

were referred to as Mrs and Dr, not allowing children to use adults' first names.

The third censor is the public buying the books — that is, adults, not children. Gillian pointed out that the active censors want to present to children a bland diet of literature, not something reflecting reality, which is what the children want and need for growth.

The editor who spoke at the seminar was Barbara Ker Wilson, from Queensland University Press. The theme for her talk was 'Editor ever, censor never'.

The reader's point of view was represented by Hugh Crago and his daughter, Anna. Anna's reading history at an early age was observed and commented on by her parents — and they have published a book, *Preludes to literacy*, based on their findings with Anna's reading patterns. Hugh is a family therapist with a psychology background.

In the final session, librarians Elizabeth Lumby (Children's Youth Librarian, Ashfield Municipal Library), Kate Campion (Children's and Youth Librarian, Marrickville Municipal Library) and Val Noakes (Children's Librarian, Sutherland Shire Council Public Libraries) discussed their experiences with the censor and how they handled the situation. Some of the points they made

were:

- The support of the Chief Librarian is important.
- It is vital for public libraries to cover all facets of an issue.
- 'Complaints forms' would assist staff in handling complaints more efficiently.

Thanks are due to Val Noakes and Julie Barkman for the time and effort they put into the organisation, ensuring the day's success.

Margaret Redrup

VALA

communications

Report of 5th

Biennial

Conference

The Victorian Association for Library Automation (VALA) held its 5th Bien-

nial Conference at the Southern Cross Hotel in Melbourne, 13-15 November. The success of the Conference — attended by more than 400 people — was attested by a well known university librarian, who was heard to comment that the program had been so interesting that he had 'attended more sessions than he had at any conference in the past 10 years'.

Intersystems connection

Keynote speaker was Richard Luce, the Executive Director of the South East Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN) and formerly of the IRVING Network in Colorado, USA. In opening delegates eyes to the possibilities of intersystems connection, he related his experiences in linking library systems from different vendors, at both IRVING and SEFLIN, enabling users to search any system attached to the network using a common network language. Although the network provides for user-initiated interlibrary loan requests, this has caused considerable concern, and only one of the libraries permits users access to this facility.

Warwick Cathro reported on Australian deliberations on intersystems connection by outlining the activities of the Working Group on Library Systems

Attention ALL Librarians

CHECKPOINT (Aust) P/L would like to inform Librarians that Mr Warwick Debney has not represented our company since August 1st, 1989.

We have opened our new office which is situated in Melbourne at:

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