

It's here!

ALIA 1st Biennial Conference is ready to go

Conference planning is well in place and it looks like being an action packed week. The Committee has spent the last month fine tuning and fitting detail into the general structure. In dealing with such a large conference nothing is static and frequent adjustments need to be made. At the time of writing, registration numbers have reached a financially viable point for the event.

Do you remember how we asked you to fill in the program session you'd like to attend, and how you really didn't want to have to make such a decision so early? We

sessions. The afternoon sessions cater for the wide variety of Sections and Special Interest Groups.

The plenary speakers from differing fields are all lined up. Dr and Mrs James Billington will be in Perth for 5 days from the commencement of the conference, with a few days in Sydney prior to that. Dr Billington as the Librarian of Congress would have been welcomed in all States while he was here but regrettably will not have time. John Berry III with Mrs Berry and their small son will also be here for the whole conference, proceeding to Sydney

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conference and will be in the satchels on registration. There will be a number of other publications available for purchase at the Concert Hall. Notably a collection of articles about libraries and librarianship in Western Australia titled *Western Perspectives* which will be launched by Sir Ninian Stephen during the week.

Exhibition area activity

The car park at the Concert Hall will be transformed into an exhibition area in which 84 stands have been taken. There will be a good deal of activity in this area, with tea and coffee break facilities, book launches, a competition etc.

Monday, 1 October is a public holiday in Western Australia at the start of Royal Show Week. So there will be a lot of bustle around the town and many alternative attractions offering for accompanying persons, or those who want an hour or two off from the conference. Government House and its gardens adjacent to the Concert Hall will also be open to the public on Sunday and Monday of that week for anyone to take a quieter stroll.

Spring will be here and Perth is looking forward to giving all participants a memorable and enriching conference.

Margaret Medcalf
Chair

Conference Committee



Members of the ALIA 1990 Conference Committee relaxing after a heavy meeting at the Perth Concert Hall. Left to right: Lennie McCall, Chair Social Committee; Margaret Medcalf, Conference Chair; Kerry Smith, Chair Publicity; Ros Membrey, Chair Program; Andy Exon, Conference Secretary.

thank you for making the effort as this has helped considerably in deciding the venues for each session. The Perth Concert Hall, the central venue for the plenary sessions, opening and closing functions and exhibition, is looking spic and span with bright new carpeting, warm elegance and river outlook. The nearby hotels are also looking forward to welcoming the influx of visitors.

Plenary speakers

No overall theme has been set for the conference but the topic covered each morning by the plenary speaker will be taken up in the following concurrent

afterwards. He is the editor of the *Library Journal*, and is willing to meet with any groups while he is in Australia. Meg Cameron from Deakin University will be known to many of the registrants and will also be in Perth for the full conference.

Unfortunately Lauchlan Chipman from the University of Wollongong and Ian Lowe from Griffith University will each only be here for a couple of days. Both are addressing vital issues affecting information access and their contributions should prove stimulating.

The proceedings which will be published prior to the conference, have gone to press. They contain about 80 per cent of the 120 papers to be presented at the