VALA awards

The introduction of new information handling technology in Australian libraries is a complex process requiring a major co-operative effort between libraries, system vendors, and hardware suppliers. Each year, in recognition of this effort, the Victorian Association for Library Automation (VALA) makes an award to the library or information centre which has made the most innovative use of currently available technology to improve service to users. This improvement may result from the introduction of new or upgraded facilities or services, or it may reflect an increase in the efficiency of support operations through technological innovation.

The presentation to the winner of the award will be made at a dinner dance to be held at the Melbourne Town House on Tuesday, November 28. The award consists of a handsome bronze plaque, designed by Michael Meszaros, for the winning library or information centre, and a citation for the vendor of the hardware and/or software on which the winning system is based.

The presentation dinner will be one of the highlights of the third National VALA Conference on Library Automation, to be held at the University of Melbourne from November 25 to 27.

Don't tax books

The September 13 issue of *InCite* included an item about the 'Please don't tax books' campaign which the National Book Council proposed to undertake. As the Treasurer has indicated that he does not propose to go ahead with his broadly based consumer tax, the campaign is now in abeyance. The NBC has asked that their gratitude be expressed to all the librarians who offered to participate in making the cards available for the campaign.

Change of name

The RMIT Council has approved the change of name of the Department of Librarianship to the Department of Information Services.

The change of name reflects the trend of development in the Department's courses towards preparing students for a range of information work environments.

ORAL HISTORY CATALOGUING PROJECT

The National Library has recently commenced a project to catalogue its Oral History Collection. The records created are being entered on ABN. The Oral History Collection is a research and reference collection containing over 8000 tape recordings and transcripts, dated from the 1930s.

The Collection contains autobiographical recordings, political speeches, folkloric material, radiotalks, select conference recordings, writers' fieldwork tapes as well as a substantial number of current affairs programs dating from 1974. An important component is the Oral History Project established in 1970 to record the recollections of Australians of outstanding achievement.

As there is no one appropriate chapter in AACR2 to provide specific guidance for cataloguing oral history sound recordings, guidelines for the Project were drawn up in close consultation with the Library's Oral History Section.

Data elements were chosen with reference to AACR2 chapter 1 (general); chapter 4 (manuscripts); chapter 6 (sound recordings — in particular 6-11, non processed recordings); and chapter 21 (access points). The *ABN cataloguing manual* (Guidelines for input of unpublished materials . . .) and *Archives, personal papers and manuscripts: a cataloguing manual* compiled by Steven Hensen were also consulted.

Chief guidelines established for describing oral history sound recordings were:

The title supplied for each item should include a term describing the nature of the recording, i.e. interview, memoir, conversation, etc. This term should be linked to brief descriptive information indicating the general subject, content or occasion of the recording to make the title more meaningful and to facilitate retrieval through keyword searching.

The GMD to be used is [sound recording]

Statement of responsibility will include interviewer where appropriate.

Date of recording is to be included in the Publication, distribution, etc. area. (While AACR2 6.11C prefers date of recording to be included only in a note field, the manuscripts chapter permits use of date in this area. It is also permitted in *ABN cataloguing manual* Part D/8 for unpublished manuscripts).

A brief summary of the contents of the item is to be included.

Access points will include names associated with providing information for the oral history; name of interviewer; personal and corporate names, events, etc. when they are the subject of the recording, as well as the particular fields of endeavour associated with these names.

The project will concentrate, initially, on the ca. 1200 interviews from the Hazel de Berg collection of tape recordings which forms an important core in the Oral History Collection.

It is hoped, at a future date, to produce a publication from these ABN catalogue records as a memorial to Hazel de Berg who contributed so much to the Oral History Project.

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