



the bottom line

A common topic of conversation in the corridors as well as in the lecture rooms at the Darwin Conference was the dollar crisis and the effect this was having on the acquisition programmes of Australia's libraries. From mostly anecdotal evidence it was clear that this effect will be substantial!

Many of our largest libraries are known to be cancelling hundreds of serial titles and in at least one case over 1000 titles. Meanwhile, as Colin Steele points out in a paper prepared for discussion at the AACOBs Council Meeting, monograph purchasing, where it is proceeding at all, is happening in a quite unco-ordinated way.

A pre-conference seminar 'The Dollar Crisis' organised by the Acquisitions Section held in Darwin on Sunday 29 June brought together a large group of concerned librarians and members of the book trade to discuss this question.

There are no simple or trivial solutions, but many useful facts were given and suggestions put forward for more effective acquisitions maintenance and control. Copies of the papers presented are available at the cost of duplication and postage from Richard Anderson, Post Office Box 105, Garran, ACT 2605.

Certainly co-operation in this area amongst

Australian libraries and librarians will need to be more thorough-going than it ever has been in the past if we are to marshal our collective potential to maximise library resources in the national interest.

This theme of co-operation was taken up by several speakers at the Conference, not least by Warren Horton in his powerful final plenary session.

And so the Darwin Conference is over. The 900 and more delegates have returned home to their mostly southern, colder climes with now only nostalgic memories of good fellowship, of barbecues of barrumundi and buffalo steaks, of blood-red sunsets, of warm days and even warmer hospitality.

But they have also returned stimulated by many fine papers, the benefit of much lively and productive discussion, and perhaps with new knowledge gained from the splendid exhibition.

Our first conference at 'the top end' was a success. Thanks are due to Ron Davis and his small dedicated team. Congratulations to them — and valé Darwin. We shall return!

Ian McCallum will return in the next issue; so until next year.

P. H. Dawe
Vice-President

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Captions for ABC children's programmes

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation has agreed to have more of its children's programmes Supertext Subtitled by the Australian Caption Centre.

The programmes, to be transmitted on ABC stations throughout Australia, include

- *Playschool* — a programme for young children which has an important educational role in schools.
- *Trapp, Winkle and Box* — a popular series of a visual nature, aimed at junior primary.
- *New World for Sure* — a series presenting a social, political and economic picture of Australia's history since 1950.
- *Voting I & Voting II* — these programmes provide basic information on parliament and the electoral system.
- *Apprentice* — a new programme presenting a positive view of the trades to encourage school leavers to see apprenticeships.

ABC programmes for children such as *Infinity Limited* and *Northern Australia Documentaries* have received much recognition as authoritative and widely used audiovisual resources in education curricula.

Ms Alexandra Hynes, Chief Executive of the Australian Caption Centre, said that by taking such an initiative the ABC was acknowledging the right of deaf and hearing impaired children to have access to a variety of quality programmes. She said that the programmes were vital in strengthening children's language development and skills as well as being entertaining.

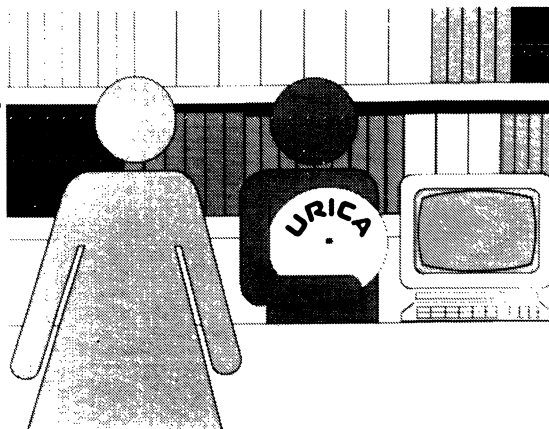
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