

Towards Federation 2001

Eric Wainwright reports on the review meeting held just before Christmas

Representatives of 29 organisations met on 9-10 December to review progress since the *'Towards Federation 2001: Linking Australians with their Heritage'* Conference, which was held in March 1992. TF2001 produced 86 resolutions on which, over the past 21 months, the National Library has attempted to monitor progress. A planning committee of National Library staff, supplemented by Gordon Bower as ACLIS representative and Fran Awcock as the representative of the Council of Australian State Libraries, had been engaged throughout 1993 on a thorough assessment of each resolution. They looked at its progress or lack thereof, and possible changes in the objective or action mechanism which might lead to faster and better progress in the future. They prepared a series of assessment papers for the various development areas: collecting, bibliographical access, physical access, preservation, copyright, and services to special communities, which formed the basis of the agenda, together with redrafted resolutions. Many conference resolutions which could be achieved only through internal actions by many institutions with 'significant Australian collections,' were regrouped as a proposed set of guidelines to

be suggested as an action framework to such institutions.

The organisations invited to the review meeting were mainly those which had been given carriage of resolutions from the 1992 conference. The meeting was ably chaired by Professor John Levett, Head of the School of Library and Information Studies at Monash University. The planning committee had removed ambiguities from some of the original conference resolutions, and identified more effective mechanisms for action. Those present at the review meeting also introduced substantial changes and improvements to many of the draft resolutions, and added a number of new objectives.

In the case of copyright issues, delegates agreed that the whole agenda was now changed by the Commonwealth Government's announcement in early November of a major review of copyright legislation. The meeting endorsed the establishment of a copyright committee of ACLIS, ACA, CASL, CAUL, CSIRO and the National Library to develop appropriate positions on behalf of the library and archives communities.

The review meeting agreed on a total of 59 resolutions, encapsulating most of the original conference intent, updated in the light of experience and changing circum-

stances. The National Library is confident that the agenda for the TF2001 objectives has been reset effectively for the medium term. This agenda aims at ensuring that Australians will have the world's best national system for providing access to documentary records on the history and development of the nation and its people; and a system which will enable all Australians, from their home, place of work or a publicly accessible information service point, to locate all significant items of the Australian recorded documentary heritage, and to obtain access to those items within a reasonable time, at a reasonable cost.

The review meeting agreed that objectives and progress should be reviewed again during 1996. The National Library will produce a report of the review meeting for distribution by the end of January, in time for resolutions to be noted by various organisations at their first meetings in 1994. This report will be distributed to all organisations involved in the original Conference or review meeting. In the meantime, others interested in obtaining copies of the report or of the agenda papers should contact Eric Wainwright, Deputy Director-General, National Library of Australia by fax (06) 273 11222 or e-mail e.wainwright@nla.gov.au. ■

Indonesian Acquisition Program upgraded

The NLA has recently appointed its first Regional Officer to Indonesia

The National Library had early recognised the strategic importance to Australia of Asia, and in particular of our nearest neighbour Indonesia. It began collecting material from the region in the 1950's and now houses the largest Asian collection in Australia and one of the most significant Indonesian collections in the world.

Amelia McKenzie has just been appointed as the first Regional Officer, based in the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, representing an upgrading of the Library's presence in Indonesia. Ms McKenzie until recently was the Manager of Acquisitions at the Library. She has expertise in Library and Indonesian studies and is a fluent



Amelia McKenzie

bahasa Indonesian speaker. She has previously worked in Indonesia as a consultant for the NLA

and for the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges.

Amelia will develop the Indonesian Acquisition Program to obtain Indonesian publications on a cooperative basis for the NLA and other Australian research libraries. She will also undertake a range of representational activities in the region and seek opportunities for promoting the Library's expertise in training and information areas. As well, she will be involved in the Library's regional cooperation program assisting libraries in 17 neighbouring countries to improve their services. 'Assistance' includes book gifts, library equipment, sponsorship for work attachments and library training courses. ■