

# Japan scores a hundred not out

ALIA has just sent congratulations to the Japanese Library Association on its centenary—Peter Judge looks at the rest of us

**T**HE JAPANESE Library Association was founded in 1892, and as part of its centenary celebrations has just produced a delightful birthday book full of old photos showing the history of

present Australian Library and Information Association in 1989. Our cousins across the Tasman were a quarter century ahead of us, having been founded in 1910 as the Libraries Association of New Zealand, at a conference of representatives of public libraries. It was reconstituted with its present name, the New Zealand Library Association, in 1935 to admit personal members. How do some other library associations rank, in terms of their date of foundation?

The doyen of our professional bodies is the American Library Association, founded in 1876. The Library Association in Britain followed next year, 1877, at the First International Conference of Librarians, becoming incorporated by Royal Charter in 1898. Then Japan, in 1892. Then, surprisingly perhaps, the next to be founded and the only other 19th century foundation is the Swiss Library Association in 1895.

Germany opened the twentieth century with the formation of the Verein Deutsche Bibliothekare in 1900, but this body was interrupted by the war and re-established in 1948. It was followed by Denmark in 1905, then by France and Belgium in 1907. The perennial pressures for Home Rule dictated that Scottish librarians set up their own association in 1908. The American Association of Law Librarians, in 1906, were the first to split from a parent body; they were followed closely by the US Special Librarians who founded their SLA in 1909.

The approaching rumblings of the Great War did not deter the Netherlands from establishing its library association in 1912, nor Norway in 1913. While the

cannon thundered in Flanders, Swedish librarians set up their association in 1915 and Polish librarians in 1917. (Interestingly, the first Russian edition of the Universal Decimal Classification, UDC, appeared towards the end of the War, at the height of the Russian Revolution, an indication of the grim determination and other-worldliness with which our colleagues set their priorities.)

Immediately after the War there was a rush from other countries to fill the gaps: including Ireland in 1928, Italy in 1930, and India in 1933. Canada came in late, in 1946. Some other splinter bodies began to appear: Public Librarians in Germany, for example, in 1922 and the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, ASLIB, in the UK, in 1924; it was soon to have its thrust far from mainstream librarianship and became officially just *ASLiB* in 1980. The American Documentation Institute, formed in 1937, was the forerunner of the American Society for Information Science, ASIS.

This does no more than pick at a few leading bodies in the better known countries. The IFLA *World Guide* lists 76 international and 511 national associations in 1990. These include organisations that in former days might have seemed marginal to the then interests of librarians, like the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID, founded as the International Institute for Bibliography, in 1895) and the UK Institute of Information Scientists (1958). The profession and its professional bodies have come a long way in a hundred years. ■



Ms Keiko Harada, the twelfth member of the National Diet Library to be seconded to the NLA, examines copies of the Japanese Library Association Journal, which the NLA has been receiving since 1959. (Photo NLA)

librarianship in that country. We in Australia are relative latecomers among the library associations of the world, having been established as the Australian Institute of Librarians only in 1937, changing to the Library Association of Australia in 1949 and then to our

## School-based distance training for teacher librarians

CSU in partnership with NSW government

**T**HE HUMAN RESOURCE Development Directorate of the NSW Department of School Education has developed a school-based training course for teacher librarians (K12). The course was designed to provide teachers with the opportunities to learn within the school environment and to relate course objectives to the immediate school situation. The course consists of four modules—Policy, Educational Program, Professional Development and Management—which are taught by

distance education. The course includes two residential schools.

In previous years the course has been conducted by Departmental personnel. Early in 1992 the Department decided to offer the course to an outside provider and called for tender bids. A partnership of Charles Sturt University and two regions of the Department of School Education have now won the contract to offer the course in the second half of 1992. The course will run for about 16 weeks with the first residential school being conducted in

Sydney during August 1-4. Graduates of the SBSC course will be able to claim credit (worth two subjects) if they subsequently enrol at CSU-R as students in the Grad. Dip. Ed. (Teacher Librarianship) course.

The 1992 program will involve 51 students and includes 16 facilitators who are experienced teacher librarians and who will act as mentors. James Henri (CSU) is the program coordinator with Matti Novak, Helen Wardega and Brian Miller (all from the Department) as assistant coordinators.

Maxine Rochester ■