

UNESCO MEETING

THE ANNUAL CONSULTATION with non-governmental organisations was held on 5 December 1981 at University House, ANU Canberra. The main purpose was to establish an Australian position for the UNESCO Second World Conference on Cultural Policies to be held in Mexico 10-19 July 1982.

There will be three major themes at the conference – cultural identity and the inter-relationship of cultures; cultural dimensions of development and culture, and the new Economic World Order.

The meeting spent time discussing what policies a country should adopt and how it goes about adopting these policies. Many third world countries feel it is essential to have a cultural development policy so that they do not suffer from cultural imperialism.

Time was spent exploring ways in which Australia is similar and different to third world countries.

The importance of the flow of information was stressed as being imperative to the development of a cultural policy, whilst recognising that many developing countries are still dissatisfied with the flow of information from developed countries.

Many issues of concern to the LAA were discussed in relation to the conference – freedom of information, censorship, Florence Agreement and the ownership of the media.

Other organisations represented at the

meeting were interested in the role of minority groups, technological change and the retention of minority culture identities.

As a result of ideas and opinions put forward, together with those brought forward at a meeting of the National Commission an Australian position will be developed.

Another item of interest to the LAA was also discussed. This is the UNESCO medium Term Plan 1984-1989.

A planning document will be published in March 1982. Immediately after that UNESCO will seek comments from non-government organisations.

The first draft of the Australian position will appear in April or May. Timing for comments will be vital if we are to have input, so watch *Incite* for further details.

Susan Acutt

Executive Director

AJCP project to continue

USERS OF THE MICROFILM produced by the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) will be pleased to learn that the Project, which had come under scrutiny in the course of the Review of Commonwealth Functions, is to continue unchanged.

The London-based staff will still be two in number. The London Officer, Mr Graeme Powell, and his assistant will remain in their present quarters at Australia House, The Strand, London.

They welcome visits from Australian researchers and are able to provide information about English records and repositories, as well as advice on current AJCP projects.

Prices

Unfortunately, it has been found necessary to increase the price of copies of AJCP microfilm.

The increase is due to increase in the price of film from suppliers and to the need to spread the costs more evenly amongst participating libraries.

The four major partners, namely the National Library of Australia, the Mitchell Library at the State Library of New South Wales, the State Library of Victoria and the New Zealand National Archives, have to date borne most of the cost of producing the master negative reels.

These costs have increased sharply in the past few years. For instance, a negative reel filmed at the Public Record Office in 1979 cost £92, but in 1981 costs £150.

From 16 November 1981 prices for purchase of AJCP microfilm will be:

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| 35 mm diazo reel (NB Archival quality not quarantined, but durable under normal conditions) | \$15.50 |
| 35 mm silver halide reel (Archival quality) | \$23.50 |

Compared with current book prices, it is considered that these prices are not exorbitant for reels containing an average of 600 frames per reel.

Orders for reels and inquiries about the AJCP may be addressed to the Principal Librarian, Australian Reference, NLA, Canberra ACT 2600.

Union list on microcomputer

ACCESS EAST, AN audiovisual network of 10 post-primary schools in Melbourne's outer eastern suburbs, is now in the process of putting its union catalogue of videotapes onto microcomputer. The computer available for use in one of the schools is a Tandy TRS 80 Model 3, which has two 5¼" 80 track disc drives.

The program being used is called 'Profile' and is commercially produced. A further program has been written in Basic to access the files created by 'Profile'.

Each term, schools in the network will receive updated printouts, including alphabetical lists of titles and keywords/descriptors. Each school will also receive a separate listing of its own video collection. It is hoped that other schools will gradually purchase compatible equipment so that direct access will eventually be possible for all schools.

Since the program is very much in the experimental stage, Access East would be interested to hear from any other group or school working on a similar program.

The person to contact is Kirsty Williamson, c/o Croydon High Evening School, PO Box 207, Croydon Vic 3136 or telephone (03) 870 4736.

Dissertations

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY'S policy on the comprehensive acquisition of a wide range of doctoral dissertations in microform was modified in June 1978. Since then, acquisition of theses abstracted in Dissertation Abstracts International and available from University Microfilm has covered: all theses relevant to Australasia; any theses requested by an Australian library.

The National Library has recently reviewed the impact of this policy on its acquisitions budget, which has been under severe pressure because of the rapid escalation of the price of serials, which in turn has already led to a major program of serials subscription cancellations.

As a result, the Library has reluctantly decided that it can no longer maintain the on-demand service for dissertations.

New policy.

Accordingly, the Library adopted the following revised policy:

- i The National Library will continue to acquire microcopies of all theses which come to its notice relating to Australasia and which are available from University Microfilms.
- ii From 1 January 1982 copies of theses requested by academic institutions or other bodies will no longer be automatically acquired. The National Library believes that individual libraries should accept the responsibility to acquire microcopies of theses required by their users.

HANDICAPPED USERS

Due to a sell-out first run *First National Workshop on Librarianship for Handicapped Users: Proceedings* has been reprinted. Copies are available from The Secretary, Dept of Librarianship, Melbourne State College, 757 Swanston Street, Carlton 3053. Cost is \$15.20 post paid within Australia, A\$20 overseas. All orders should be pre-paid.

Reading habits studied

A RESEARCH PROJECT has been undertaken to study the reading habits of children.

During the period 10 August - 28 September 1981, information was collected from approximately 15,000 children throughout Australia.

A sample of children in Years 5, 7, 9 and 11 who attended Government, Catholic and independent schools in Australia was asked for information about their leisure time reading: including books, comics, magazines and newspapers of their choice.

Children were also asked to give details of books they had read for school. The teachers who teach reading or English to these children also provided information which will enable the research team to place the children's comments within the context of the school environment.

During the second phase of the project it is planned to interview some of the children, their parents and their teachers in order to gain richer insights into the children's reading habits and preferences. All librarians will be interested in the findings.

During 1981 the research team raised approximately \$20,000 for the study, but needs to raise an equivalent amount to assist with interviews and analyses of the data during 1982.

All donations, however small, will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged in the final report. (Cheques may be made payable to: Children's Choice, Deakin University Vic 3217).

Further information from Rhonda Bunbury, Children's Choice, Deakin University.