

# In the News

## Study Grant Award

The 1991 ALIA Study Grant has been awarded to Carla Mellor, Departmental Librarian at the South Australian Department of Agriculture. Carla proposes to visit agricultural library and information centres in the United State, Britain and Italy. She will discuss current developments in the provision of agricultural information and issues relevant to composite centres providing services and collections to different kinds of institutions.

The South Australian Department of Agriculture library service is currently negotiating amalgamation with a number of related research organisations. The Assessment Panel therefore believed that



1991 ALIA Study Grant Award winner — Carla Mellor

the benefits of this study would be applicable nationwide and in a variety of sectors including academic, special, research and government libraries. □

## Joan Brewer Library opened An important day for the University of SA

The University of South Australia was established at the beginning of this year from the SA College of Advanced Education and the SA Institute of Technology.

Wednesday, 27 March 1991 was the occasion of the opening — by Mike Rann, the State Minister of Employment and Further Education — of a major extension to the library at the Underdale Campus of the University of South Australia, and its dedication as the Joan Brewer Library.

The Minister spoke of Joan Brewer's outstanding contribution to library education, teacher-librarianship and women's interests. These earned her

awards of Fellow of ALIA, and of the Australian College of Education, and the Order of Australia. The Minister was followed by the University's Deputy Vice Chancellor and former teacher-librarian Denise Bradley, who reflected on Joan Brewer's influence on her own career.

In his opening address Alan Bundy commented that of the 200 or so named libraries out of the 14 000 libraries in Australia, very few were as yet named for librarians or for women — South Australia now has two named for woman librarians with the Fulton Library, University of Adelaide, and the Joan Brewer Library, University of South Australia. □

## 'Information, investment and Online'

### The first 1991 VALA workshop

During 1991 VALA hopes to mount a series of workshops on major issues in the Value of Information area.

The first of these was a 1-day satellite event before the recent Information Online & On Disc '91.

The workshop introduced participants to the major issues associated with the return on investment in online and CD-ROM based information services and some of the methods currently under development for identifying and estimating the value of different information systems and services.

Marianne Broadbent of the Graduate School of Management, University of Melbourne, presented the program which included a series of group workshop sessions. Marianne emphasised that events such as these should be regarded as a first step in addressing the complex area of valuing, and investigating returns on, information systems and services.

Participants were introduced to decision making concepts such as value chain analysis and break-even analysis which could be applied to the major issues in the evaluation of information services.

Interest in the event was substantial and the feedback from participants provided much productive and positive comment which will enhance further investigations in this area.

Susan Liepa □

Joan Brewer speaking at the opening ceremony.



Peter Cox, University of South Australia