

Dialogues between...

Dialogues is the theme for the next Word Festival to take place in Canberra from 24–27 March 1995. Dialogues between writers, between writers and their alter egos, between writers and readers; dialogues involving critics and publishers.

Primarily a festival for readers, the festival has a reputation as a stimulating and challenging forum, but one which retains a level of intimacy allowing readers and writers to intermingle. The

four-day program is made up of panel sessions, discussions with writers, book launches, exhibitions, workshops and a program for senior high school students.

Participating writers include overseas writers Paul Bailey (UK), Isabel Huggan (Canada), Paul Kane (USA), Fiona Kidman (NZ), Bobbie Ann Mason (USA), Peter Porter (UK), and Ronald Wright (Canada). Australian writers include Glenda Adams, Candida Baker, Isobelle Carmody, Gary Crew, Bruce Dawe, Helen Daniel, Julian

Davies, Robert Dessaix, Sara Dowse, Robert Drewe, Beverley Farmer, Peter Goldsworthy, Alan Gould, Dorothy Hewett, Michael Heyward, Adib Khan, Joan London, Alex Miller, Louis Nowra, Geoff Page, Jennifer Strauss, and Pat Torres.

For further information and registration brochures please contact the Word Festival Office, PO Box 150, Lyneham ACT 2602, phone (06) 249 7068, fax (06) 257 4038. ■

Revision of the Dewey Decimal Classification

This is a report on my first year as the first Australian representative on the Dewey Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC).

EPC is a committee to represent the needs of users of DDC, and advises the publisher of DDC (OCLC Forest Press) and the editor of DDC (Joan Mitchell) on the revision of DDC. It consists of ten members appointed by OCLC Forest Press, the American Library Association (ALA), the Library of Congress, and the Library Association (UK).

I have attended two meetings of the EPC since late 1993, which have been looking at proposed revisions of DDC for Edition 21 of DDC, to be published in

1996. The bulk of the revision was completed in May 1994 — all that is left now is tidying up and checking for errors.

As is now usual with a new edition of Dewey, there are extensive revisions in some parts of the schedules, and minor revisions elsewhere. The areas completely revised ('phoenixed') are 350–354 *Public Administration* and 560–590 *Life Sciences*. There was also a proposal to completely revise 370 *Education* from the Library Association — this was rejected by EPC, but there have been significant changes in 370 for DDC 21.

350–354 *Public Administration* will now be primarily arranged by topic instead of by jurisdiction — as well as being

more logical, it should be much easier to use.

560–590 *Life Sciences* has been revised to match how biologists use the material — their use emphasises processes rather than taxonomic group. In DDC 20, a book on the nervous system of rats would have been classed with other books on rats; in DDC21 it will be classed with other books on the nervous system. 570–578 has been completely revised; 579 will now be used for microorganisms, fungi and algae; while the basic structure of 560, 580 and 590 remain the same. In addition, there is extensive use of a faceted notation throughout the life sciences, allowing topics to be combined. The transition from the old schedule to the new is made a little easier by leaving unused 574, 575.1 and 575.2, which is where most of the material currently classed in 570–579 is classified.

There are significant changes in other parts of the schedules: for example, although it was decided not to completely revise 370 *Education*, the specific numbers 376 *Education of Women* and 377 *Schools and Religion* have been discontinued and thus made more regular.

Libraries will find a mixture of pluses and minuses in DDC 21. The schedules will be improved and kept up-to-date. In particular, they will reflect the political changes that are happening around the world (look for 994.065 *Keating Government of Australia*). However, this will be at the cost of relocating topics, particularly in the life sciences and public administration; and libraries will, as always, have to decide whether to reclassify older material or live with conflicting classification numbers on their shelves.

ALIA teacher-librarian student of the year award



The 1994 ALIA Award for the outstanding teacher-librarian student in the Graduate Diploma in Information Management at the University of Melbourne was won jointly by Debra Fischer and Nola Fitzgerald. The awards were presented by Jo Marshall, Vice-President of ALIA Vic Branch on 18 November 1994. L to R: Nola Fitzgerald, Jo Marshall, Debra Fischer.