

# N IN THE NEWS

## AUSPORT: the Australian database of sporting information launched

Earlier in the year the National Sport Information Centre of the Australian Sports Commission convened a 2-day seminar entitled Sport Information Into the 90s. The purpose of the seminar which included workshop sessions on sport and recreation information and demonstrations of on-line systems for sport, was to bring together librarians, producers and consumers of sporting information to discuss current and future developments in sport information.

The seminar was attended by 45 delegates representing government and non-government sports agencies, libraries and national sporting organisations who heard speakers deliver papers on topics related to sport informations. Among the speakers was Gilles Chiasson, the Director of the Canadian Sport Information Resource Centre and the current President of the International Association for Sport



*Nerida Clark, Ros Kelly*

Information, who spoke of international developments in sport information.

At the seminar Ros Kelly the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories launched the AUSPORT database which is an on-line database of Australian sporting information published since 1988 and accessible through the National Library of Australia's Ozline Network. The database is a subset of data submitted to the international database SPORT by the National Sport Information and contains information indexed from journal articles, books, book analytics (chapters), conference proceedings, government reports, theses and audiovisual material on Australian sport. The database should

be of particular interest to school and public libraries as the National Sport Information Centre acts as a document supply centre for all material indexed in the database.

The AUSPORT database is also available on the recently released AUSTROM which provides another access point for Australian sporting information.

For copies of the Proceedings of the seminar Sport Information Into the 90s and more information regarding the AUSPORT database please contact the National Sport Information Centre Australian Sports Commission, PC Box 176, Belconnen, ACT 2616, telephone (06) 252 1369.

## Indonesian acquisitions

While attending the 8th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians held in Jakarta in July this year, Ruth Quinn and Alex Byrne purchased a large number of books to enhance the library's holdings in Indonesian.

The acquisitions cover a wide field — dictionaries (including Javanese-Indonesian, Dutch-Indonesian and Sundanese-Indonesian), atlases, encyclopedias, grammars, novels and poetry (Rendra, Mochtar Lubis, Nh Dini and many more), a study of transmigration, an Indonesian who's who, and a compendium of articles from the Indonesian press entitled 'Australia in the eyes of Indonesia'.

Nearly 300 books were bought on this occasion. Most of them will be held in the Myilly Point campus Library where they will complement the activities of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, and the recently established teaching of Indonesian language and literature in the Faculty of Arts.

## News from the job market for librarians — need for more temps

In the last few months there has been a definite fall in the number of permanent vacancies for library staff. Yet while this segment of the employment market has slowed another area is growing — and that area is temporary work. The number of temps working for Library Locums has increased by 50 per cent in the last 6 months, and they are still looking for more.

Temporary staff were once considered only for emergency work but this situation has changed dramatically. Now temporary staff are being used as part of their overall manpower strategy by many organisations in both the public and private sectors.

'Temping' is a legitimate alternative career for many librarians. It provides a valuable work record and you can build up a portfolio of skills. Library Locums' data on skills in demand show that people with cataloguing prowess have a particularly good choice of assignments. Challenging opportunities

also exist for people with experience of automated systems and on-line searching. And because you are often coming in to help solve a problem, you are greatly valued.

There are many reasons why people like temporary work. They enjoy the flexibility to work when and where they like. This is important for people with families. Others don't want to be tied to one job or they want to be free to do other things such as travel.

Temping suits people who are outgoing, who like variety and who are adaptable. It helps if you have a sense of adventure too — one fearless temp. was flown to Port Moresby to complete a project for a client of Library Locums. It can be a fascinating way to learn about new areas within the library profession. Marion Nicolson of Library Locums believes that 'Anyone who enjoys variety and wants to develop their professional skills should try temporary library work.'

## Information careers and courses — RMIT

Have you ever tried to explain the job of a Youth Services Librarian, Database Producer, Records Manager, Research Analyst or Business Librarian to high school students? Graeme Johanson and Marianne Broadbent of RMIT's Department of Information Services have. They know that it is often difficult to convey the fascination, satisfaction and enjoyment that is part of professional library and information work.

In an effort to alert students to the wide range of interesting careers in the information field, Johanson and Broadbent have published a book with the title *Information careers*. This book focuses on the real careers of information specialists who speak about what is different about their work and what they enjoy about it. Copies of *Information*

*careers* are available from the RMIT Bookshop, 330 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000 (\$10 per copy; Postage \$1.50 Victoria; \$2.50 other states).

In February 1991, RMIT expects to introduce its revised undergraduate program, the Bachelor of Business (Information and Library Management). This degree combines studies in library and information management, information technology, a cluster of business subjects and a minor specialisation. The minor specialisations available include marketing, politics, business systems, computer science, history, psychology and economics among others.

The new degree comprises 3 academic years of study, with a 'sandwich' or 'cooperative education' year of

employment between the 2nd and 3rd academic year. Students who already have substantial relevant work experience, will not be required to complete the 'cooperative education' year. An Honours year will be available for high achieving students. The Honours year will provide advanced entry into the Master of Business (Information Technology) program as with the present 4 year program.

Library Technicians will continue to receive credit for their previous studies by exemption from at least the 1st year of the specialist subjects and should be able to complete the course in 4 or 5 years of part-time study.

For enquiries concerning the new program or to arrange and interview with staff, contact Patricia Owen (03) 660 2313/3057.

## National Advisory Committee on Library Services for People with Disabilities

### Statement on censorship

In the past, it has been a widely held view in society that people with disabilities should be protected from anything that could be disturbing or offensive. This view has also emerged in relation to reading materials, and occasionally still does although the prevailing attitude now is that such protection of people with disabilities is not only patronising but also discriminatory.

The National Advisory Committee on Library Services for People with Disabilities believes that an Australian with a disability has rights to information and reading material equal to those of a person without a recognised disability, regardless of what the material is and the purpose for which it is used. The Committee recommends that no Australian publisher, producer or library,

should exercise censorship in the selection of material for production or loan to people with disabilities by rejecting material which is relevant to and freely available for other citizens. Material should not be rejected on the grounds that its content or language is controversial or likely to offend or disturb some readers, whether those have a disability or not.

The Committee also recommends that publishers of and libraries holding materials in alternative formats should not discriminate against people with disabilities by making particular materials or information less readily available to readers on grounds of disability, age, lifestyle, ethnic origin or sex.

By making these recommendations, the Committee fully supports the Australian Library and Information Association statement on Freedom to Read (1979).

## Co-op Bookshop establishes library service division

The Co-op Bookshop is pleased to announce that it has engaged Pat Gleeson, formerly of Prentice Hall and Bennett's, to establish and operate its Library Service Division.

The Co-op Bookshop already does a substantial amount of business with libraries but wants to take a higher profile in the market place and utilise its already extensive book procurement resources to serve the library market.

The Co-op Bookshop, as a 100 per cent Australian-owned cooperative, would like to see Australian library dollars spent in Australia. Pat Gleeson will be contacting suppliers to work jointly with them to keep Australian dollars in Australia without sacrificing the benefits that Australian librarians might be getting overseas.

## Book exhibitions

The British Council aims to bring three new book exhibitions to Australia each year.

The exhibitions contain 200-250 recently-published British books and journals selected by an expert in each category.

The exhibitions are available to libraries, bookshops, and other interested venues throughout Australia. Each showing lasts from 2 to 4 weeks. There is no charge for the exhibitions and freight charges are paid by the British Council. Exhibition catalogues and posters are also supplied free of charge.

Exhibitions currently touring are:

- 'The Art of Craft'
- 'Biography'

- 'Graham Greene and his Contemporaries'

Two new exhibitions will be arriving in Australia early in 1991. Both are being designed specifically for Australia and should be ready to start touring in February or March 1991:

- 'Nursing Studies/Gerontology'
- 'Distance Learning'. This exhibition will include audio, audiovisual cassettes and software as well as books and printed material.

Bookings are now open for both exhibitions and if you would like to be included in the touring schedule please contact Elizabeth Ramsay, The British Council, PO Box 88, Edgecliff, NSW 2027 (02) 326 2022, fax (02) 327 4868.

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## New titles in novel library book launch

To mark the publication of the large-print editions of two novels by a well-known Australian writer, the managing director of Australian Large Print Pty Ltd (Phil Walshe) recently took part in a novel local event.

When the librarian of the Lakes Entrance Branch of the East Gippsland Regional Library Service (Margaret Morris) discovered that the author of the two spy novels *Spy or die* and *The spy trap* (Burton Graham) lived at nearby Lake Bunga adjacent to the 90-mile beach, she came up with the idea of a wine and cheese book launch.

When the author passed this information on to the publisher, Phil Walshe donated 48 copies of a special soft-cover edition of each of the books, to be autographed by the author and sold at the reception in aid of the local library. He and his wife motored down to Lakes Entrance to attend the reception as special guests.

Tambo Shire took over the event and underwrote all expenses, including the design, printing and mailing of the invitations to the considerable guest-list.

The event was widely publicised in local and regional press and on radio and



(From left to right) Margaret Morris, Burton Graham, and Phil Walsh

television throughout the Latrobe Valley and East Gippsland. A bonus was the promotion the event gave to library services and the need for extra funding, the pleasure they bring to the community and the special pleasure provided by large-print books to the Gippsland Riviera's

ageing population.

An extra bonus for Australian Large Print was the fact that Burton Graham's wife, Erika Maharg, is also a novelist. Her Bantam novel *The plasticine man* is currently being published by Australian Large Print Pty Ltd.

## Salisbury Public Library survey

Scansearch has secured a consultancy project to evaluate the Reference services offered by the City of Salisbury Public Library. It involves surveying the community's needs, including the business sector, evaluating current reference material and suggesting additional or new material. Networking with other libraries is also considered an important aspect. Scansearch was selected from three other tenderers on the basis of its previous consultancy experience and multi-disciplinary approach.

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## Spent convictions legislation

Regulations under the Crimes Act have now come into force which give effect to the Federal Government's spent convictions scheme. This deals with the rights of individuals in relation to the disclosure of wrong, quashed or spent convictions.

Basically an individual is not required to disclose a conviction or the related charge if the conviction has been the subject of a pardon, has been quashed or is (according to a statutory formula) 'spent'. In relation to spent convictions, the basic limitation is that only convictions for offences where the sentence is 30 months imprisonment or less can become spent. More serious convictions are not affected by the new law.

Approaches were made to the Privacy Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to clarify the position regarding libraries who may be exposed to liability if they made available old newspapers or journals which make reference to a living person's old convictions. The regulations state that any person or body that knows or could reasonably be expected to know of a spent conviction is obliged:

- not to disclose that information

- without the individual's consent, or
- not to take account of that information in circumstances where it is lawful for the individual not to disclose the information.

The Commissioner has replied that he believes the provision 'anyone else who knows, or could reasonably be expected to know' means that libraries and librarians would, in the normal course of their duties, not be affected by the new law. Nevertheless, he has agreed to an exclusion, to remove any possible doubt, for 'libraries in making available materials for research, reference or study'.

This exclusion has been published as Item 12 in Schedule 4 in *Crime regulations*, under the *Statutory Rules 1990 No. 227*, dated 5 July 1990 and notified in the *Commonwealth of Australia gazette*, 12 July 1990. It covers 'public libraries, university libraries, public archives offences (sic — meaning 'offices') and the Australian War Memorial.'

Achievement of this recognition for the normal work conducted in libraries has been the result of representations to the Privacy Commissioner from various bodies, including ACLIS, ALIA and the National Library of Australia.

## Staff development seminar

This seminar, organised by SACAE Library on 19 and 20 July, attracted 50 participants from all over Australia.

Dr Barry Elsey, the facilitator, from the Centre of Human Resource Studies at SACAE Underdale, introduced a theoretical model of staff development which was illustrated by case studies from speakers from around Australia. Topics covered included policy and planning, needs identification and evaluation of staff development.

Evaluation sheets later completed by the participants have shown strong support for further national or state conferences. The seminar achieved its aims, which were to establish a national identity for library staff involved in staff development and to begin to organise a national network. It was proposed that each State should establish a Special Interest Group for staff development and draw up a policy statement, which will contribute to a national statement for ALIA. A national directory of library staff development personnel and a national directory of staff development packages for induction, training etc. will also be prepared.

Letters requesting information and input have been sent to major libraries.

Anyone not receiving the request who would like to contribute or who would like more information, should contact Jane Hiscock (SACAE), telephone (08) 354 6357, fax (08) 354 6699, or Peter Haddad (NLA), Isabella Trahn (UNSW), Joanne Rutherford (U of Q), Pam Longley (LaTrobe Uni), or Patricia Cawley (Murdoch Uni).

## Publication announcement

The Borchardt Library, LaTrobe University, has recently issued a brief *Supplement to the checklist of Royal Commissions, Select Committees of Parliament and Boards of Inquiry, 1856-1980* (LaTrobe University, Library Publications no. 37). This *Supplement* of 30 pages contains a small number of reports from inquiries that have escaped the net of the compilers during the long period—over 30 years—of sleuthing in parliamentary papers and archives, and of picking up loose ends of strings.

The *Supplement* is so organised that those who wish to may insert Xerox copies of the 'new' reports into the base volumes to which they belong. The numbering system has been arranged to facilitate this. Alternatively, users may add the suggested additional entries to the appropriate indexes with some symbol that the reference refers to this *Supplement*. Only twenty reports are involved and

libraries should have no difficulties updating the base volumes. One copy of the *Supplement* is supplied free of charge to every state, university and parliamentary library, quite apart from the legal deposit copies which have also been distributed. Copies will also be sent automatically to libraries which have been identified, via ABN, as holding the *Checklists*. These will be sent out during October.

Other institutions wishing to obtain a copy of the *Supplement* should write to the Secretary, Publications Committee, Borchardt Library, LaTrobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083.

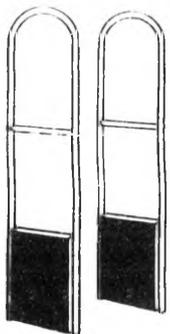
## Libraries and people with disabilities

On 7 September the State Advisory Committee on Library Services to People with Disabilities (TAS) announced a major enquiry into the library needs of people with disabilities and special needs.

Twila Herr, a senior lecturer of the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of Tasmania has been contracted to undertake the enquiry. The project, which is expected to take 12-18 months to complete and which will involve all libraries and library services across the State, is being funded by the Sir John Morris Memorial Trust Fund.

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