

## THIRD WORLD RESOURCES

The Ideas Centre-Resource Centre for International Co-operation, the largest centre of its kind in Australia, has easy access, well catalogued information on development and all Third World countries. It looks behind the media image of the Third World-countries where one disaster seems to happen after another — to give a *background* to current political, social and economic events in those countries. It examines the *causes* of poverty and not just the symptoms.

The centre at 3rd Floor, 262 Pitt St, Sydney, consists of a large reference library, open to the public 9-5 Monday to Friday, with a special extension on Wednesday to 7pm. It is used by hundreds of secondary and tertiary students, teachers, and lecturers and others each year and school groups can book to come in and work on assignments and hear talks. People who cannot use the library in person can use its three mail services: the *Ideas Bulletin*, a Sales Centre and an ad hoc information service.

The *Bulletin* comes out 10 times per year and reproduces the catalogue of journal articles held. The Ideas Centre has a large jour-

nal collection — about 200 periodicals from all around the world, so that the information is constantly being updated. The best articles are catalogued under topic and country headings, in the form of 10-line summaries. These make up each issue of the *Bulletin*, and subscribers can order copies of the whole article if they have an area of special interest.

The *Sales Centre* provides at reasonable cost a whole variety of fact sheets, country overviews, occasional papers and other publications which are not readily available in other bookshops. Some of these are produced by aid agencies in Australia; others are brought in from overseas. All provide current and reliable information in a non-academic style.

The *information service* is particularly useful for teachers, whose needs may not be met entirely by the Sales Centre publications. They can ring or write for information on any development topic of Third World country. There is useful resource material for teachers and students of Geography, History, Economics, Social Studies, Asian Studies, Home Science, Agriculture and General Studies material at the Ideas Centre.

For further information contact The Librarian, Ideas Centre — RCIC, GPO Box 3930, Sydney 2001. Ph: (02) 267 9230.

## CONFERENCES COMING UP

### Mary K. D. Pietris

The Seventh National Cataloguing Conference will be held at the Townsville International Hotel in beautiful downtown Townsville in North Queensland from 16-18 July 1987.

The general theme of the conference will be Back to Basics and will involve a new look at the basic tools of cataloguing as well as the techniques of organisation, management and quality control, all of which remain fundamental in spite of the technological advances.

The keynote speaker will be Mary K.D. Pietris, Chief, Subject Cataloging Division, Library of Congress. A graduate of Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Mrs Pietris received her library degree from the University of Washington School of Librarianship in Seattle in 1965. After graduation she became a special recruit at the Library of Congress and then a subject cataloguer working in classes H and J. After three and a half years at LC she left to become the Head of the Catalog Department at Northwestern University Library in Evanston, Illinois. In 1977 she returned to LC as the Assistant Chief of the Subject Cataloging Division. After the retirement of Edward J. Blume, she became Chief of the Subject Cataloging Division in 1978.

Mrs Pietris will open the conference with a paper on 'LSCH — Past imperfect, future indicative' and will join a panel discussion on 'LSCH online'.

John McKinlay  
University Librarian  
James Cook University

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## Redback makes its mark!

Readers aware of the *Redback* arrival in my office may wish to know the rest of the story.

By and large Australian response to Howard Jacobson's third novel, *Redback*, has not been favourable. Which makes me think that the reviewers and interviewers didn't actually read the book but treated it, and the writer, with the question so commonly put to visitors to this shore — 'What do you think of Australia?' Dipping into the book, instead of reading it properly, it wouldn't be difficult to select quotes that suggest that Jacobson was 'knocking Australia'.

But read it; enjoy his perceptive assessment of all the elements that make up Australia's urban life, his joy in the many pleasures of life here and his wonderful ear for capturing all the nuances of Australian conversation. For my money, Howard Jacobson is the first English writer since D. H. Lawrence to capture the essence of Australia.

Gloriously funny, delightfully bawdy and thoroughly entertaining, *Redback* should not be missed.

It is published by Corgi Bantam, one of their new hardback range.

Further details from Corgi and Bantam, Level 1, 20 Young Street, Neutral Bay, 2089. (02) 908 4366.

Brenda Pittard

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