

Who's Where

The University of Sydney Library has recently announced three senior appointments.

Neil Boness took up duty as Rare Books and Special Collections Librarian in December 1990. Neil formerly held the position of Rare Books and Special Collections Librarian at the State Library of New South Wales.

Ross Coleman has been appointed to the position of Collection Management Librarian. Ross, who commenced duty on 4 March, brings with him an extensive range of collection development and maintenance experience, having been Acquisitions Librarian at Nepean Collection of Advanced Education from 1979 to 1984 and at Deakin University since 1984.

John Rodwell joined the Library as Information Services Librarian on 11 March. John, who has extensive experience in the management and delivery of information services in academic libraries, was Associate Law Librarian at the University of NSW from 1986 and Law Librarian at Macquarie University from 1978 to 1986. □

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ALJ's new editor Michael Talbot BA.PhD.AALIA

At the beginning of the year *inCite* published a brief statement from Dr Michael Talbot, who has taken over from John Levett as editor of the *Australian Library Journal*. In view of the interest in this appointment, we asked Michael to give a little more information about himself. He writes:

I've worked in the State Library of South Australia since 1973, but with significant amounts of time out: in 1978-79 to study at Monash University's Graduate School of Librarianship; to lecture there for a term in 1984; and to have 2 years to research a contract history of the Institutes movement in South Australia which is currently being prepared for publication. I have participated in each of the four forums on Australian library history and co-edited the proceedings of the first of them.

Currently I am acting manager of the State Library of South Australia's Bray Reference Library where one interest is the



installation of a local area network which provides access to a number of CD-ROM databases and includes a dial-up facility.

South Australian members of ALIA will know of my interest in printing and editing through the local newsletter, *Inter Alia*, which I produced for 3 years. At various times I've also produced newsletters for a bushwalking club and a vintage car club. Technology has varied enormously. *The Vintage Bulletin* was produced on a Gestetner machine

which I'm sure was older than some of the members' cars. Desktop publishing is a joy, but nothing matches the pleasure of hand printing with type you've set yourself.

I see the editorship of ALJ as providing a unique opportunity to combine interests in both academic and practical librarianship with skills in written communication and the ambitions of a frustrated printer.

Michael Talbot □

Communication, public libraries & society

Gulden Wagner has just been awarded a PhD degree by Murdoch University. Gulden's research interest was kindled by the dilemma public libraries present as agents of communication in society. Librarians carefully foster the function of public libraries as agents of communication, but these libraries also function as formal institutions of the State. The duality of their role presents a complex communication model laden with the messages of contesting agents (or sources): the State, including the local government, and the professional library organisations. It is essential for public libraries' survival to rationalise these competing messages and ideologies, primarily by understanding how these libraries communicate as formal institutions.

Closely linked to the study of the communication problem in public libraries was the dilemma of a suitable research approach. Semiotics, a comprehensive science of signs, was chosen for exploring the nature of this communication. In terms of this discipline, communication acts in public libraries, occur at subtle levels of expression (signifier) and content (signified) linked through codes which culminate in understandings in the way

these libraries are used. In this first attempt at a semiotic study of public libraries as agents of communication in society, the grounded theory method has provided the necessary research strategy to formulate theories from data collected for understanding signs.



Gulden Wagner

Her PhD research was carried out at the School of Humanities, Murdoch University, Western Australia.

Gulden Wagner is a lecturer and Graduate Diploma Course Coordinator at the School of Information and Library Studies at Curtin University of Technology. □

Well done, Jan Harris!

inCite congratulates Jan Harris of Library Locums on being accepted as an Associate by the Institute of Personnel Consultants in Australia. This makes Jan one of the few people in Australia with both professional library and personnel qualifications — she is already both a qualified librarian and a qualified library technician.

The 1-year course for Membership of the Institute covers topics such as preparing job descriptions, interviewing and selection methods, evaluation of candidates and employment legislation.

Jan has been very interested to apply these topics to librarianship, especially in the areas of candidate selection and skills evaluation. She had to overcome a clerical and commercial bias in some of the assignments. She believes it is valuable for personnel managers to understand the different roles of people who work in libraries.

Marion Nicolson □

Feedback

The chapel in the glen

The Victorian Police Central Library

The first meeting of the Special Libraries Section (Victorian Group) for 1991 was held last month at the Victorian Police Central Library, Police Academy, Glen Waverley.

Thirty-five members were welcomed inside the magnificent Police Academy Chapel by Trevor Wakely, President of the Special Libraries Victorian Section and Pam Reid, the Victorian Police Central Librarian.

Pam gave an informative and interesting talk on the training of the police recruits, the history of the Academy, and the services offered by the Central Library to the police. An interesting aspect of Pam's talk centred around the Chapel, which was built in 1962 as a seminary for the Archdiocese of Melbourne with a mixture of Byzantine, renaissance and Gothic influence. After the complex was sold to the Victorian Government in 1972, the Chapel was, for a

brief period, converted into a gym for training the police recruits! It has now been reverted back into a non-denominational church. But the library retains some interesting storage space in the Chapel, with some of the unused confessionals being used for library materials.

Following the talk in the Chapel, the group toured the Academy complex, including the police museum, the training court room and police station, and the new sports complex.

The library, established in 1986, is in a modern, warm and well proportioned area, though it was not designed with library usage in mind. Despite its modern appearance, it still has a basically manual system in operation. Dewey classification is used for the book collection, and periodicals are arranged alphabetically by title. Inmagic software has been recently purchased for cataloguing and it is expected that other automation aspects will follow, funds permitting. The collection concentrates on crime and prevention, law, legislation, and sociology.

This was a most enjoyable evening, and many of those present appreciated the meeting being held in a 'suburban' venue, thus allowing members to attend who do not have easy access to the usual central city locations. This problem has been noted, and the Victorian Specials aim to hold further meetings further out to enable others to participate.

Paula Jones

Department of Library Studies
Prahran College of TAFE □

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Keynoting the conference are DAVID BEARMAN, President of *Archives & Museum Informatics* and his wife DR. TONI CARBO BEARMAN, Dean of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh and President of the American Society for Information Science (ASIS). EVERYONE will enjoy and benefit from contact with the galaxy of exciting and dynamic speakers we have assembled for this meeting.

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