

New Fellow of the LAA

On August 23 1984, the General Council of the LAA conferred the distinction of Fellowship of the Library Association of Australia on Peter Harold Dawe, BA, ALAA, Chief Librarian, CSIRO.

Peter Dawe has played an active role in the Association since 1959 when he became President of the South Australian Branch. From 1964-66 he was President and Councillor of the Special Libraries Section, Associate Examiner, Data Processing and Information Retrieval, 1969, and Committee member, Information Science Section, Victorian Group, 1978. His latest position is that of Convener, Working Party on Document Delivery in Australia, a group that was established by General Council in 1983.

Peter Dawe has been at the forefront of the change in the role of the professional librarian from custodian to active purveyor of information, particularly through the application of technology. It is significant that he was chosen as one of the two Associate Examiners for the inaugural Registration Examination paper in Data Processing and Information Retrieval in 1969. Similarly, he was the first Convener of the AACOBS Working Party on Systems and Communications in 1973 and is still a Member of that group.

His contributions to AACOBS on the Victorian Regional Committee, as a participant in the full Council and on the Standing Committee have always been practical and farsighted.

His interest in the future of the profession is evidenced by his service on course advisory committees associated with RMIT, Ballarat CAE, Canberra Technical College and on the Program Development Committee for the International Training Course for Librarians in 1976/77.

At the international level he has been Secretary of the Australian National Committee of the International Federation for Documentation (FID) since 1971, was Secretary of the FID Commission for Asia and Oceania from 1973-76 and has represented Australia at the General Assemblies of that body several times. His personality and co-operative spirit have impressed themselves on our Asian and Pacific colleagues.

Another area in which he excels is in encouraging and facilitating co-operation between libraries and ensuring that scarce resources are not wasted in duplication of effort. Almost his first act when taking over as Chief Librarian of CSIRO was to persuade the Executive of the Organisation of the importance of bringing *Scientific Serials in Australian Libraries* up to date, which was achieved in 1975/76. He has been a most active participant in the CSIRO/NLA Joint Consultative Committee which meets regularly to plan complementary activities of the two bodies. As a result of his paper at the National Interlending Conference in 1983 he was chosen as the Convener of the Working Party on Document Delivery in Australia, the report of which was presented at the LAA Conference in August.



At a time when the profession is undergoing massive change Peter Dawe is seen as an encourager and facilitator as well as a leader among his colleagues.

The Library Association of Australia believes that Peter Dawe's contribution to librarianship makes him a most worthy recipient of the award of Fellowship of the Library Association of Australia.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

PR Award for State Library NSW

NSW's State Library was the National Award Winner in the 17th annual Library Public Relations Awards, conducted by the Australian Library Promotion Council.

The Hon. Mick Young, M.P. Special Minister of State, presented the Award to the State Library's Publicity Officer, Anne Wilson, at the National Opening of Australian Library Week held at 6.00 pm Friday 14 September, 1984 in the Ballroom, Adelaide Hilton Hotel.

'Fantastic Libraries', an exciting 9-day exhibition of new information technology, won the Award for the State Library. Continuous demonstrations and displays of on-line information retrieval from databases in Australia and USA, telefacsimile, compact disc, mini and micro computers, STATUS full text retrieval system, videodisc, etc. attracted thousands of visitors to the Galleries and foreshadowed the 'Library of the Future'. The exhibition also won the Award for the best Single Event or Activity.

President of the Australian Library Promotion Council, Mrs Dulcie Stretton CBE said 'Awards are made for the programmes and publication which best interpret, explain or market library facilities and services to users or potential users, or to governing bodies and funding bodies', adding that in this case the judges' decision was unanimous!

ABN reaches out . . .



In future blind people will be able to make computer searches in the National Library's computer database, the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN), without the help of a sighted person.

As a result of an investigation by library staff a meeting of the Round Table on Materials for Print Handicapped Readers at the National Library of Australia recently was given a demonstration of a Braille terminal to see if it could communicate directly with ABN.

The Versabraille terminal used was manufactured by Telesensory Systems Inc., of California, distributed by Wormald International Sensory Aids of Parramatta.

Mr Andrew Downie, of the Royal Blind

A blind person and a sighted person access the same material. Mrs Bryony Wilcox, of the National Library is shown working alongside Mr Andrew Downie, of the Royal Blind Society of NSW.

Society of NSW, who is accustomed to the Versabraille terminal, and another blind person, Mr Bill Jolley of the Royal NSW Institute for Deaf and Blind Children tried it and found the terminal accessed ABN smoothly. The terminal was later successfully used in an experiment to access the MEDLINE system, jointly operated by the National Library and the Department of Health. A touch-sensitive board which gives a pinprick response in Braille is used. The Braille terminal can also be used as a data entry device with a digital cassette and then submitted to a word processing system.