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work to the ALIA President on 11 September. The idea came from Ursula Mulder, a member of the Conference Social and Hospitality Committee and she organised its creation. Alfred and Isobel Pritchard, master bookbinders, were responsible for the craftsmanship.

A technical description of the book is Verges Arches mould made paper, top edge gilt before sewing, sewn on four tapes, hand sewn headbands,

leather lining in split boards, reversible adhesive used throughout, covered in maroon goatskin with various leathers used in the book inlays and flower onlays, blind and gold tooling.

The decoration on the cover symbolises the eight Australian States and Territories, each of which is represented by its official colour, and onlaid onto this are the respective State's floral emblems.

It is to be hoped that future conferences will value this book and keep the record going. ■

WHO'S WHERE

Staff addition at Baker and Taylor's Australian office

Patricia Baigent BA Dip.Lib AALIA, has been appointed as Library Consultant at Baker & Taylor's Australian office.

Patricia previously worked as Marketing Representative for Bennett-Ebsco Subscription Services. She also has extensive experience in working in libraries.

In her new position Patricia will be the main B & T contact for Australian librarians.

During November Patricia will be attending sales meetings in the United States before taking up her new job in Australia in early December.

Joe Mauch, remains as B & T's regional sales and marketing manager. He has responsibilities for the overall operation of B & T's Sydney office as well as the company's Tokyo office. ■



Left to right: Margaret Medcalf, ALIA 1990 Chair; Dr Douglas Jecks, Director, WA College of Advanced Education; Dr Lynn Allen, ALIA President; Ursula Mulder, member ALIA 1990 Social and Hospitality Committee.

Library statistics *Number crunchers look to the future*

On Saturday, 29 September a pre-conference 'think tank', chaired by Warren Horton, was held on the issue of statistics for libraries and the information industry. Some 60 senior members of nearly all sectors of Australian libraries explored the issues raised in the discussion papers.

The meeting examined the range of data-gathering, and the uses to which such data could be put in the evaluation of information services. Overseas experiences were reported by Don King and José-Marie Griffiths of the

American consultancy King Research Inc. Australian perspectives were given by Carmel Maguire (UNSW) and Chris Whitaker (Director, Corporate Development, WA Department of Education).

A series of papers reported progress in data-gathering by different groups, work on performance measurement, and ideas about performance measurement.

The debate in the afternoon recognised that there were several issues involved in statistical data-gathering.

Among the most important of these is their relationship with performance measurement. In this regard, it was felt important to move from simple input/output measurement towards measures of benefit and impact. There was also a clear consensus that standardised data be collected to permit comparison between libraries and across sectors.

A summary of the debate will be circulated to interested parties, including ALIA and ACLIS, and a full set of papers will be published soon. ■

Survey

I would like to thank everyone who sent in a response to the Professional Development survey. The results of the survey will be published in this column in a future issue of *inCite*.

Industry Training Agents

There have been a number of people seeking clarification about the role of Industry Training Agents (ITAs). As a deal of confusion exists, I will list the functions of ITAs as stated in the draft

P•D•Q

Professional Development Questions

guidelines. The guidelines will accompany the training guarantee legislation.

The rules are:

- ITAs issue/refuse certificates to employers for:
 - (i) activities constituting an eligible

training program, and

(ii) expenditures constituting eligible training expenditures.

- ITAs also 'play an important role in bringing about a change in industry's attitude to training and thereby improve the quality of training'.

- ITAs 'will have a role in coordinating training in their industry sectors by collecting information on good quality training and distributing it within their sectors'.

Carol Kenchington ■