

Additional places at RMIT

InCite continues its series of articles promoting graduate-level courses for professional development. In this issue we present information on courses available at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and Monash University.

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Department of Information Services

The past year has seen a considerable expansion of RMIT's involvement in advanced programs in information and library studies. At RMIT's Department of Information Services, further study may be undertaken, either through course work or research-based higher degrees.

Master of Business (Information Technology)

In February 1989, the Department of Information Services introduced the Master of Business (Information Technology), an innovative interdisciplinary program that provides a new opportunity for post-basic study in the areas of information, technology and management. The program has two streams: an 'Information Management' stream for those who have a qualification, background and experience in information and library studies; and a Business Systems' stream for those with a qualification and experience equivalent to RMIT's Graduate Diploma in Applied

Information Systems.

The Information Management stream of the course provides an industry-oriented program aimed at those who have or want to develop a management role in library services, information centres and other major information resource areas. All students in the program undertake information specialist subjects, general management subjects and a minor thesis or project.

Most of the twenty-two students enrolled in the program in 1989 are in full-time employment and do not have time release from employers. The timetable accommodates these constraints, with most classes being offered in 'condensed mode'. For example, a subject might be presented over three weekends spread through a semester. Some classes may be arranged on Public Holidays. Where there is a regular weekday class, it is scheduled after 5.30 pm.

The emphasis in the program is on action learning', with students being encouraged to complete work-based projects. It is apparent already that one of the program's most positive outcomes is the learning that is stimulated by interaction with peers. There is a wide variety of experience and backgrounds among the current students. Staff have been encouraged by the cooperation and support that mid-career professionals have offered each other as they work on achieving their goals.

Most of the applicants are completing the program over 2 years of part-

time study, as they have advanced standing for the earlier stages through completion of a Graduate Diploma, a 4-year undergraduate degree, or a combination of qualifications. The program can also be completed on a full-time basis.

Because of the initial demand for the program, RMIT has allocated additional places for the 1990 intake.

Research-based higher degrees

RMIT has students enrolled for research-based Masters' degrees in Business and Social Science. These programs suit professionals who do not wish to undertake further course work and who have a major piece of research they would like to complete. The only required subject for a research-based higher degree is in the Research Methods area.

Enrolment in a doctoral degree is also now possible at RMIT, and the first doctoral students are expected to be enrolled early in 1990. In some cases this may involve joint supervision with other parts of RMIT, such as staff from the Departments of Computer Science or Social Science, depending on the research topic. The appointment of Professor Don Lamberton (Deputy Director of CIRCIT) as Visiting Fellow in the Department has also strengthened the Department's ability to supervise doctoral candidates.

Single-subject enrolment

For professionals who may not want to undertake a complete program at this

Continued 20 •••

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University and College Libraries Section

Reader education

The National Group has this year promoted a series of seminars that have served to review developments in reader education, and to analyse user response, evaluation and justification of programs.

Nancy Lane (Canberra College of Advanced Education) and John Frylinck (Curtin University of Technology) put together material that was presented — by one means or another, in spite of the airlines dispute — at State meetings. The New South Wales, South Australian and Western Australian Groups of UCLS and the Ballarat Province Regional Group conducted successful sessions involving considerable local contribution.

It is intended both to publish a number of papers presented at the seminars, and to follow up these seminars (and separate meetings conducted by the Victorian and Queensland Groups) with a session during the 1990 ALIA Conference on performance evaluation of reader education.

New editor

Australian academic and research libraries editor, John Horacek, will be concluding his term of office this year. The Section was pleased at the extent of interest shown in its search for someone to succeed him. The search committee eventually decided in favour of Dr Peter Biskup, who will be assisted by Margaret Henty from ANU. Peter will be pleased to receive contributions at the Centre for Library and Information Studies, Canberra College of Advanced Education, PO Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616.

Libraries on the right track

The Victorian Public Library Expo Association, Raeco, the Library Promotion Committee of Victoria, the State Library of Victoria, the Australian Library and Information Association and B.H. Walsh and Son have joined forces to produce a full colour library promotion poster.

The theme of the poster, based on the Library Tram concept, is 'Libraries on the right track'. It highlights the diverse roles of Victoria's libraries, the communities and clients served and services offered, as well as stressing the strong network and spirit of cooperation among Victorian libraries.

The poster is available from Judy Still at Carlton Library, telephone (03) 347 3205, for \$5 plus \$3 postage and handling for one or more copies. Orders must be accompanied by payment. Cheques should be made out to 'Library Poster'.

Orders should be sent to: 'Library Poster', c/o Carlton Library, Cnr Newry and Rathdowne Streets, Carlton or Camberwell City Libraries, Locked Bag 5, Camberwell, Vic. 3124.

ALIA 1990 Conference Committee

The Travelling Suitcase Show!

Preparation of the third circular, with registration details, has begun. The booklet should be available early in 1990. Vicky Wilson and Publicity Chair, Kerry Smith, joined many members of the ALIA Conference Committee on a trip to Bunbury, WA, in mid-August to help promote the Conference and encourage full participation from our country members. Conference badges, T-shirts, posters and circulars were available, and Vicky and Kerry soon became known as the Travelling Suitcase Show.

Negotiations are underway for sponsorship of a wide variety of Conference items. SWETS lost no time in offering a substantial contribution for which the 1990 Conference Committee, and you as delegates, are most grateful. Have we missed contacting a potential sponsor? Please let Don Pearce (at Promaco Conventions) or Steve O'Connor (Conference Committee Chair, telephone (09) 380 2341) know.

The Program Subcommittee has been delighted with the response to their Call for Papers and are working on a full, interesting and varied program.



At the ALIA 1990 Conference T-shirt launch, Bunbury, WA: Malcolm Trail, Kerry Smith and Kay Poustie.

Invitations to Plenary speakers are out. The Conference Committee's thanks go to Jane Klobas, who recently resigned as Chair of this subcommittee. Roslynn Membrey is the new chair.

I take up a new position as University Librarian at the University of Technology in Sydney in the New Year. Margaret Medcalf, previously Deputy Chair, has kindly accepted the position of Chair of the ALIA 1990 Conference Committee and Ros Membrey the position of Deputy Chair. We wish them all well.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

Steve O'Connor

Public Libraries Section

Children's and Youth Services Section

NSW Groups

Censorship the best publicity

On 20 October ALIA's Public Libraries and Children's and Youth Services Sections (NSW Groups) held a joint seminar — 'Censorship, the best publicity!' — at the NSW State Library with the Sydney Young Adult Librarians' Network. The seminar looked at censorship from various viewpoints — those of the author, the editor, the reader and the librarian.

Keynote speaker, Janine Schmidt from the NSW State Library, discussed 'What is censorship?', suggesting that the power behind the censor is the truth that the printed word has the power to change ideas, thoughts and opinions, and that censorship is resistance to that challenge.

Gillian Rubinstein, author of the 1989 Children's Book of the Year, *Beyond the labyrinth*, discussed where censorship traps exist for writers. She said that the first censor is the self, in that children's writers are usually conservative and that writers are people with their individual hangups.

The second censor is the editor. Not all editors are censors, as was Gillian's experience with *Beyond the labyrinth* — the book was accepted with no changes. But with *Space demons* the situation was different. In the original book, Elaine's father prayed for her safety, but the incident was removed because this Christian image was not acceptable in a book of the 1980s. The censor became even more obvious when *Space demons* was changed for the American market — the seasons were changed, Vegemite was removed, the children characters were to drink cocoa not tea, and parents