

Chinese librarians visit Australia

Jennifer Berryman found that they have novel solutions to some old problems

Members of the Shenzhen Library, in China, visited the State Library of New South Wales late last year, assisted by a grant from the Australia China Council. The delegation was led by Mr Yun Weicheng, the Deputy Director of the Shenzhen Cultural Bureau.

The visit laid the foundation for future cooperation between the State Library and Shenzhen Library. The Delegation also visited libraries in Sydney and in Canberra.

During their stay Professor Liu, the

Deputy Chief Librarian of Shenzhen Library, addressed ALIA's Asia Pacific SIG on the special problems of his library. Shenzhen Special Economic Zone was established only 10 years ago. Since then the



Yun Weicheng (seated left) Alison Crook, SLNSW interpreter Christine Mrozek (seated right) and the other members of the delegation: Mr Yun, Ms Zhang and Professor Liu.

population has risen from 20 000 to 2.3 million, and demand for library and information services has risen in parallel.

A library in such a rapidly developing area has to solve traditional problems in very non-traditional ways. The Shenzhen Library is already operating a number of businesses and distributes a percentage of the profits to all its staff. They are now planning a children's library, likely to become the largest in the world, with a science and technology centre and a shopping precinct catering for the needs of children and parents. Staff will be offered shares in the children's library.

Shenzhen have also developed their own library system and software, selling this package to over 70 libraries in China. ■

WA Specials Award

Bernadette Waugh: 1993 WA Special Librarian of the Year

WA Specials held a successful dinner late last year to celebrate the presentation of the Award of WA Special Librarian of the Year. The 1993 recipient is Bernadette Waugh from CSIRO library.

The award is made to a Special Librarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the library profession. The criteria for the Award include a willingness to share professional expertise and participate in informal and informal network-

ing activities; evidence of good management practices, and demonstration of successful promotion of the Library/Information Service within the parent organisation.

The award consists of a perpetual trophy, an individual trophy and a book voucher. It was presented by the sponsor, Roger Stanton (RAECO, WA Area Man-



(from left) Roger Stanton (RAECO), Bernadette Waugh & Irene Nutt

ager) and Irene Nutt (President, ALIA Special Libraries Section, WA). ■

Help for the visually handicapped

Altona City Library now has the latest in talking scanners

The Altona City Library has just received a Robotron Rainbow, the most modern OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology available. This is a talking book machine which scans text in less than 10 seconds, and then speaks that text in the world's most intelligible voice—DEC talk, which offers the user nine personality-filled DEC talk voices and a variety of other features.

Altona City Library is only the second public library in Victoria to have such a machine, which was generously donated to the Library by BP Australia Limited (Altona

Terminal) as part of the ACL Donor Program.

Daniel Ferguson, the Library Manager, believes that this piece of equipment will allow the visually impaired to gain access to a variety of information formats and so develop greater self reliance.

BP Australia are to be congratulated on their initiative in providing such a valuable resource. ■



left to right David Brash; Janet Clarke (BP Australia); Cr. Daniel Duane, Mayor, City of Altona; Melanie Roylance (BP Australia); Daniel Ferguson, Library Manager, Altona City Library