

ANATOMY OF A DISASTER



LAA Study Grant Awards for 1988

The Library Association of Australia will make funds available each year to support practising librarians wishing to undertake a study project. The number of awards in any year will depend upon the funds available and the estimated costs of proposals received.

The Association's intention in offering study grants is to provide an opportunity for librarians to undertake projects they would otherwise be unable to do because of the time and costs involved.

Conditions

- Available to a practising librarian in a supervisory or middle management position, with a minimum of three years' experience in library and information work.
- For the purpose of undertaking a study program on a selected library/information issue or problem of present and future relevance to the development and improvement of library and information services in Australia.
- The study may include opportunity for preliminary work, local or overseas visits/consultations, attachment to another organisation, preparation of a publication, further educational qualification.
- The study is to culminate in a written report in two parts, provided to the Association. The first is a chronological summary of the project components together with a statement of the value derived, provided within one month of the project's culmination. The second component is a comprehensive report provided within four months of the project's culmination.
- It is expected that the study project will provide an opportunity for self development as well as benefit to the successful applicant's institution and present position.
- The award is not intended to be used to fund research projects.
- Applicants should complete an application form which gives:
 - A brief description of the study project, including aims; benefits to the individual and to the institution; possible outcomes of a project.
 - Identification and reasons for choice of particular institutions, persons or activities.
 - Itinerary, timetable, travel/accommodation costs involved.
 - Details of any other funds or facilities being provided for the study project.
 - A curriculum vitae.
 - 2 referees' reports.
- Applicants must be financial members of the LAA.

Application forms are available from LAA House and applications for an award in 1988 should reach the Assistant Director, LAA House, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 by 1 September 1987.



Above: Gas-masked firefighter emerges from the charred shell of the Maroubra Library. Noxious fumes delayed the efforts of staff to begin the massive clean-up. Once inside the library staff were aghast at the scale of damage — as well as fire and water damage a thick layer of black carbon soot covered books, shelves and furniture. Police suspect vandals may have entered the building on a Saturday after the staff had left at noon. It looks as though material from around the circulation desk (transaction cards, books awaiting processing etc) was piled up and lit. The material smouldered overnight. Heat built up blowing out windows allowing oxygen to fuel the fire to a blaze. This alerted local residents. The fire brigade broke in to fight the fire on Sunday afternoon.

Damage estimated at well over a \$1 million was caused when a fire swept through the Maroubra Central Library on Sunday, 10 May 1987. The fire is believed to have started in the circulation desk area on the first floor.

Assessors are still assessing the stock and fittings but it seems that most of the adult collection is at risk. Hardest hit was the adult non-fiction collection which was shelved close to the circulation desk. Books have been badly burnt and are also smoke and water damaged.

Fortunately the library's union catalogue and shelf list, kept in another section of the building, suffered only smoke damage. The Reference Section was also severely affected, however, with the exception of local newspapers, most the stock was not water damaged. Items shelved near the entrance to the Reference Section suffered most but the whole collection is badly smoke affected. Reclamation work is currently underway.

Bibliography launch

A *Bibliography of Australian Judaica* was launched recently at the University of Sydney. It was compiled by Serge Liberman, an ethnic writer and winner of literary awards from Melbourne, and edited and indexed by Joy Ruth Young of the Cataloguing Department, Fisher Library.

The launch was performed by Associate Professor Alan Crown, Head of the Department of Semitic Studies. The bibliography is the second monograph of a series of studies in Judaica, a project of the Mandelbaum Trust and a contribution volume to the Australian Bicentenary by the Archive of Australian Judaica, located in Rare Books and Special Collections, Fisher Library.

The bibliography records the contribution of Australian Jewry to the literature and



Photo: Joy Young presenting a copy of the bibliography to Dr Neil Radford, University Librarian, Fisher Library.

scholarship of the Australian community. Contributions by Australian Jews in literature, the arts and sport are included. The educational, historical, political and social con-

cerns of the Jewish community as well as Australian Jewish participation in the two World Wars and the State of Israel are covered. Union lists of periodicals, community newsletters, annual reports and yearbooks form part of the work.

The Archive of Australian Judaica and collections of the University of Sydney Library were used extensively in the preparation of this scholarly and comprehensive work. The Archive began in 1983 with a grant of \$10,000 from the Australian Research Grants Scheme and the appointment of Marianne Dacy as librarian/archivist/research assistant.

The *Bibliography of Australian Judaica* is available from the Mandelbaum Trust, C/- Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney at the publication price of \$55.50 plus \$5 postage and handling.