

NEIGHBOURS NETWORK

A unique library networking project, involving three Richmond (Victoria) based library agencies was launched last month by Victorian Arts Minister, Race Mathews.

The project launching at Richmond Community Education Centre Library followed closely on the Minister's announcement that Government Working Party on Public Library Funding had been directed to investigate the 'integration of the library resources of the Ministry for Education...with those of the municipal libraries system'.

In the Richmond project, Carringbush Library in conjunction with the Victorian local government libraries network Technilib have extended their shared on-line information and circulation system to include the Education Centre Library.

The System offers Education Centre Library users a vastly improved service. Students, teachers and community users of the Centre Library will now have direct access to the collections held at Carringbush and at all other Technilib member libraries — over 3 million holdings in 21 libraries throughout Victoria.

The reciprocal benefit for Carringbush and other Technilib member libraries is that their users now have access to the collections at the Education Centre. As well as more general library materials, the Centre Library houses small collections in languages not usually held in Victorian libraries, including Khmer, Laotian, Cambodian and Haku.

'This is an innovative, and possibly unique, form of co-operation between Education Department and local Council libraries' said Carringbush Library Director, Ross Gibbs. 'It involves the sharing of information and resources, rather than the physical integration of buildings, collections and staff, so characteristic of earlier co-operative ventures during the 1970s. We believe it may be the way of the future', Mr Gibbs said.

AT LAST! BRISBANE GETS A CITY LIBRARIAN.

AFTER BEING vacant for well over ten years, the post of Brisbane City Librarian has been filled. No longer does the Deputy Librarian have to be deputy to no-one!

It is all about to change since the appointment of Jenny Cram to the position. Jenny, at present Chief Librarian for Wyong, will take up the Brisbane position in January 1987.



Australian born, Jenny departed the Lucky Country at the age of three and spent most of her childhood in Africa. After completing her degree at the University of Natal, she began her working career as an Education and Training Officer at a Zambian copper mine. However, in her own words, she 'saw the light and went into libraries', and libraries of all kinds have been her working places for most of the time since then.

She has worked in school and university libraries overseas and in school, special, TAFE and public libraries in Australia. But her career has also included a brief spell as a secretary in New York — though that was fairly shortlived due to some uncertainty about the exact nature of the business of some of her lawyer boss's clients! Journalism has been a longstanding interest for Jenny, and she has been a free lance contributor to a number of magazines both in Australia and South Africa.

After returning to Australia in 1967, she worked in school libraries until 1972, when wanderlust struck again and she spent much of the 1970s working overseas.

Before taking up her present appointment as Chief Librarian at Wyong, Jenny was Chief Librarian at Southern Tablelands Joint Library at Goulburn for several years.

Commenting on her new appointment, Jenny spoke warmly of the immense commitment of Brisbane's Lord Mayor to the library. Jenny Cram's brief is 'quite simply to make Brisbane City Library the best public library in Australia.'

Jenny said that one of the great pleasures in librarianship for her was the encouraging attitude displayed by both present and future colleagues, an environment she felt differed greatly from that found in many other professions. She said that working as a librarian not only allowed individuals to develop their own skills, but what was invaluable was the additional knowledge gained from colleagues, 'almost by a process of osmosis'.

Jenny Cram's particular interests in librarianship include the greater development of services for elderly people and more attention to library promotion.

NEW WORLD RECORD!



A new world record was achieved in the Barbara Cartland Book Throwing Challenge during Australian Library Week! Fifty three librarians took part in the event and the new world record stands at 23 metres.