

Four million books for loan

University libraries combine in South Australia

As part of Australian Library Week activities in South Australia, the libraries of Adelaide's three universities launched a system by which members of the public can use any of the university libraries on payment of a single fee. In total the libraries hold about four million volumes covering a huge range of subjects, they buy 60 000 new books each year, and they subscribe to about 30 000 journal titles. Bill Cations, librarian at Flinders University, describes the community membership scheme as 'a pioneer of its type which allows the wider South Australian community to have access to the extensive collections in their universities'.

The libraries are scattered throughout the metropolitan area, from Bedford Park in the South (Flinders University) to Roseworthy in the North (the Roseworthy campus of the University of Adelaide), and at Whyalla (the University of South Australia). In all, seventeen libraries participate in the scheme, including the huge Barr Smith Library of the

University of Adelaide on North Terrace, the central, law, medical and education libraries of Flinders University, all the campus libraries of the University of South Australia, and specialist libraries in areas of medicine, agriculture, law and the performing arts. 'The fact that our universities have different academic interests means that, collectively, our libraries cover a very wide range of subjects' said Alan Bundy, librarian of the University of South Australia.

'Members of the community with strong cultural or scientific interests will find our combined collections to be of enormous interest', said Ray Choate, librarian at the University of Adelaide. 'Professionals tend to use us for their particular needs, and I know some of them regard library membership as an essential professional expense.'

An annual subscription of \$175 gives borrowing privileges at all the libraries, and reference access to materials not available for loan. A library card can be bought by arrangement at any of the libraries. ■

Shared honours

The Australian Booksellers Association award for Book of the Year, sponsored by Book Data, has been shared for the first time. The award, voted by booksellers around Australia goes to Stephanie Alexander for *The cook's companion* published by Penguin (Viking), and Robert Dessaiz for *Night letters* published by Pan Macmillan.

The award was presented by Francis Bennett, managing director of Book Data UK, and Ka Meechan, managing director of Book Data Asia Pacific, at the Australian Booksellers Association annual dinner on Friday 1 August 1997. ■

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