LIBRARIES OF SYDNEY, 1985

A new library directory — *Libraries of Sydney, 1985* — to be published in July by the LAA, is the first general purpose directory of libraries in the Sydney area available since 1979. As compiler, I undertook the preliminary research and planning as a special project during the KCAE BA (Lib Sci) course, and continued on to collect data and compile the finished directory using 'Wordmate' word processing facilities made available by AWA North Ryde Technology Group.

The LAA Publications Board decided that the directory should be structured to serve as 'a concise, standardised, general purpose listing of libraries in the Sydney metropolitan area' that would serve not only as an interlending tool and general guide for use within libraries but also as a general and comprehensive public library.

The directory includes academic, public, special, and private libraries. It does not include details of libraries within primary or secondary schools, of some special-format 'library' collections, or of book or resource collections of ethnic associations.

Entries contain information of four types:
- CONTACT information — name, postal address, document exchange number, telex number, facsimile number, electronic mail address;
- ACCESS information — street address, hours of operation, facilities for the disabled;
- COLLECTION information — holdings (books and periodicals), subject coverage;
- SERVICES information — ILL policy, network membership, online facilities.

Other information, such as significant holdings of special formats, public access policy, special services, etc, are carried under a general notes heading.

The developing library utilisation of telecommunications and other document delivery services now available are catered for in that contact details include document exchange numbers, telefacsimile numbers, and electronic mail numbers.

Data collection began with a feasibility study pilot programme conducted Jun-Sept 1984; the main body of data was collected over the period Nov 84 to Apr 85.

The completed directory contains entries for 686 library services and branch outlets. Public library branches appear as sub-entries under the name of the parent service. See references are included within the main alphabetic sequence not only for all branch outlet names but also for memorial names of libraries.

Appendixes are used to give associated and supplementary information, and to extract out consolidated lists of contact details. They include details of subject coverage under the Sydney Subject Specialisation Scheme; a list of other library directories applicable to the Sydney area; a consolidated list of named and special collections; summary details of local library networks; consolidated lists of document exchange numbers, facsimile numbers, and telex numbers; a public libraries interloan telephone list and van schedules; and a brief subject guide to the major orientation of collections.

The geographic area covered is generally that of the Sydney metropolitan area. Coverage is not 100% complete due to a number of factors, the vagaries of the Sydney postal system being not the least of these. Some organisations did not reply to letters, some replies missed the cut-off date, and some libraries re-

quested not to be included. Despite these problems, *Libraries of Sydney 1985* includes over 80 libraries not previously listed in any directory, and the holdings of collections listed total 14,646,087 books and 192,308 periodicals.
Ralph Reid
Compiler, Libraries of Sydney

TRANSPARENT AUSTRALIA

A set of five maps of Australia, showing major geographical features, average winter and summer rainfall, altitude, and the distribution of vegetation associations, is now available in transparency form from the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. Designed primarily as overlays for the *Atlas of Australian Birds*, to help interpret the distribution of birds shown on its maps, they are useful also as overhead transparencies for any lecture or conference paper which needs illustrations of this kind. Printed in blue, they show up clearly on the screen. The images are 15cm×20cm, so it is possible to show two at once on most overhead projectors.

For use with the *Atlas*, a sixth overlay shows subdivisions of the blocks used on the maps — for example subdivisions of the one degree block into ten minutes.

The set of overlays is available for $6 plus postage from the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, 21 Gladstone Street, Moonee Ponds, Vic. 3039.

The *Atlas of Australian Birds* itself has now been reprinted, and its recommended retail price has been increased to $55. The RAOU still has copies of the first printing, and to clear this stock is offering a package deal, the *Atlas* plus a set of overlays, for $55, postage included.