

## TERRITORY LEADS THE WAY!

The Northern Territory Film Library, Library Services Branch, TAFE Division, NT Department of Education provides a film and video-lending service to schools, government departments and registered community groups and organisations throughout the Northern Territory.

Since February of this year, the NT Film Library has offered a computerised booking service, available throughout the Territory to those borrowers with access to a computer terminal attached to the NT Government mainframe in Darwin. This mainframe (IBM 084) and the software it holds, DL/1 database software, CICS communications software, COBOL programming language and IMS development tool for interactive applications, service most of the computing needs for all NT Government Departments and authorities.

Borrowers can search for films and videotapes on a specific subject, display full bibliographic details to determine appropriateness and book the title for a future screening date - all from the comfort of their office armchair! Searches may also be made on title, series and producer. Borrowers have access to their own booking history retrospectively to the beginning of each year, and a security package prevents one borrower from accessing another's booking details.

Not only are borrowers benefiting from the new online system, but library staff now have access to comprehensive, immediate statistical, preview/order, borrower registration, title sage and overdue details which were all previously manually maintained.

The service has placed the NT Film Library head of many of its southern counterparts by allowing patrons online access to up-to-date information as well as immediate confirmation of bookings. Such a service has profound implications for borrowers who are now able to schedule screenings and plan curricula up to twelve months in advance.

To date many public libraries, schools and government departments are utilising the system, and are appreciating the speed of service and immediacy of information.

*Jenny Doubleday*  
Librarian-In-Charge  
NT Film Library

## The Greeks have a word

*The Greek Contribution to Australian letters*, by Dr George Kanarakis (*I Logotechniki Parusia Ton Ellinon Stin Australia*), just published, is a compendium of Greek Australians who have written and published short stories, poetry and plays. It includes the work of 88 writers with 33 of the 228 pieces in English and the remainder in Greek.

It is extremely unlikely that anyone who has not made a similar study to that of Dr Kanarakis, of the Dept of Communications and Liberal Studies at the Mitchell College of Advanced Education will be aware of this great volume of contributions to Australian literature. If there are more poets than prose writers that is because poetry has always been very important to literate Greeks, both here and in Greece itself.

Copies are available from the author at Mitchell College for \$30 and the work is on sale at Greek bookshops. It is a large book, 687 pages, and if it gets the use it should in libraries it may have to be rebound in stronger binding.

*Alec Shepherd*

## Industrial News

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- the circulation of current literature regarding RSI and the correct use of screen based equipment.

### Libraries and bag searches

Following a recent query from a member, the Association checked the legal position regarding the searching of bags in libraries with a representative of the Law Society of NSW. He advised that, as in the case of shops, customers retain the right to refuse to have their bags searched.

*Louise Lansley*  
Industrial Information  
and Research Officer

## Helpmann at NLA

A yellowing press clipping from the *Daily Sketch* of London, dated 27 September 1933, describes a young ballet newcomer's dancing as 'full of life and promise'. The cutting is on the front page of an old scrapbook, the first of 23 presented recently to the National Library of Australia by Sir Robert Helpmann, CBE.

Thousands of press cuttings in the books, along with glossy photographs, souvenir programs and correspondence, cover 50 years of the life and art of Australia's foremost dancer, actor, choreographer, producer and theatre administrator.

The Director-General of the National Library, Mr Warren Horton, said that the collection was among the most interesting and historically valuable the Library had received in recent times, and would be an invaluable source of information for researchers.

Sir Robert was born in Mt Gambier, South Australia, and began learning ballet at the age of six, and made his first stage appearance at 13. He began a long association with British ballet when he went to London and joined the Royal Ballet. He was their principal dancer for some 15 years. He later became one of the principal choreographers for the Sadlers Wells Ballet, later to become the Royal Ballet. He worked with the Old Vic Theatre, London, as actor, producer and director, playing the principal roles in Hamlet and many other Shakespearean plays.

He was named Australian of the Year in 1966 and was knighted in 1968.

## Change of SLAQ

For a number of years the School Library association of Queensland has functioned as two separate branches, one in Brisbane and one in Townsville administered by a Council made up of representatives of these two branches. Despite close contact between these branches much of the state has remained out of contact.

Discussions began in 1985 to look at changing the structure and negotiations have continued through teleconferencing. Firm guidelines for change were formalised during a Teleconference Council Meeting on 18 May involving Brisbane, Toowoomba, Mackay, Townsville and Ingham.

It is proposed that SLAQ Council be comprised of at least ten members from as many centres throughout the state as feasible. The branches in Townsville and Brisbane will remain and members will belong to the nearest one. Regular contact will be achieved by teleconference as well as dissemination of information from a state level.

Because this Council is a network linked technologically it is not essential to have a central executive. The elections of the new Council were as follows:

*President:* Peter McKay Smith  
Ingham High School  
*Vice President:* Seigy Schmeiman Mackay  
North State High School  
*Secretary:* Jann Thatcher Cooparoo  
State High School  
*Treasurer:* Peter de Vries  
Library and Resource  
Services.

In addition to the wider structure SLAQ is working to encourage the development of Interest Groups which may be based anywhere in the state. They will spread news of their activities and initiatives by both the extended State Council and the already well-established system of school library networks, e.g. Townsville has a thriving Book Circle which will happily share its activities. They are being visited by Leila Berg in early September and hope to share this visit with some of the more isolated northern centres by teleconference.

If you have a group of people working in any resource-based areas do become the centre of an interest group and let others know.

SLAQ will still have four Councillors representing it at ASLA level. For 1986 they are Judy Hunter, Peter McKay Smith, Paul Lupton and Liz Keyes.

*Judy Hunter*

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