— the bottom line

Our 24th Biennial Conference, the first to be held in Darwin, promised to be different — and it is! — with the keynotes on warm hospitality and informality.

As this is being written the conference is barely 24 hours old. Although this gathering of librarians at 'the top end' will be only a memory for those who attended by the time this reaches you, it's already certain that that memory will be long and fond.

I'll be communicating in more detail on the conference in the next issue but this gathering is already notable on several counts. It is the largest conference gathering *of any kind* ever hosted in Darwin, with some 900 registrants and an estimated further 500–600 associated people — trade representatives, families, friends, etc.

It's not surprising that the Chief Minister, the Hon Steve Hatton, commented favourably on this aspect when opening the conference before a crowd of 1000 people seated on the lawns in the tropical warmth and greenness of the Botanical Gardens.

Evidence of the tremendous amount of hard work carried out by Ron Davis, immediate Past President and Chairman of the Conference Committee, and his small organising team abounds on all sides — from the Conference Handbook and Exhibition Guide, the Registration and Information facilities, to the active social programme which got off to a flying start with barramundi and buffalo steaks and a corroboree performed by the notable Elcho Island Dance Troupe at the Opening.

But for all that, the Darwin Conference could well become most notable for the professional decisions taken. In the days preceding the conference, first the Executive and then the Council spent many painstaking and often gruelling hours discussing the Corporate Plan and Review in fine detail. The final product, if not the evidence of this effort, appears elsewhere in this issue.

While many important decisions were made, the one likely to be seminal to our future growth and direction is the recomendation to change our name to the *Library Information Association of Australia*, LIAA — (pronounced Lee-ah!).

Members are invited to offer further (and final) comments on all the Council resolutions before 31 August.

Until next time —

Peter Dawe
Vice-President

Help us!

Please submit articles typed with double spacing. Editorial changes are sometimes necessary and this becomes very difficult on pages of single spaced typing. If the material is hand written it becomes almost impossible as the poor typesetter has to interpret both your handwriting and mine!

Brenda Pittard
Editor, *InCite*

NEW HIGH TECH LIBRARY LABORATORY

Library and information students at the Wes ern Australian Institute of Technology have minicomputer and appropriate softwa totally dedicated to the teaching of inform tion management.

Announcing this recently, Dr Patricia La zell Ward, the Head of WAIT's Department Library and Information Studies, said that t system would allow students to study cat loguing, subject indexing, records manag ment, integrated library managemen including acquisitions and circulation, co munity information and information planni

An AWA REALITY minicomputer and sof ware provided by AWA Computers has bee installed in a newly furnished laboratory WAIT. The software is URICA library manag ment system, developed by AWA Compute and widely used throughout Australia.

Dr Layzell Ward said that the system ha been made available by AWA following a ve successful experiment using URICA within t Department linked to a computer at AWA Perth office.

In addition, the National Library of Au tralia has arranged for a leased line to be i stalled in the laboratory to provide a trainir centre for users of the Australian Bibli graphic Network in Western Australia.

Dr Layzell Ward said that the new labor tory was a practical example of collaborati between the information technology indust and tertiary education which had resulted an exciting venture to prepare students work with the latest hardware and softwa available to library and informati professionals.

URICA.
Simply the best library computer system ever invented.

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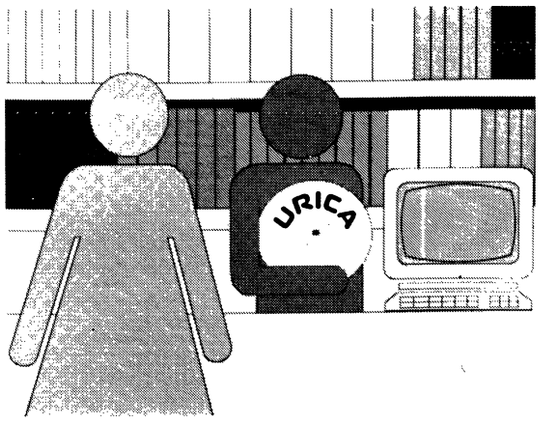

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