

## Cataloguing system at Kuring-gai

# ONLINE TEACHING

THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY and Information Studies, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, together with software firm Landseer, have developed an online MARC cataloguing system for use by students in the information methods units of the Bachelor of Arts (Library Science), Graduate Diploma in Library Science and Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship courses.

Landseer, a software company with a number of years' experience in the commercial programming field, has written the package for the Kuring-gai Prime minicomputer system. The programming language used is standard ANSI Cobol.

To date, programs have been developed for online creation of MARC records and the production of printed catalogues from a file of MARC records. These programs have been tested in class teaching over two semesters. During this time the system has used the Australian MARC specifications but any of the existing national MARC formats could be used. Bibliographic entries in the catalogues produced have used the

standard punctuation of AACR2, but other punctuation could be used if required. Such flexibility has been an integral part of system design.

Central to the system are two specification files; one contains details of allowable MARC tag numbers, indicators and subfield codes and indicates the medium for which the tag is valid. The second specification file specifies the punctuation to be generated by the subfield codes of each field of a MARC record during the production of catalogue entries. The information in both of these files can be changed by teaching staff without affecting any of the program of the package. This gives teaching staff complete control of the structure of both the input and output data.

### MARCMaint

To create a file of MARC records the student uses a keyboard and VDU to interact with a program called MARCMaint.

MARCMaint is designed as a fully interactive teaching program, which uses a system of prompting to lead the student

through the various steps of entering MARC coded data, field by field. The program checks for the incorrect use of indicators and subfield codes within a particular field and, if an error is detected, an appropriate message is displayed on the VDU.

MARCMaint supports the entry of the full range of MARC fields including cross references. A local field has been added to allow the entry of subject cross reference data.

The program also allows the student to call up and have displayed on the VDU any MARC record in the student's file. To do this the program carries out a search on the record control number field (001) of the MARC record. Once a MARC record has been retrieved and displayed, the student is able to (a) amend existing fields in the record, (b) delete existing fields in the record, (c) add fields to the record, (d) delete the entire record. Once again, in carrying out any of these four activities, the student is fully prompted by messages displayed on the VDU. In general, the program MARCMaint is self-supporting; once the student has entered it, very little teacher assistance is needed.

Once a MARC file has been created, the student can initiate the production and printing of a number of different catalogues.

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## User education conference

NANCY FJALLBRANT, Deputy Librarian at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden, will be spending a month in Australia during November/December as Caulfield Institute of Technology Library's Visiting Fellow.

Nancy is very well known internationally for her contribution to the development of user education theories and practices. She qualified originally as a physiologist, and has published articles in that field, from which she also developed her interest in information provision and librarianship.

In the past 10 years, Nancy has concentrated on user education. Since 1974, she has given papers at some 30 national and international meetings, and her topics have ranged widely over the user education field. She has a particular interest in the use of media in user education programs, in evaluation in user education, and in online user education.

During her month in Australia, Nancy will be working with the library staff at CIT, visiting libraries in Melbourne, and giving a number of papers at the Conference on User Education - 'Issues and projects' to be held at CIT Library, 30 November to 2 December, 1981.

With Nancy, at the Conference, will be Ian Malley, British Library Information Officer for User Education, and Director of IMB, the British equivalent of *USER*, who is well known to Australian librarians



Nancy Fjallbrant

through his contribution to the LAA Conference in Canberra in 1979. Editor of the periodical *Infuse*, Ian is also the author of many articles and pamphlets on user education. He edits the periodical *Library and information research news* and is currently researching on secrecy and censorship in science and the communication of science to the public via the press.

## Children's literature specialist for LAA 22

CONFERENCE DELEGATES who have an interest in children's literature will be pleased to hear that Dr Patricia Cianciolo, Professor of Children's Literature in the Department of Elementary and Special Education, College of Education, Michigan State University, will speak about 'Challenges in children's books' at LAA 22.

Her paper will be an exploration of trends and issues in contemporary publishing and uses of children's literature.

Patricia Cianciolo will be known to many Australian librarians as a critic and commentator on children's literature who has made a special study of the picture book. Writing in an editorial in *Language Arts*, April 1980, she recognises that children live in a 'civilization of images' and that the material produced for the younger reader reflect the many art styles in vogue in our society. She suggests that we must be discriminating in our selection for younger readers.

To assist librarians to develop the skills of evaluating the graphic and literary qualities

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