

# In the News

## Saving Heritage items

Isolated by distance, needing assistance with conservation and preservation, Eyre Peninsula's library and museum staff benefitted from some of the State Library's expertise when they gathered at Lock on 3-4 March for a Local History Management workshop.

The Public Libraries Branch is sponsoring workshops in country areas to help local librarians and museums with preservation of irreplaceable items of local history.

Officers from the Mortlock Library of South Australia, the Preservations Unit of the State Library, the History Trust of South Australia and the Public Libraries Branch shared their preservation and display expertise with local historians and librarians.

Local expertise came from Erna Franklin of Yaninee and Brenton Rehn of Port Lincoln, journalist from the *Stock Journal*. The National Trust of South Australia supported the workshop by sponsoring two members from each of its branches.

## NUC:H becomes NUC:D

The National Library has announced that, in order to reflect current terminology, the National Union Catalogue of Library Materials for the Handicapped, NUC:H, has been renamed the National Union Catalogue of Library Materials for People with Disabilities, NUC:D.

NUC:D currently lists some 60,000 audio and braille items. It will eventually list all alternative format library materials available in Australia and will shortly include captioned videos. NUC:D is available in microfiche format or can be accessed online through ABN.

## Oscar and Lucinda Talking Book of the Year

Peter Carey has won the 3M Talking Book of the Year Award for 1988, for his novel *Oscar and Lucinda*. The presentation was made at a function held in Sydney on 8 February, a highlight of the event being the discussion Carey had with the guests about his book, his life as a writer, and anything else that came to mind.

Actor Peter Whitford narrated the recorded version of *Oscar and Lucinda*. and was co-winner of the award with Peter Carey.

Other books shortlisted for the 1988 award were *Dancing on Coral* by Glenda Adams, *A House of Trees* by Joan Colebrook, *My Place* by Sally Morgan, *Yancannia Creek* by Mary Turner Shaw, and *Tibet* by Sorrel Wilby.

This year, for the first time, standard audio cassette versions of most of the books on the short list will be available to public libraries in New South Wales.



Peter Carey

## ACT Library Service to be computerised

The ACT Library Service is to install a computerised system to handle the cataloguing, circulation and reservation of its entire book stock. Stowe Computing Australia is to supply the library with an IBM AS/400 computer and 'BOOK Plus' software which has been researched and developed by Stowe totally within Australia.

The new system will benefit both book-borrowing public and staff. For staff, the benefits will include a dramatic reduction in the amount of time spent in tasks such as cataloguing books and a speedier system of handling the 1.6 million loans which the library service carries out each year. In turn this will mean that library staff have more time to devote to serving the public.

In addition, BOOK Plus allows library staff direct access to the Australian Bibliographic Network for the 'down line loading' of bibliographical records into the ACT's own system.

## ... and Monash University too

Monash University has purchased an integrated library computer system worth \$1.1 million from Unisys to improve the operation and efficiency of its library. The

system consists of a Unisys 2200/411 series computer running PALS application software.

Monash chose the Unisys computer and PALS software after examination of several library systems. 'We took a trip to the US to observe different systems running in the libraries,' said Neil Renison, systems librarian at Monash.

PALS provides an on-line public catalogue connected to Monet (the University's local area network), with access to 160 terminals and other devices. 'It is not only accessible to students and staff on campus,' said Mr Renison. 'Any lecturer with a terminal or PC in their home will be able to obtain library information.'

PALS will also be used by Monash for cataloguing, acquisitions, serials control and for financial and management information.

## Translib

An Australasia-wide group of transport librarians has banded together to form a co-operative body under the name Translib. Two meetings of the group have already been held in association with major library conferences in Brisbane and Sydney. Another meeting being planned will coincide with the Special and Law Librarians' Conference in Adelaide in August. Activities so far have included discussions about online databases relevant to transport and visits to transport libraries. A directory of the services available at each member library has been prepared. A new edition of this will be available shortly. The group is hoping to make contact with similar groups in North America and Europe. President and founder of the group is Bert Elson from Transport Tasmania (Phone 002 38 9292), while the Secretary is NRMA librarian Gaye Miller (02 260 8208).



### TRAVELLING TO THE UK ?

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