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NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

## Multicultural library services



### Commonwealth assistance to multicultural library services: progress in 1989

The main development in multicultural library services during 1989 was the announcement by the Commonwealth Government in July 1989 of the National Agenda for Multicultural Australia.

There had been a wide range of library inputs to the National Agenda: ALIA made a submission in late 1988; the New Responsibilities conference in November 1988 provided combined museums-libraries-archives input; the conclusions of the Australian Libraries Summit were conveyed to the Com-

monwealth Government; and there were personal contacts with officers of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, including the Director, Peter Shergold.

The National Agenda included two initiatives relating to libraries. The first deals with the coordination of efforts by 'cultural heritage institutions, including libraries' to 'reflect the cultural diversity of the Australian heritage in their collections and practices'. A consultative committee is to meet early in December, and produce its conclusions by mid-1990. Libraries are represented by the chairman of the State Librarians'

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## Australia's statistical history on microfiche



1 Australian Statistician, Ian Castles, presents the National Library Director General, Warren Horton, with the 'Colonial Microfiche Series.'

A record of Australia in statistics — from the first European settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788 to Federation in 1901 — was presented to the National Library of Australia on 12 October 1989.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has microfiched and catalogued almost all of the known official statistical records produced by the six State and colonial agencies. These represent more than 250 000 pages on 3000 fiche. The project — which has taken 10 years to complete — will make this enormous body of statistical source material more readily accessible to scholars.

In presenting the 'Colonial Microfiche Series' to the Director-General of the National Library, Warren Horton,

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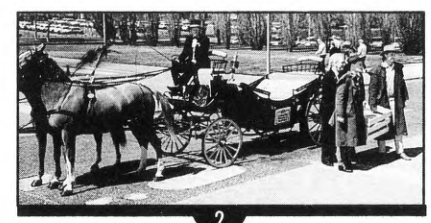
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Inside: ALIA Alert



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Australian statistician, Ian Castles, said the project was a valuable contribution to recording and preserving Australia's history and heritage.

The series will become available in major interstate, university and overseas libraries, providing access to large numbers of researchers and the public.

2 Australia's statistical history arrives at the National Library.



### The count is done!

Vice-President 1990 and President-Elect 1991 is John Levett. The members elected to the Board of Education by the membership at large are Jean Bailey, Fisher Library, University of Sydney, and Vicki Williamson, Curtin University of Technology, WA. The General Council's nominee to the Board is Joyce Kirk, Kuringgai CAE. Their terms of office begin 1 January.

3 John Levett