

## Libraries in isolation

THE 'Libraries in Isolation' conference will be held in Alice Springs from 4-6 September 1981. The conference will examine the needs of library staff and users in geographically isolated areas as well as people isolated through disablement or different cultural backgrounds.

The conference, sponsored jointly by the LAA NT Branch and the School Library Association of the NT has a program designed to involve professional and para-professional staffs in public, special and school libraries.

Public library service to the isolated will be examined by the NT Director of Library Services, Ron Davis and by Charles Emerton

of the Goulburn Valley Regional Library Service, Vic.

Bryan Yates, from the Technical Services Division of NLA, will explain how technology can reduce isolation.

The education and training needs of library staff will be examined by Edward Reid-Smith (Riverina CAE) and Beryl Turner (Adelaide College of the Arts and Education).

Two librarians will discuss isolation problems — Peter Russell (CSIRO, Black Mountain, ACT) will examine special libraries and Ann Stanley (Education Department, SA), school libraries.

A highlight of the conference will be the closing session on library services and the disabled. Miss Michelle Castagna, NT government representative on the national committee for the IYDP, will examine needs as perceived by disabled people themselves.

Dr Graham Corr from Melbourne State College will draw on experiences from a recent study visit to the USA and the UK, to examine 'Librarianship, education and the disabled'.

Registration brochures available from Mrs J. Jackson, PO Box 1420, Alice Springs, NT 5750 (089) 52 5409; or Mrs J. Brucek, Community College of Central Aust, PO Box 795, Alice Springs, NT 5750 (089) 52 2822.

## NSW METROPOLITAN CHIEFS



The NSW Metropolitan Chief Librarians' Committee held its May meeting at Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education. The photograph, taken at a lunch prior to the meeting, shows: (left to right) Helen Woodward, Assistant State Librarian; Warren Horton, Acting State Librarian; John Flint, Chief Librarian at Willoughby and Secretary of the MCLC; Betty Malthus, Chief Librarian at Blacktown and President of MCLC, with George Muir, Principal of Kuring-gai CAE.

## Comparing religions

The Schools Commission has awarded a grant of \$843 to Mr John Hirst, formerly teacher-librarian of Patrician Brothers High School, Granville, NSW, as part of its Innovations Program.

The purpose of the grant is to develop a teaching method and a student learning method in the study of comparative religion. Print and audiovisual resources have been purchased, and after instruction in library use, students will work with the resources either separately or in groups as a complement to their classroom instruction.

Further information may be obtained from Mr John Hirst, 6/15 Darley Street, Newtown 2042, or Patrician Brothers High School, Grimwood Street, Granville 2142.