

Overseas students at UNSW

Maureen Henninger describes recent BISA Training Programs

BISA (Bibliographic and Information Services in Asia and the Pacific) was originally developed in the late 70s to build a database of Australian holdings of Southeast Asian bibliographic materials. The training programs were introduced in 1981 and offered six month's training in database creation. Over the years more than 100 information professionals from almost all countries in the Asia/Pacific region have

participated with sponsorship from agencies such as IHP, AIDAB, NLA, SEAMEO, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library, the South Pacific Cultures Fund and UNESCO.



Students from the South Pacific region hard at work in a BISA course

In 1990 the training program was brought to the University of New South Wales when Dr Helen Jarvis, the Director, took up a lectureship at the School of Information, Library and

Archive Studies. It was subsumed into the School's Continuing Education Program and redesigned to provide a series of short courses (four to six weeks) with a strong practical component supported by a solid basis of theory. The first of these courses, held in January-February, 1990, was *Computer-based Cataloguing for Stand-alone and Network Systems* and was designed to train library and information personnel in library cataloguing to international standards and to familiarise them with sources of cataloguing data, access and manipulation procedures and interfaces between local systems and bibliographic utilities. This was repeated in early 1992 with eleven students from nine countries. In 1991 a new course, *Library Management*, was designed and has been run successfully in conjunction with the cataloguing course for the past two years at the School. The 1993 program will be offering library attachments at institutions such as the State Library of New South Wales on completion of the short courses.

The BISA program has also conducted short courses and consultancies for professional library and information centre staff with varying levels of experience outside Australia, for example in Cambodia and Papua New Guinea. These courses now offer a wide range of educational opportunities in areas such as CDS/ISIS training, records management, information management, organization of archival systems, conservation of print and non-print materials, and disaster planning. For further information call or write to the Continuing Education Program, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington NSW 2033. Phone (61-2) 697 3589 or Fax (61-2) 313 7092.

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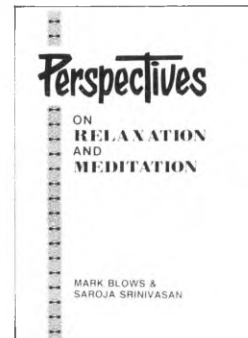
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