

CONFERENCE NEWS

Keynote Speaker Profiles

Ian Reinecke, keynote speaker on the final day of the Conference was educated at Melbourne and La Trobe Universities before working as a newspaper journalist in Britain. He was technology correspondent of the *Australian Financial Review* in Melbourne, editor of *Communications Australia* and currently holds the position of co-ordinator of the Information Technology and Communication degree at the University of Wollongong.

Ian's five published books are all concerned with the social effects of technology, his most recent being *Connecting you: bridging the communications gap* (McPhee Gribble/Penguin, Melbourne, 1985), in which he puts forward a strong argument for shifting the focus of telecommunications policy-making back towards the individual user.

In his address Ian will look at the traditions of free public access that were the founding tenets of public libraries and that are now being threatened by the emergence of a new commerce in electronic information. Ian believes that the information industry's emergence would have been impossible without the succour given to it by libraries as both consumers and propagandists. It has been given impetus by direct public subsidy at crucial stages of its development, and has depended

upon information collected at public expense as its raw material.

Ian's address should prove extremely interesting for librarians who must operate in an information industry which increasingly threatens to destroy free public access as a guiding principle for libraries and to make information now available in the public arena accessible only to those with the economic and technical means.

Eve Mahlab was born in Vienna and migrated to Australia with her parents in 1939. She attended school and university in Melbourne where she graduated in law. After some years in legal practice, she established her own company which has offices in Melbourne and Sydney and operates throughout Australia.

Ms Mahlab was an early member of the women's movement and an outspoken advocate in matters relating to the Status of Women. She was an early member of the Women's Electoral Lobby and a co-founder of the Liberal Feminist Movement Network. She participated in the United Nations Forum in Copenhagen to mark the midpoint for the Decade of Women.

Ms Mahlab's past and present public appointments include: Member of the Victorian Government Committee of Inquiry into the Status of Women, Member of the Victorian Government Employment Committee, Director Australian Institute of Political Science and Director Arts Research Training and Support Limited. She is currently Chief Executive

of the Mahlab Goup of companies which include Mahlab & Associates, a lawyer search company; Anstat Systems, suppliers and developers of computer software and hardware to the legal profession and Mahlab Publishing publishers of professional and business publications and diaries.

Ms Mahlab has been the subject of several television documentaries including the ABC series 'Woman in Question'. She is also one of the women who are the subject of 'Tall Poppies', the recent best-selling publication soon to be made into a television series. In 1982 she was named 'Australian Businesswoman of the Year'.

Eve's talk at the Conference will be called Taking Stock, and she will be looking at conditions, prospects and current issues for women in the workforce.

Jenny Doubleday

Publicity and Public Relations

VALA Award

The executive committee of the Victorian Association for Library Automation is to make an award to the library or information centre which, in the opinion of the judging panel, has made the most innovative use of currently available technology to improve service to users, either directly through provision of new or upgraded facilities, or indirectly through increasing the efficiency of its support operations.

All libraries and information centres in Australia are eligible for nomination for the award.

Systems nominated for consideration must have been implemented in the period from 1 January 1985 to 30 June 1986, and must have completed a minimum of 3 months operation under normal conditions during that time.

The winning system need not be computer based. It must, however, demonstrate a significant commitment to the use of automation to conserve, supplement and/or extend the capabilities of the organization and its resources, human and financial.

Nor will the winning system necessarily be developed totally in-house. If based on a commercially available package, however, it will involve a major adaptation or application of the standard package.

Nominations

Nominations may be made by staff of libraries or information centres, or by other interested persons, or by members of the judging panel. In all cases, the written consent of the chief executive officer of the nominated organization must be obtained before the nomination is submitted.

Nominations should be supported by a clearly typed statement of not more than five (5) A4 pages, double spaced, single sided. The statement should outline:

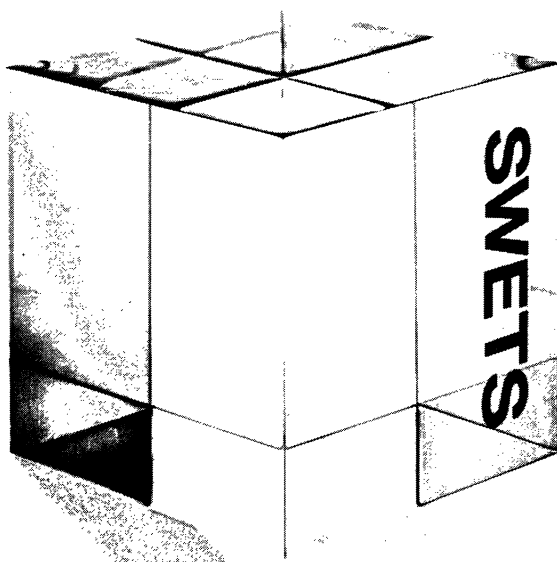
- The chief function of the nominated system.
- The major hardware and software used by the system.
- Features which, in the opinion of the nominator(s), would make the system eligible for the award.
- The date on which the system was commissioned, and the length of time for which it has been operating.

Closing date

Nominations and submissions addressed to the Secretary, Victorian Association for Library Automation, GPO Box 2342V, Melbourne 3000, no later than Friday 17 October, 1986.

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