

Australian wins history award in US

Australian academic, Dr Philip McMichael, a faculty member in the University of Georgia sociology department, has received an award from the American Social Science History Association for a book he has written. Entitled *Settlers and the Agrarian Question: Foundations of Capitalism in Colonial Australia*, the book is published by Cambridge University Press.

Dr McMichael is originally from Adelaide. He received the Association's 1985 Allan Sharlin Memorial Award, which is given annually for outstanding scholarly work. The award committee cited the book as 'the best submission in terms of the general canons of social science history'.

The publishers describe the book as an important new contribution to the study of Australian history, and an original interpretation of the path of development of Australian colonial society prior to Federation in 1901. *Settlers and the Agrarian Question* retails for \$39.95.

Non-user survey

Late last year Hurstville Municipal Library and Information Service received \$11,700 from the Federal Government (office of Local Government) to conduct a non-user survey. This is one of the few direct grants to public libraries ever made. The New South Wales Government contributed an additional \$1,500 from Special Library grants with Hurstville Council also contributing \$1,500.

The survey is of non-users of the library service and follows a user survey carried out in 1981 (funded by the State Government and Council, \$14,000), both surveys being pilot projects for New South Wales, and based on the ALA Planning Process.

The aim is to identify non-users and ascertain their reasons for not using the library. It will also look at the 'underground' use of the library, ie those people who use the library but do not borrow, or those who use other people's cards, for example, families where only one member has a card.

The project will be adaptable for use by other libraries (a condition of the grant), and is being carried out by Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, who have had a great deal of experience in this field. The survey will take place in about March, with final results expected in April/May 1986.

Microfilming newspapers

The Standards Association of Australia has published a new standard for the microfilming of newspapers. AS 2840 Microfilming of Newspapers for Archival Purposes, was prepared at the request of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS) to aid the preservation of actual news provided by newspapers and to assist in the ease of retrieval of information.

The methods set out for the microfilming of newspapers provides for the standardising of the recording, archiving and preservation of information. The standard specifies requirements for the arrangement of files of newspapers to be filmed; lists essential details for producing appropriate targets; and describes the filming process and quality of exposed film.

Copies of AS 2840 can be purchased from any SAA office at a cost of \$11.50 plus \$2.50 postage and handling charge.

Services to the disabled

During 1985 Hurstville Municipal Library and Information Service installed several aids for the handicapped.

Audio loops for people with hearing aids have been installed at each public counter. By adjusting the T switch on the hearing aid the loop allows users to remove any extraneous noise and hear only what is said through a microphone.

Also a TTY telephone has been installed (02) 579-6023 and a speakwriter typewriter for the partially sighted together with a Visual-Teck system of print magnification.

NZ Seminar

The Universal Library is the name of a seminar to be held by the NZLA at the University of Auckland from 29-31 May 1986. It will cover inter-library lending, document delivery and the concept of universal availability of information.

Speakers include Maurice Line, Director General of the BLLD; Elaine Hall, Deputy Chief Cataloguer of the State Library of NSW and Patricia Schuman of Neal-Schuman Publishing, USA.

Further information may be obtained from Kenneth Porter, Seminar Convenor, University Library, University of Auckland, Auckland NZ.

Getting it right

A leaflet, called Citations, has been produced by the Australian Archives to help users to understand its system of records arrangement and description.

Copies may be obtained from Australian Archives, PO Box 34, Dickson ACT 2602 or any of their regional offices.

ABPA appointment

Jan Noble has been appointed as Executive Director of the Australian Book Publishers Association. She replaces Sandra Forbes, who left in December after seven years in the position.

Jan Noble was previously Senior Librarian at the Anglican Church Grammar School, Brisbane, and was very active in the library world, particularly in school libraries. She has also worked in advertising and public relations.

Dying to know?

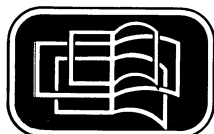
What do you think about an Annual Obituary? Eternal life, or just too deadly boring!

But seriously folks, now in its fifth year of publication, the Annual Obituary 1984 is now available at £31.50 or £25 for standing order from St James Press, 3 Percy Street, London W1P 9FA.

By the way have you heard about the group of undertakers who have organised a seminar on euthanasia?

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