Feedback

School Libraries Section

WA Group

West Australian Young Readers' Book Award

This year more than 330 schools and public libraries took part in the annual West Australian Young Readers' Book Award. Young people handed in more than 33 000 votes and the results for 1991 are

- Highest-ranking book for the Primary section, years 4-7:
  Selby Screams by Duncan Ball (Australia).
- Highest-ranking book for the Secondary section, years 8-10: *Mossflower* by Brian Jacques (UK).
- Hoffman Award for the highest-ranking Australian author in the Primary section:
  Paw Thing by Paul Jennings.
- Hoffman Award for the highest-ranking Australian author in the Secondary section:
  Lockie Leonard, Human Torpedo by Tim Winton.
  (Lockie Leonard was also chosen for the Premier's Award for children's literature this year.)

This award has been running for 11 years. It was the first in Australia where the choice of the winner is made by the young people themselves. They submit titles of English language novels published anywhere in the world during the last 5 years. From these suggestions a list of 30 titles is published for each section, primary and secondary. The children vote by September of each year, and after counting their votes the highest ranking authors and their titles are announced at the annual presentation ceremony.

School Libraries Section

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ALIA 1990: The teacher-librarian's perspective

This publication is a clever piece of re-packaging. It brings together those papers from the ALIA 1990 Conference most likely to interest schools and teacher-librarians.

The range is wide. It includes technology — databases, CD-ROMs — and a peep at the future, with educational theory as to the means of preparing students for the ongoing and accelerating change and purposes of technology — and how current applications can be used by students. There is a sparkling piece on the publisher's view of fiction for the young and a cautionary and most informative tale about the kind of person who might attempt to burn a library to the ground. An insight is given into how an English teacher might bring senior students to literature by making them part of the creative process. The advantages and complications of the Teacher Exchange are described and a searching examination of Reader Education with students of Asian background is presented. The question of awarded or earned status for those who work in libraries with children is examined. To finish with a flourish there is a marvellous piece by Glen Pullen on the importance of not being too earnest about anything, in the interests of the health of the organisation and of the staff who manage it.

Thoroughly recommended, this book is available from ALIA WA Branch, Technology Park, 2 Brodie Hall Drive, Bentley, WA 6102, telephone (09) 451 0831, fax (09) 361 4077. Price $15 for ALIA members, $20 non-members (inc. p&p).

Changes to *Vital Link*

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TAFE Section National and South Australia
The secretary for both Groups has changed address and telephone and fax numbers.
Entry should now read:
Secretary: Ms Jennifer Natt, c/- Marleston College of TAFE, 254 Richmond Road, Marleston, SA 5033. Ph: (08) 416 6422; fax: (08) 352 1420.

State Library of the Northern Territory

Move to new Parliament House announced

In July this year the Northern Territory Government announced its decision to relocate the State Library of the Northern Territory from its present shopfront premises in Cavenagh Street to the new Parliament House in the State Square precinct. The move had been foreshadowed some months earlier by the cost-cutting Estimates Review Committee.

State Square will eventually contain the new Parliament and Supreme Court buildings, as well as Government House and the Administrator's Office. It is due for completion in May 1993. It will be a prestigious location for the library. Parliament House itself will be a showcase of the best in design and construction for the Territory. However, although it is located in the central business district, State Square is some distance from the busy city centre where the library is currently situated. Staff recognise that they may have to increase their promotion effort to keep their clientele.

The announcement of the move coincided with the start of construction on the building, necessitating an urgent series of planning meetings between senior library staff and project engineers and architects. The area into which the library is moving is slightly larger than it presently occupies but it will also house the Parliament Library collection, so space considerations were a priority. David J Jones, Library Building Consultant with the State Library of New South Wales, was engaged by Northern Territory Library Service to provide advice during the planning process.

The resulting plans provide for a small, compact library spread over two floors and two mezzanines. Access will be via the Great Hall and an Historic Lobby. Entering the library, you will have an immediate impression of spaciousness, an effect created by a 9.5 metre high atrium, and enhanced by the maximum use of natural lighting. In addition, the library's aspect affords striking views of Darwin Harbour and surrounds.

One of the benefits of the move will be a closer association between the library and Territory politicians and their staff. It is hoped that this new relationship will result in greater recognition of the service provided to Territorians by the State Library and its parent body, the Northern Territory Library Service.

Robyn Braithwaite
Acting Senior Librarian

Smarter data up-to-date

Smarter Data Stronger Firm. A guide to science technology and other information services available to Australian industry. National Information Technology Council Inc (NITC), 1991. 77 pp. ISBN 0-646-02872-3.

This useful little book updates one with the same title produced in 1983. The revision has been commissioned by the National Industry Extension Service (NIES) of the Department of Industry Technology and Commerce (DITAC).

The book has six sections covering the role of information technology in business, dealing with computers, information from libraries and librarians, information brokers/consultants, services of professional associations, directories and information from government. This last section includes DITAC and NIES themselves, together with CSIRO, Austrade, Patents and so on. In many cases it points to another resource: for 'brokers' see the IMCA Directory (from ALIA), for 'databases' see the ADDA Directory, and so on. In all cases it gives a clear

indication of what the selected resource contains and what it can be used for.

Appendixes give addresses of selected special libraries, of universities and of members of ATICCA (Australian Tertiary Institutions Consulting Association — a big overlap between these last two appendixes).
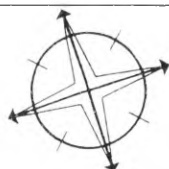
At $12.50 plus $5 p/p it is an absolute steal — and well worth while. From NITC at Fernhill Technology Park, Bruce, ACT 2617.

Peter Judge

CD-ROM network at Morley Senior High School

In an Australian first, Western Australian Morley Senior High School recently launched a successful CD-ROM network that will allow several users simultaneous access to the same CD-ROM disc. Perth-based company, Inter Optics, successfully networked 13 workstations to a Pioneer six-disc CD-ROM drive to run Comptons Multimedia Encyclopaedia and the Complete Maths Workshop.

The network solves a timetabling problem common to those schools that use CD-ROM drives as a single-terminal,

single-user application. When only one person can use the CD-ROM drive at a time, the demand is high and many schools have to book several days in advance.

The network enables course work to be geared so all the terminals can access the one CD-ROM drive, and the same area of information, at the same time.

The Comptons Multimedia Encyclopaedia incorporates text with graphics and sound, and contains the equivalent of 200 000 typewritten pages.

Bruce Wedderburn

Who's Where

Judith Campbell, BA, DipLib, AALIA has been appointed to the position of Associate Librarian (Branch Libraries), University of Sydney.

Judith is presently Associate Librarian (Resources Management) at the University of New South Wales. She will take up her appointment on 3 February 1992.