

New edition of Dewey

JANUARY this year saw the publication of the 20th edition—DDC 20—of the Dewey Decimal Classification system, used worldwide by 200,000 libraries. Among the changes in the new edition, the first in ten years, are expanded numbers for television, data processing and popular music. Revisions were also made in the geographic tables for British Columbia (Canada), Switzerland, and Japan, among others.

Peter J. Paulson, Executive Director of Forest Press (publisher of Dewey) said, 'The widespread changes in recorded knowledge during the last decade require a new edition. Computer science, civil rights, electronics, and substance abuse are among the hundreds of topics that needed change.'

'New features should make DDC 20 easier to use than previous editions', according to Paulson. For the first time Dewey includes a manual to guide the classifier.

Classification specialists at the Library of Congress, through a contract with the publisher, have worked for ten years on the new edition. John P. Comaromi, Editor of DDC 20, said he and the Assistant Editors keep up with publications through their work of

assigning Dewey numbers to more than 100,000 books received by the Library of Congress each year.

Before 1873, when Melvil Dewey created his innovative new decimal system of classification for the Amherst College Library, libraries had no easy method for arranging books by subject. Dewey developed a unique, logical system that uses numbers to group all knowledge by subject. By adding decimals the classifier can expand any subject indefinitely.

Three years after Dewey introduced his system, he published it in a 44-page book. Adoption by libraries spread rapidly and DDC is now the world's most widely used classification system. All types of libraries use Dewey: public libraries and libraries in schools, colleges, corporations, museums, government agencies, and many other organisations.

Dewey is used to classify articles, recordings, tapes, films, pictures, manuscripts, and pamphlets, as well as books. The system is widely used in computer catalogues. Translations and adaptations have been published in more than 30 languages, including French, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Hindu, and Arabic.

The new edition is in four volumes, printed on permanent paper, and contains 3,388 pages.



Call for Applications For the Anne Harrison Award

Background

The Anne Harrison Trust Fund has been established by the Australian Library and Information Association Medical Libraries Section as a tribute to the pioneering work of Anne Harrison in the development of medical librarianship in Australia. It is hoped that with the help of the Award others may be encouraged to make their own contribution in the field of medical, nursing and allied health librarianship.

Objectives

The Fund will provide:

- 1) financial assistance for the undertaking of selected research projects designed to:
 - (a) increase the understanding of health librarianship in Australia,
 - (b) explore the potential for further development of health librarianship in Australia;
- 2) financial assistance towards the enrichment of knowledge and skills of Australian health librarians which shall take the form of:
 - (a) assistance to ALIA members in meeting travel, accommodation or educational expenses in undertaking an approved course of study or study tour abroad, or,
 - (b) assistance to the Health Libraries Section with the mounting of continuing education courses, or,
 - (c) assistance with the publication of works in Australian health librarianship.

Conditions

1. Competition for the Award shall not be limited to members of ALIA or to librarians, provided the proposals meet the objectives of the Award.
2. In the first instance, the Award shall be made biennially, however, its frequency may be reviewed.
3. No current member of the Health Libraries Section National Executive or the Administrators shall be eligible to receive a personal award from the Fund.
4. Applications shall be made using a form prescribed by the Administrators.
5. The decisions of the Administrators after ratification by the National Executive are final and irrevocable.
6. The Award shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the Health Libraries Section in Auckland, New Zealand, November 1989.
7. The recipient(s) of the Award shall submit to the Administrators, within twelve months of receiving the Award, a copy of the completed research, or a progress report, or a report of study activities undertaken or in progress, and every twelve months thereafter until completion.
8. All applicants shall be notified of their success or otherwise as soon as the recommendation for the Award has been ratified by the National Executive.
9. Applications close at the end of June 1989. Application forms and further information are available by phoning (07) 253 6229 or writing to: C. Tillett, Chairperson, Anne Harrison Trust Fund Administrators, Librarian, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Bramston Terrace, Herston QLD 4006.

THE MOVE TO CANBERRA AND ALIA STAFF

All members will be aware that the ALIA has decided to establish a new Head Office in Canberra. This of course will have a major impact on the Head Office staff, the majority of whom are unable to relocate to Canberra because of personal, family or financial commitments.

The Executive is extremely conscious of the difficult position in which Head Office staff find themselves and has offered the following conditions to those members of staff who remain with the Association until the last day of business in Sydney:

- 2 weeks salary for each year of employment, to a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 48 weeks.

- Pro rata annual and long service leave entitlements

- Attendance at a workshop for the preparation of curriculum vitae, together with typing of same by the secretarial staff at the ALIA.

- Written reference by, and the offer for either the Executive Director or the

President to act as a referee at the employee's choice.

- Advice on possible avenues of employment

- Time to attend interviews for a position outside the LAA with the prior approval of the Executive Director.

At the same time however, the Executive is mindful that it is in the interests of Head Office staff to start looking for other positions as soon as possible and already several staff have left, or have announced their intention of doing so in the near future. Whilst this may create some inconvenience the transition from Sydney to Canberra will be made as smoothly as possible.

As those members who have had contact with Head Office know, ALIA staff have a wide variety of skills, talents and have established a vast network of library contacts which would be invaluable to employers in the library field. Staff have been guaranteed employment with the Association until December 1989 but would be interested in hearing from anyone in Sydney who may be able to offer them positions in either the short or long term.