

# New Honour for first National Librarian

**The 1983 H.C.L. Anderson Award, the foremost award in Australian librarianship, is to go to Sir Harold Leslie White, OBE, CBE.**

Now living in retirement, Sir Harold was Australia's first national librarian, and the country's senior librarian for 23 years. He was a founding member of the Australian Institute of Librarians and of the LAA, which succeeded the Institute in 1949.

Sir Harold's long career in librarianship began in 1923, when he joined the staff of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library; four years later he became Deputy Librarian.

In 1947 he became Commonwealth National Librarian and was subsequently involved with the establishment of the National Library. When this became a separate entity in 1961 Sir Harold was appointed National Librarian, retaining this position until his retirement in 1970.



Sir Harold White, OBE, CBE

National Library photograph

The H.C.L. Anderson Award is named in honour of Henry Charles Lennox Anderson who was librarian of the Public Library of NSW from 1893-1906. Born at sea in 1853, he was educated in Sydney and a master at Sydney Grammar School from 1873-82. He served as Chief Examiner to the Department of Public Instruction 1882-90 and Director of Agriculture from March 1890 to August 1893, when he was appointed Principal Librarian of the Public Library of NSW.

He quickly mastered his new profession, with an influence on Australian librarianship still in evidence today.

It was Sir Harold White's outstanding contribution to Australian librarianship that led to his selection as this year's recipient of the H.C.L. Anderson Award. His achievement in collection building is without equal in Australian librarianship. Only after the scattered resources of the National Library were brought together in 1967 was the significance of this national asset, for which he had been so largely responsible, fully realised.

## Teleconferencing for Perth

**THE HIGHLIGHT of a very exciting Information Science Section Conference will be a teleconferencing session involving James Harker-Mortlock, of Harkers Sydney, who will be in New York.**

'Information Delivery' is the theme of the second National Information Science Section Conference to be held in Perth on 29-30 September 1983. The Conference will examine the infrastructure to support information delivery systems, the technology, the information facilitators, and the end users. There will be a special session on electronic document ordering and supply, featuring James Harker-Mortlock in a teleconferenced session from New York.

The keynote speaker is Alan Singleton, European Manager, Publisher Services Group, F.W. Faxon. Alan has been extensively involved in various aspects of new technologies, particularly the electronic journal. As a researcher with the Primary Communications Research Centre at the University of Leicester, he wrote several recent British Library R&D reports on the applications of new technology to libraries and information services.

The special guest speaker is Joseph Becker, President of Becker and Hayes Inc., Santa Monica, California, who will be describing and evaluating the necessary technology for the information delivery systems under discussion.

The panel on the infrastructure will include Ian McCallum, ACI Computer Services; Bev Forbes, Dept of Resources and Energy; Richard Rothwell, Dept of Science and Technology; and David Hawkins, NSW Dept of Agriculture.

Ian will examine developments in Australia since the first National ISS Conference in 1977. Bev will describe the Streamline database as a model for Australia. Richard will discuss the role of the Department of Science and Technology and David will discuss the Bibliography of Agriculture database.

The Information Facilitators panel features information providers who are not librarians including Barney Blundell, Assistant General Manager, Australian Associated Press to discuss AAP information services; Don Lipscombe, Lipscombe and Associates will describe the information services he provides to the petroleum and mining industries. Also on the panel will be Richard Barber, Manager ACEL, who provide a trade catalogue library service, *Australian Standards on Microfiche* and are the Australian Agents for the international engineering standards service provided by Information Handling of the United States. Bryan Kelman, WAIT Library, will report on the information services provided to technology parks in USA and UK.

The End Users panel consists of four regular users of the libraries in Perth: Peter Foster, representing the mining industry; Dr Philip Jennings, a user of Murdoch University; Peter Ewing, Orbital Engine Co., and Don Lipscombe.

***An outstanding figure in the history of the LAA . . . his achievement in collection building is without equal.***

The vision, pertinacity and political skill of Harold White were the qualities that brought about the National Library, its location, size and appearance – without doubt one of the most successful library promotion exercises in Australia.

Sir Harold is one of the outstanding figures in the history of the LAA, and he laid the basis for effective library co-operation in Australia through his acceptance and development on AACOBS.

Past recipients of the H.C.L. Anderson Award include John Metcalfe, Wilma Radford, Thurles Thomas, Dietrich Borchardt, Allan Horton, Francis Sharr, Phyllis Mander-Jones and Ira Raymond.

The date for the formal presentation to Sir Harold has not yet been set.

To round off the Conference Dr Pat Layzell Ward, Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies, WAIT, will examine the education of professionals involved in Information Delivery.

If you have not received a registration form, please contact: Ian Stone, Conference Chairman, C/o Library Board of WA, 102 Beaufort Street, PERTH WA 6000, Tel: (09) 328 7466, (09) 444 4037 (Home)

**LAA-NZLA Conference.**  
This issue of InCite includes a special Conference feature. Read all about it on pages 6&7!