

James Cook Memorial Scholar

Pam Harris is the first public librarian to win this prestigious award

Pam Harris will be leaving in April to take up the 1994-95 James Cook Bi-centenary Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded by Blackwells of England and North America and by the University of Queensland. It provides \$20 000 for an Australian or New Zealand librarian to work in a British or North American library or libraries as a management intern. The winner was notified in December. It is the first time a public librarian has won.

Pam is spending the scholarship in England: 6 weeks in Brent Arts and Libraries north west London, 6 weeks in Birmingham City Libraries and 2 weeks visiting various libraries to gain a wider perspective.

She chose England because the funding situation and the management issues they are facing are similar to ours. Brent Libraries is in the forefront of British Libraries. They have recently won 2 Government Charter Mark Awards and they are one of 5 li-



Pam Harris

braries piloting comprehensive CCT programs. They also have effective TQM and Customer Service programs. Birmingham City Libraries is one of the largest regional library services in Europe and is about to undergo a huge restructuring process. Pam will be involved in the assessment and evaluation of this restructure and will help them in preparatory reports for the introduction of CCT.

With council amalgamations in Victoria and the introduction of CCT to all Councils, the knowledge gained through this scholarship will be invaluable to her.

When she returns in September, Pam will be writing articles and reports for relevant library publications and will be happy to talk to interested groups.

Pam is currently Branch Services Coordinator at Prahran Library and Information Service in inner Melbourne. Prior to this she was the Reference and Information Services Librarian. She was active on the Reference Librarians Cooperative and is still on the committee of the Reference Interest Group.

Pam believes that it is important for a public librarian to have won. Management knowledge and expertise is of primary importance in the changing local government environment, and it is good that public libraries have been recognised, and will have the opportunity to extend their knowledge. ■

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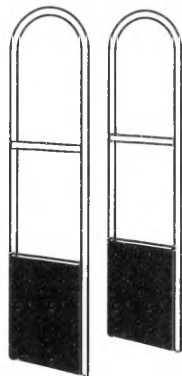
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