

# FEED BACK

## Queensland school libraries' State Conference

Queensland teacher-librarians held their recent State Conference at Maroochydore High School, with the theme of Libraries and Literacy.

One of the highlights was a 'Hypothetical' on Censorship, delivered in true Geoffrey Robertson style. All participants excelled themselves and the format proved a very successful way to explore approaches and attitudes to censorship in writing for children.

Costs and distance were surmounted through the use of a teleconference which linked three illustrators of books for children, two translators and an audience of nearly 200.

Jungko Morimoto, the author/illustrator of such well-known picture books as *A piece of straw* and *My Hiroshima* was with us at Maroochydore, amazing us with her confident attempts at the idiosyncrasies of the English language.

On our teleconference lines we were fortunate to have Julie Vivas speaking from the hustle and bustle of Sydney and Robert Ingpen in the tropical paradise of Mission Beach, North Queensland.

Working with illustrators in a solely verbal medium provided an added challenge, and our remote 'artists' were often left in a difficult situation as the assembled throng at Maroochydore used gesture and body language to emphasise a point.

After the link-up finished, many of us were delighted and amazed at how much we could learn about an individual's techniques, ideas of illustration and visual interpretation through a purely verbal medium. Our illustrators came from quite different levels of background and styles of illustration — Julie with her superb artistic interpretation in picture books, Robert with a lifetime of illustration for every possible type of story and Jungko with her special ability to cross cultural boundaries and make Japanese experience and story vitally relevant to us.

These innovative approaches, combined with more traditional lectures and workshops, made the conferences a most worthwhile experience for all concerned.

Judy Hunter

## Inside DA: Books, Journals & CD-ROM innovations

ALIA Special Libraries Section, Victorian Group spent an entertaining and informative evening in DA's new Mitcham building on 18 July. Presentations by DA staff covered the past, present and future directions for DA, and gave an insight into DA's operations to serve the library market.

The DA people provided interesting detail about order procedures in the book and journal departments, and showed the automated systems. There was also a demonstration of CD-ROMs, including

*Business Periodicals Index*, *Science Citation Index*, *Essay Writing* (from the Footscray Institute) and *Food Analyst Plus*, and there was the assurance of help from DA in selecting and using CD-ROM hardware.

The evening was organised by Tim Burke, DA Library Services Manager, and the Section gave particular thanks to him and to all his DA colleagues who shared their time and knowledge so generously.

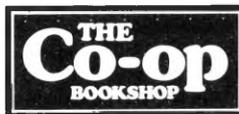
Allyson Anthonisz  
Special Libraries Section



DA Books opened their new building in Mitcham on 1 August. From left: John Dwight, Finance Director; Nick Krins, Managing Director; Barry Jones who cut the ribbon and David Ratcliff, Chairman.

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## IFLA and ALIA: research issues

The focus for research matters within IFLA is the Section on Library Theory and Research which is part of the Division of Education and Research. It includes members from all over the world. ALIA's nominee is Andy Exon from Curtin University of Technology. The Section facilitates exchange of information on theory and research in librarianship and is running a number of meetings at the Stockholm conference.

At Sydney 1988 and Paris 1989, International Meeting on Research into Information Studies (IMRIS) One and Two were held. Indeed, the organisers selected Sydney as the site for the inaugural meeting. These meetings were well supported by Australians, including both academics and practitioners. In Stockholm in August 1990, IMRIS will be held as part of the conference proper in association within the Section of Library Theory and Research.

### Research as core program?

In 1989 some discussions were held on the concept of establishing a new core programs on research to support existing IFLA programs and to increase the profile of research in general within IFLA. While this received some support at a reasonably high level within

IFLA, it is now considered over ambitious and inappropriate to attempt this at this time. However, there was, and remains, considerable support for this type of initiative, especially within Australian and British attendees.

ALIA General Council has agreed that IFLA is a relevant forum for Australian librarians to adopt a higher profile. Research activities could provide the necessary focus for ALIA's contribution. This issues paper explores a mechanism for achieving this.

### An ALIA structure for research

There are already a number of ALIA initiatives in the research field, e.g. publications and funds. It could be argued that research needs to have a more prominent focus in libraries' planning and administration. A linkage between educators and practitioners could be created through the establishment of an ALIA Section on Theory and Research.

Such a Section would require a willing group of ALIA members in at least three States to establish and initiate relevant activities. This Section would also be ALIA's formal linkage with IFLA's Section of Library Theory and Research.

The current President, Lynn Allen, is prepared to take this initiative on board as of January 1991. A group of Western Australian members would be happy to form an inaugural committee. The Library and Information Service of Western Australia will provide

some secretarial and institutional support.

### Potential terms of reference of the new Section

While it will be necessary to develop terms of reference for the Section, at this stage the main objectives are:

- to build a bridge between research and practice
- to increase the awareness of the importance of research
- to encourage research within formal institutional boundaries, e.g. higher degrees
- to investigate and lobby for funds to commission specific projects
- to encourage in-house research
- to improve the dissemination of research results
- to ensure the provision of education in research methods.

### Feedback

This short paper has been produced in the hope that it meets the needs of some members of ALIA who believe in the objectives outlined. We would like to hear from interested members on the issues raised here. Please address your comments to Lynn Allen, President, ALIA, c/- The Library and Information Service of Western Australia, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth, WA 6001.

Lynn Allen & Andy Exon



## Victorian Branch

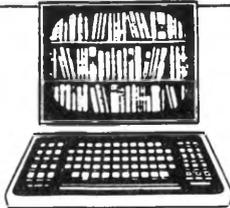
Victorian Branch Council was very pleased to have the President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr T Healy, of the New York Public Library speak to members on 25 July at Flemington Library. The NYPL system has four research libraries and 82 branches; the research libraries alone have over 33 million items and 88 miles of bookstacks. (Pages are employed to bring the items to the users.)

Dr Healy, previously President of Georgetown University and Vice-President of the City University of New York, is credited with raising over \$150 million in endowments during his tenure at Georgetown. The talk he gave described the unique way the NYPL is organised, funded, and how it spends its annual budget of \$127.6 million. He also spoke about problems and policies in the areas of user access, cooperative collection development, accommodation, etc.

Dr Healy's talk was both polished and vivid with his anecdotes about life in the 'Big Apple'; where the NYPL is the biggest distributor of AIDS and HIV related materials, and where its President encourages his teenage pages to read poetry!



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## The Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Australasia

The Association's Conference was held in Sydney, 3-6 July 1990. The group photograph includes most of the participants, and is believed to be the first such record published.



Back row (left to right): Ed Parr, H Coxon, Jon Breukel, Tim Brown, Margaret McGeehan, Robert Lawrie, Greg Tillotson, Ian Matheson, David Clune, Nick Bannenber. Middle row: Russell Cope, Terry Newman, Hillas MacLean Moyra McAllister, Heather MacPherson, Helga Alemson, Richard Baker. Front row: Ann Miller, Bruce Davidson, Hon. John Johnson MLC, Roslynn Membrey, & Sybil Sinclair.





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Papers on all aspects of subject librarianship are invited — if you are interested please contact the Seminar Convener.

Convener: Irene Duskatsch  
SACAE Library  
Hollbrooks Road  
UNDERDALE SA 5032

Tel: (08) 354 6219 — Fax: (08) 354 6699

## Pacific Information Centre 7th Advisory Committee Meeting

The Pacific Information Centre (PIC) is a regional information network based at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Library in Suva, Fiji. It was established in 1983 with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, Canada. Among other things, PIC prepares regional and special bibliographies, and initiates regional training in librarianship.

PIC has regional focal points in American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and at the South Pacific Commission in New Caledonia.

APIC Advisory Committee, consisting of PIC program staff and PIC focal points, meets annually at a different location among its participating countries. The meetings give the opportunity to share successes and exchange concerns which have arisen over the year.

The 7th Pacific Information Centre Advisory Committee Meeting was held in July 1990, at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji.

The meeting was chaired by Esther Williams, University Librarian and Acting Vice-Chancellor, USP, Fiji, who also presented the PIC Annual Report. Each of the eight focal points gave progress reports, and there were discussions on the training programs and on bibliographic work being carried out by the Information Centre.

Peter Scott (NZNL) reinforced discussions that had been initiated at the 1989 Advisory Committee Meeting in Tonga regarding the setting up of an exchange agreement between the New Zealand National Library and the USP Library, and assistance

## 9th National Cataloguing Conference Cataloguers Section Victorian Group

The organisation of the conference, although in its preliminary stages, is well under way. Place: Melbourne, Vic. Venue: To be announced. Date: November, 1991. Theme: 'Cataloguing for online access'. Suggested topics include access points both internal (subject, classification) and external (access to other systems, catalogues, services, networks), materials (the cataloguing of special materials, the relevance of AACR2 to online access to materials), staff (the effect upon cataloguing departments, their staffing requirements, staff-training, multi-skilling)

Interested in writing a paper, or know of someone who would? The Organising Committee would appreciate comments on these and other topics to contribute to the success of the conference. Please contact Stephen Gillespie, Secretary, Cataloguers' Section, Victorian Group, c/- RMIT Libraries, GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne, Vic 3001. telephone (03) 660 3108, fax (03) 663 3047.



with workshops for the region as well as exchange of personnel.

Some of the recommendations made at this meeting included:

- The continuation of the USP Certificate in Librarianship Program, aimed at library technician level.
- The revival of the Standing Conference of Pacific Libraries (SCOPAL).
- The consolidation of a policy for acquiring Pacific materials.
- Cooperation with libraries in New Zealand and Australia in respect of advanced training, access to specialised databases and exchange of personnel.
- The desirability to keep up-to-date with the status of publishing and information needs in the region.
- The need to further promote ISBN in the region.
- The need to seek continuation of funding for PIC, its activities and focal points, beyond the end of IDRC funding in 1991.

Also reviewed was the work of PIMRIS (Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System), AGRIS (International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology), CARIS (Current Agricultural Research Information System), SCAINIP (Standing Committee on Agricultural Information Networking in the Pacific) and ISBN (International Standard Book Number).

The next PIC Advisory Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in July 1991 in Apia, Western Samoa.

*Jayshree Mantora*  
Assistant Librarian, PIC, USP Library



## A study into the effective national distribution of talking books and tape and text kits

In July 1990, KPMG Peat Marwick was appointed consultants for an International Literacy Year project to investigate the effective national distribution of talking books and tape and text kits throughout Australia.

At present, producers in each state must obtain copyright clearances to record audio material for people with visual and other disabilities. In addition, a small number of tape and text kits are being produced by both 'not-for-profit' and commercial producers.

In recent years, it has become apparent that the resources produced primarily for those with a visual disability are also useful for people with a wider range of disabling conditions. People with specific reading difficulties, those with mild intellectual disabilities and those recovering from strokes are among the groups who may benefit from these resources. Literacy students also have long been users of tape and text material.

The Roundtable on Materials for Print-Handicapped Readers was successful with its submission to the ILY Secretariat and began in June to seek consultants to carry out the research.

The project is a study of possible improvements in the distribution practices, including marketing practices, of producers. These improvements may include a more equitable provision of this type of material to all consumers who may benefit.

One of the first steps will be to clearly delineate the potential target groups, a matter which has been widely discussed within the industry and addressed at recent conferences but into which there has been little Australian research.

Another issue to be investigated is the viability of commercial marketing of the resources produced by agencies serving people with visual disabilities.

The Roundtable expects the outcomes of this research to include documentation of the present (and future) needs in Australia for talking books and tape and text material, coverage of the current provision and recommendations for future directions for Australian producers and distributors.

The project is to be completed by October 1990.

*Jennifer Berryman*  
Special Needs Consultant  
State Library of New South Wales

## International Literacy Year Awards

Know anyone working hard for literacy?

There are many Australian who have been working in special ways to improve literacy levels in the community, before and during International Literacy Year.

You may know someone who has:

- worked quietly for years as a volunteer tutor
- been vocal in the right places to publicise the need for literacy programs
- developed innovative materials in literacy teaching
- done a lot of work to involve the local community.

The National Consultative Council for International Literacy Year will recognise these contributions with special medallions from the Royal Australian Mint.

Awards to individuals, groups or organisations will be made in the following categories: teaching and education, materials development, advocacy and publicity, research and policy, literacy in the workplace, community links, media involvement.

Nomination forms are available from the ILY Secretariat, telephone (06) 257 6933, fax (06) 276 7734. Entries close 31 October 1990.

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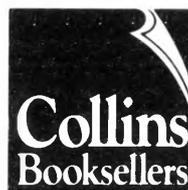
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