

Norma Nellie Sawicki, OAM

inCite is proud to recognise Mrs Norma Nellie Sawicki, OAM, honoured for service, through library services, to those with visual and hearing impairments.

Norma was a member of the Steering Committee, then Coordinator for the ACT Library Services' spoken word cassette and Braille libraries 1977-79. Since 1978 she has been Coordinator, ACT Library Disability Services. She has been an Executive Member of the Canberra Blind Society since 1979, and on the Executive Committee of the Hear-A-Book Service since 1978. She is a member of the National Round Table on Materials for the Print Handicapped.



Photo: David Foote, the Canberra Times

An Australian in Newfoundland, or, APLA 91

John Pinson writes that as part of his exchange with Ruth Miller at Mount Allison University Library, he took an opportunity to enjoy the 1991 meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association at the Sir Wilfred Grenfell University College.

One hundred and fifty-six delegates and exhibitors (covering New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland — the Atlantic Provinces) assembled on Friday to begin 2 days of papers, meetings and participation. The range of papers covered both the theoretical ('National and Regional Resource Sharing') and the practical ('Hidden Treasures in Statistics Canada'). The keynote speaker was Jean Little, a Canadian writer for children. Her address dealt with libraries as bridge builders for children's literacy. Part of her address was in verse:

'Don't wait for them to come running back

To share what affords them pleasure;

The dictionary, the almanac,

Tales of robot or steeplejack...'

The modest trade exhibit had a strong display of Canadiana, as well as (the now inevitable) terminals for various programs and products. The 'nutrition breaks' were

sponsored by the exhibitors.

John's paper 'Crossing the Divide' discussed the idea and mechanics of an exchange of positions — and he assured them that it does not snow in most of Australia! Participants were interested in the potential of exchanges as an option for professional development, and John believes that more people will be taking advantage of position exchanges.

On Friday evening Patrick Galvin read some of his entertaining poetry, and the 'Artists Book Exhibition' was opened. Some participants continued in the party spirit elsewhere!

Other well-attended papers struck a strong technological note, including 'Turn your online catalogue into a one-way information shopping centre' (how to provide Intoner access to other library catalogues through an opac) and 'Hypercard and an Apple in the Library', a demonstration of a pilot Macintosh Hypercard guide to the Mount Allison University Library.

John commented that the scenery and the hospitality made this a memorable conference, and hopes that perhaps his next exchange may be to the Memorial University of Newfoundland at St John's...

John Pinson

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