

Colin Steele in Taiwan

Colin recently returned from a short visit to Taiwan to attend an international conference on New Frontiers in Library and Information Services, at which invited representatives from 18 countries were present. Colin reports that the Republic of China now has over 3400 libraries, and that the National Central Library and the new library building of the National Taiwan University were particularly impressive. Library developments in Taiwan rank among the best in the Asia Pacific region, and with Hong Kong are far ahead of those in mainland China.

At the conference, the Chairman of the British Library Board commented that the

Library is acutely feeling the economic pinch and faces 'losing its place as one of the leading providers of information in the world, and could put its whole role as curator of the Nation's wisdom at risk.' Contrast this, and similar gloom from Denmark and Nigeria, with Brazil's 'Library 2000' project, which calls for a thousand new libraries in Brazil by the year 2000.

Technical papers included one by Wilf Lancaster on low retrieval rates from a large online catalogue, challenging the view that technology aids information access. Henriette Avram found Lancaster's conclusion disappointing, but indicated that there are

problems in assigning LC subject headings to build a consistent catalogue.

These notes are taken from a report that Colin has prepared for *Information Management Report* in the UK. He commends the conference proceedings to us when they appear later in the year.



Colin Steele accepts an award for 'outstanding contributions to international understanding and cooperation' from the Director of the National Central Library, Professor Yang Chung-sen.

Who's Where

Trevis Lawton, BAppSci (Hons) AALIA, at the grand old age of 22 has been appointed City Librarian of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Regional Librarian for the Goldfields Region, which has 13 libraries in the region.

Trevis worked at Whitford Public Library in the City of Wanneroo for 1 1/2 years as children's specialist after graduating from Curtin University of Technology.

Christine Jones, BA (Ind Rels), Grad Dip Info & Lib Stud, has been appointed Librarian at the Orbital Engine Company in Perth.

(Christine Jones recently wrote to *inCite* about the problems facing unemployed newly-qualified librarians. Congratulations Christine, and good wishes for the future. Ed.)

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