

(03) 628 2460 or Maxine Cuskelly (03) 342 0230.

- **21 March. Health Libraries Section. Multimedia CD-ROM Products.** Presenters: Neil Shaw and Graeme Standfield, Technology Based Training Group, Footscray Institute Technology Campus, Victoria University of Technology. Library, Footscray Institute of Technology, Ballarat Road, Footscray. 5.30 for 6 pm. Contact: Anne McLean (03) 450 5636, fax (03) 459 0206.
- **25 March.** FLIS Training Pty Ltd. 'Achieving service excellence through staff training and motivation' — a workshop for library managers. Mear Market Craft Centre, Melbourne. 9 am-5 pm. \$160. Contact: Jennifer Evans (03) 813 1925.
- **27 March.** Library Promotion Committee of Victoria. AGM. Albert Park Library, 319 Montague Street. 5.30 pm. Contact: Judy Still (03) 347 3205.
- **9 April. Acquisitions Section and ASSIG. 1-day seminar 'Finding and buying Australian government publications: keeping up with the changes'.** St Mary's College, University of Melbourne. 9 am-4.30 pm. ALIA/ASSIG members \$50, non-members \$75, students \$25. Contact: Jill Wilson (03) 669 9815.

Western Australia

- **18 March. WA Branch. AGM and Dinner.** South Perth Yacht Club, 'Coffee Point', Canning Beach Road, Applecross. AGM 5.30 pm, dinner 7 pm. \$35.00 per person. Contact: Wayne Hastie (09) 451 0831.

- **20 March. Library Technicians Section. General Meeting.** Murdoch University Library. 6.30 pm. Contact: L. Thornber (09) 387 0720.
- **Library Technicians Section. General Meeting.** Medical Library, QEII. (Carpark entrance opposite Hampden Road) 6 pm. Contact: L. Thornber (09) 387 0720.



- **9-12 July 1991. 6th National Library Technicians Conference. 'Bringing the pieces together: communication, change and consolidation?'** Manly Pacific, Sydney. Contact: Jean Bailey (02) 692 4691.
- **22-26 July 1991. National Conference on the Management of Geoscience Information and Data.** Adelaide. Contact: Des Tellis, AMF, 63 Conyngham Street, Glenside, SA 5065, telephone (08) 379 0444, fax (08) 379 4634.
- **11-12 July 1991. Subject librarianship — the future way?** University of South Australia Library, Holbrooks Road, Underdale, SA 5032. Contact: Irene Doskatsch (08) 354 6219, fax (08) 354 6699.
- **1-5 September 1991. Achieving Excellence. 4th Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference.** National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact: Gail Hawke, Capital Conference Pty Ltd, PO Box E345, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600, telephone (06) 285 2048, fax (06) 285 2334.
- **29 September-3 October 1991. Australian School Library Association Conference 'Treat**

yourself: professionally — The Future, Technology, Literature and Education.' Leura, NSW. ASLA XII. Contact: June Wall, Box 89, Winmalee, 2777, telephone (047) 51 5137, fax (047) 54 3562.

- **29-30 November 1991. Cataloguers' Section. 9th National Cataloguing Conference: 'Cataloguing for online access'.** Keynote speaker: Michael Gorman. Ormond College, University of Melbourne. Contact: Margaret Waller (03) 669 9049 or Stephen Gillespie (03) 660 3108, fax (03) 663 3047.



15-18 July 1991. 2nd International Information Research Conference. Churchill College, Cambridge. Contact: Karen Merry, Multi-Media Information Conference, The British Library R & D Department, 2 Sheraton Street, London, W1V 4BH, United Kingdom, 071 323 7050, fax 071 323 7251.

23-27 July 1991. IASL Conference. Everett, Washington. Tours to follow (including Alaska). Contact: Lalita Brond, IASL Director, Australasia, 5/16 Tennyson Street, St Kilda, Vic 3182 (03) 534 1582.

Activities organised by ALIA Divisions

Guiding your writing style

Renton, Nick. *Renton's Elements of Style & Good Writing*. Melbourne: Schwartz and Wilkinson, 1990. 212 pp. \$19.95 ISBN 1 86337 023 4.

Why another style guide? Nick Renton believes that his new book 'differs from the others on the subject in presentation, in emphasis and occasionally in substance ... it endeavours to concentrate on those aspects of greatest relevance to ordinary writers and in particular on those aspects which are frequently not covered in other works of reference.' He hopes also that 'this book can be adopted, with or without modification, as a house style manual for organisations without a specific manual of their own.'

How far he succeeds probably depends on what his reader knew before. For many of us Fowler's *Modern English Usage*, Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* (3rd edition, Macmillan, 1979 — enormous value in just 92 pages) and the *AGPS Style Manual* (4th edition, AGPS, 1988) between them cover much the same territory. Renton advocates the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* and the *Macquarie Concise Dictionary*, but for Australian use (and to complement the *AGPS Style Manual*) the big *Macquarie Dictionary* is not much more expensive and is almost essential for any serious writing.

Renton claims to be up-to-the-minute with his 5-page chapter on 'Gender Neutral Language' (but the *AGPS* gives us 17 pages on this topic). Renton is strong on

grammatical points and he shines in the profusion of examples he gives of punctuation, 'troublesome words', Americanisms and the like. You might quibble that he overdoes the grammar bit, especially with a whole Appendix devoted to the subjunctive mood, in which one example is 'See that all be in readiness' — surely a far cry from anyone's usual style!

Is much of your working life spent in writing? Then you should continually be honing your main tool, the English language, and critically assessing your use of it. Renton makes interesting reading to help you do this, but will not displace the books listed above. □

Now Available

Proceedings of the first National Library Staff Development seminar held in Adelaide 19-20 July 1990 are now available for Library Publications, University of South Australia, Holbrooks Road Underdale SA 5032. Price \$25.00. Fax (08) 354 6699

Young Australians' best book awards

We mentioned the KOALA and KROC awards in *inCite* 1. We have just heard from the ACT Library Service that a similar program is now starting in Canberra: The ACT Kids Own Book Awards (yet to be named by the children). Their short list of 30 titles in each Section, primary and secondary, will be issued on 1 May and the individual winners will be announced during Children's Week, in October. Further information from Leanne Ford (06) 293 5439. □

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