

## FIRE AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

The following press release was issued by the LAA on March 11:

The President of the Library Association of Australia, Ron Davis, expressed his delight today that the damage to the collection of the National Library of Australia is much less extensive than was originally thought.

The fire, which swept through the National Library on Friday night, caused extensive smoke and water damage. While the full impact of this is not yet known, conservators are hopeful that it will be possible to save most of the material.

Mr Davis said: 'To have lost the largest collection of Australian literature in the world would have been a major disaster for Australians and Australia's heritage. Much of the collection is unique and therefore irreplaceable.'

The fire highlights the vulnerability of Australia's cultural resources. Not only libraries but museums, art galleries, archives etc could be wiped out in minutes by fire.

The National Library fire will, hopefully, provide the impetus for even greater Government and public support for the development of the nation's library and information resources.

**STOP PRESS: Re National Library fire — Mr Harrison Bryan, National Librarian, advises that library staff were back at work on Monday March 11, the library is expected to be open to the public again by March 25 and it is hoped that ABN will be on air again by the same date. A full report will appear in the next issue of *InCite*.**

### NOW AVAILABLE

#### Kosa G.A. Biographical Dictionary of Australian Librarians

3rd ed, 1984 259pp.

Published and distributed by

Academia Press

PO Box 147

Forest Hill Vic 3131

Price A\$29.00 plus postage of A\$2.00 in Australia and A\$3.00 overseas.

## Librarians honoured

The 1985 Australia Day Honours recognised the work of two leaders in the library field — Joan Brewer and Desi Lyons. Mrs Brewer was made an Officer in the general division of the Order of Australia (AO) 'for service to library education'. Mrs Estelle Bridson (Desi) Lyons was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) 'for service to the community, particularly in the field of librarianship'.

Joan Brewer is one of the best-known library educators in Australia and her influence has extended across all areas of the profession. She has worked in school libraries, university, college and general libraries and in October 1984 retired from the position of Principal Lecturer and head of School Librarianship at the South Australian College of Advanced Education. She has been a long-term member of the Libraries Board of South Australia, and in 1982 was appointed an inaugural member of the South Australian Library Advisory Committee. Mrs Brewer has been an active member of the LAA, serving as examiner, member and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Education, and has taken part in numerous course assessments for the Association and higher education boards. She has been President of the South Australian Branch, and of the School Libraries Section, SA Group, and General Councillor, a position she currently holds. A quiet retirement seems unlikely.

Desi Lyons was Chief Librarian for the Albert Shire until she joined the State Library of Queensland as Extensions Librarian in 1975. Since that time this area of the State Library has developed and expanded under her leadership. As Principal Librarian at the Public Library Service, she provides assistance and advice on public library requirements to local authorities and has been particularly involved in the planning of new public libraries throughout Queensland.

Considerable travels throughout the state, including small and remote centres, have brought Mrs Lyons in close contact with the community. Under her leadership extension services to libraries have also expanded in such areas as children's services and the handicapped. She is well known and respected throughout the library profession in Queensland due to her energy and involvement in the Queensland Library Promotion Council.

## AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT IN IFLA

In the build-up to Australia's hosting of the 1988 IFLA General Conference the Association proposes to publish articles from time to time on IFLA and its progress. Many of those programs are undertaken by the Sections, 31 in all, which cover areas as diverse as national libraries, statistics, rare and precious books and documents, and regional activities for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Australian representation on IFLA Sections has been increasing in recent years, and there are now Australian members of Standing Committees of eight Sections.

These are:

Section on National Libraries — Harrison Bryan (term 1981-85)

Section on School Libraries — Noelerie Hall (term 1981-85)

Section on University Libraries and other General Research Libraries — Geoffrey Allen (term 1981-85)

Section on Library Schools and other Training Aspects — Edward Reid-Smith (term 1981-85)

Section on Library Schools and other Training Aspects — Maxine Rochester (term 1983-87)

Section on Information Technology — Ian McCallum (term 1983-87)

Section on Statistics — Nicholas Mayman (term 1983-87)

Section on Cataloguing — Eugenie Greig (term 1983-87)

Section on Library Theory and Research — Patricia Layzell Ward (term 1983-87)

Nominations are made by IFLA National Association members (the LAA) or Institutional Members (over 25 libraries and organisations in Australia). They should have a reasonable expectation of attending meetings of the Standing Committee which are held at the annual conference, without cost to IFLA.

In 1983 IFLA introduced a corresponding member category to allow up to five corresponding members of a Section. Such members have all rights and benefits except voting rights — but it should be noted that voting on matters other than the election of Section Officers is rare. There are at least six Australian corresponding members of Section Standing Committees.

Ian McCallum's article on the 1984 Nairobi Conference and Information Technology Section meeting (*InCite* Vol 5 No 18, 2 Nov 1984) gives a good idea of the areas in which IFLA Sections are active — from the core areas of librarianship such as cataloguing and bibliography to library services to disadvantaged groups and the frontline of the information technology thrust. Sections also publish newsletters and conduct workshops and similar activities.

The LAA is encouraging a wider participation in IFLA by Australian librarians. Nominating for membership of an IFLA Section Standing Committee is one of the more positive ways of being involved in librarianship in the international arena. Further details are available from the LAA and the members listed above.

*Sue Phillips*

Assistant Executive Director

## FILM AND VIDEO

### Distribution, Exhibition, Information

**The 1985 National Biennial Conference of the Australian Council of Government Film Libraries.**

**Most sessions open to public**

**Canberra 17-19 April 1985**

**National Library of Australia**

**Information: Robert Boot (062) 62 1519**

**Janette Parkinson (02) 230 1551**

### INSERTS IN THIS ISSUE

**This issue of *InCite* will contain an insert from D.W. Thorpe in all copies. Victorian readers will also receive *Vibra* and Queensland will have the *Old Branch Newsletter*.**