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OUTLOOK

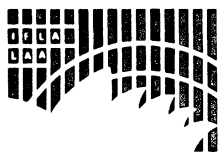
Outlook is *InCite's* new occasional column of international notes. As many library staff do not have access to a wide range of overseas librarianship journals, the aim of this column is to keep members informed of professional developments overseas.

- Free library service — the British Minister for the Arts, Richard Luce, has suggested that services provided by public libraries, other than basic services (which were not specified), should be charged for or put out to tender. The British Government has decided to introduce legislation which would allow Ministers to prescribe 'new or amended charging powers'. Implementation of this legislation would qualify and overrule parts of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. The Library Association is attempting to counteract the threat to free public library services.
- Copyright — the British Copyright Act was passed in 1956, before many modern technological developments were in common use. A new Copyright Bill had its second reading on 17 November 1987.
- In the US, the Special Libraries Association

has begun work on a research agenda which will respond to the information needs of special librarians. The committee which is drafting preliminary topics has identified eight ideas which will be published in the February issue of *Specialist*. Special Program Fund Grants have been made by the SLA to James Matarazzo, Simmons College, for further study on the value of the information professional, and to Robert V. Williams and Fred W. Roper, University of South Carolina, to study the management and services of special libraries in the US and Canada.

- The political situation in Fiji meant that National Library Week had to be cancelled for 1987. The Association was able to hold its Biennial Convention. The convention theme was 'The introduction of television in Fiji: its effect on education, literacy and libraries'.
- Reported in COMLA Newsletter — the Ministry of Education in Cyprus, in co-operation with interested groups, has drawn up a program for making school libraries accessible to the general public. This policy for establishing school-community libraries has begun as a pilot scheme involving several secondary schools. The government of Cyprus has provided funds for the appointment of eight professional librarians and for the acquisition of suitable new stock.

Jennifer Redding



**IFLA 88
I'll be there**

Marianne Scott



Why am I planning to come to Australia in August 1988? One quick answer might be to see a koala bear, visit the Great Barrier Reef, get away from the summer heat in Ottawa, or to renew a friendship with an Australian who spent a year or two in Canada back in the mid 50s.

However, the truth is that I am coming for the 54th Council and General Conference of IFLA in order to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee on Conservation, to enjoy the opportunity of renewing acquaintances, catch up on new developments and last but not least, to exchange views with colleagues at the meeting of the Conference of

Directors of National Libraries. But I am lucky because all of this activity will take place in lovely Sydney. Looking at the Conference program makes me realise how busy we will all be. There are many very interesting professional programs as well as a host of opportunities to learn about the cultural side of a great country.

Marianne Scott
National Librarian
National Library of Canada

Stephney Ferguson —

'If you were to dig a hole in Jamaica and tunnel through to the other side of the earth, you would come out in Australia'. This was told to me as a child and since then I have been fired with an interest to see the underside of Jamaica.

IFLA 88 will provide that opportunity which would otherwise be an impossibility. However not only will I be realising a childhood dream but there will be several bonuses. There will be the intellectual stimulation of yet another IFLA which for me provides an important continuing educational opportunity. There will be the chance to represent the interest of developing countries through involvement in the work of IFLA's sections and committees.

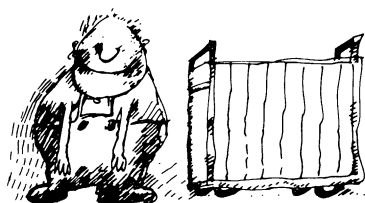
There will also be the opportunity to meet old friends far flung across the world, to make new friends as well, and finally I may be able to realise the hope of an 'Australian safari' dreamt of in the company of two Australian librarians on a post IFLA 1984 Kenyan safari — all things being equal I will be there!

Stephney Ferguson
Director
National Library of Jamaica

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