



— the bottom line

Our 24th Biennial Conference, the first to be held in Darwin, promised to be different — and it is! — with the keynotes on warm hospitality and informality.

As this is being written the conference is barely 24 hours old. Although this gathering of librarians at 'the top end' will be only a memory for those who attended by the time this reaches you, it's already certain that that memory will be long and fond.

I'll be communicating in more detail on the conference in the next issue but this gathering is already notable on several counts. It is the largest conference gathering of *any kind* ever hosted in Darwin, with some 900 registrants and an estimated further 500-600 associated people — trade representatives, families, friends, etc.

It's not surprising that the Chief Minister, the Hon Steve Hatton, commented favourably on this aspect when opening the conference before a crowd of 1000 people seated on the lawns in the tropical warmth and greenness of the Botanical Gardens.

Evidence of the tremendous amount of hard work carried out by Ron Davis, immediate Past President and Chairman of the Conference Committee, and his small organising team abounds on all sides — from the Conference Handbook and Exhibition Guide, the

Registration and Information facilities, to the active social programme which got off to a flying start with barramundi and buffalo steaks and a corroboree performed by the notable Elcho Island Dance Troupe at the Opening.

But for all that, the Darwin Conference could well become most notable for the professional decisions taken. In the days preceding the conference, first the Executive and then the Council spent many painstaking and often gruelling hours discussing the Corporate Plan and Review in fine detail. The final product, if not the evidence of this effort, appears elsewhere in this issue.

While many important decisions were made, the one likely to be seminal to our future growth and direction is the recommendation to change our name to the *Library Information Association of Australia*, LIAA — (pronounced Lee-ah!).

Members are invited to offer further (and final) comments on all the Council resolutions before 31 August.

Until next time —

*Peter Dawe*  
Vice-President

**NEW HIGH TECH LIBRARY LABORATORY**

Library and information students at the Western Australian Institute of Technology have minicomputer and appropriate software totally dedicated to the teaching of information management.

Announcing this recently, Dr Patricia Layzell Ward, the Head of WAIT's Department of Library and Information Studies, said that the system would allow students to study cataloguing, subject indexing, records management, integrated library management including acquisitions and circulation, community information and information planning.

An AWA REALITY minicomputer and software provided by AWA Computers has been installed in a newly furnished laboratory at WAIT. The software is URICA library management system, developed by AWA Computers and widely used throughout Australia.

Dr Layzell Ward said that the system has been made available by AWA following a very successful experiment using URICA within the Department linked to a computer at AWA Perth office.

In addition, the National Library of Australia has arranged for a leased line to be installed in the laboratory to provide a training centre for users of the Australian Bibliographic Network in Western Australia.

Dr Layzell Ward said that the new laboratory was a practical example of collaboration between the information technology industry and tertiary education which had resulted in an exciting venture to prepare students to work with the latest hardware and software available to library and information professionals.

**Help us!**

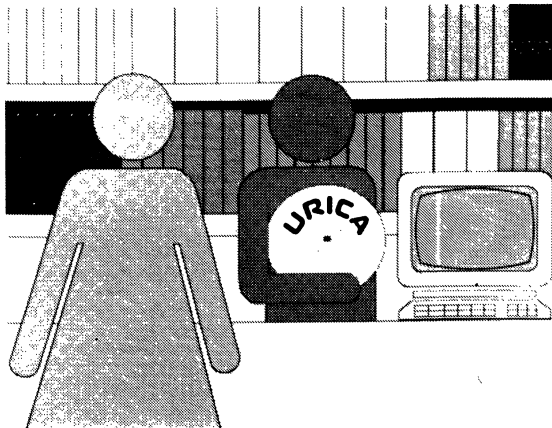
Please submit articles typed with double spacing. Editorial changes are sometimes necessary and this becomes very difficult on pages of single spaced typing. If the material is hand written it becomes almost impossible as the poor typesetter has to interpret both your handwriting and mine!

*Brenda Pittard*  
Editor, *InCite*

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