

The mind boggles

A part of the entertainment for the conference dinner included Colin Anderson's 'haucer sketch subtitled 'a bit of Kultcha'. An excerpt is reproduced below. We take up the scene with Colin on stage introducing the sketch...

Good evening and welcome to: LIB. CON. CAB. — an intimate entertainment devised especially for this gathering of intelligent, informed, well-read, professional persons. There's also some rude bits for those unwilling to admit to any of the above.

The show was devised at the request of library staff from the Institute and the Wagga City Library. These staff members provided me with all the 'in' gossip and any writs for defamation should be referred to them and not to me. Apart from original material, the program includes various sketches from local and overseas sources. Much inspiration came from David Lodge's hilarious novel *Small World* and from the Prologue to Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

... THE PROLOGUE ...

*To one such conference our way we wended
By those of common mind it was attended
They planned to give their full deliberation
To libraries that were placed in isolation.*

*And so they held it most appropriately
In Wagga at the RMIHE
For it is clear and really should be stated
You couldn't be much further isolated.*

*And on a Tuesday night they gathered all
For feasting in the College dining hall
The food they ate, yea every single dish
Was listed out upon a microfiche
And that is why amidst the silver glinting
Every single person there was squinting
No doubt they would have found it much
less hard
If it were on a cataloguing card.*

*And now we will, if you should think it
fair
Describe to you the people gathered there*

*And so we shall, along with your
compliance
Show that information studies is a
science!*

*There was a lady that we could have sworn
Was a librarian and to the manner born.
Her clothes severely cut, expression
pinched
Yea, when she looked at me I quickly flin-
ched!
Spectacles on nose — no sense of fun
Her hair pulled into the tightest bun
Yea, everything about her manner and
demeanour —
(We later learnt she was in fact the
cleaner!)
Librarians don't look like that at all
As we soon found on looking round the
hall.*

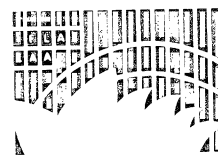
*A lass there was of manner most refined
Who spent her days just trying to be kind
To aged crones demanding that they be
Shown how to find out 'bout their fam'ly
tree.*

*Or girls with names like Julie, Jenny,
June
Seeking out the latest Mills and Boon
She never lost her cool, just dished out fact —
We later found her screaming in the
stacks:*

*'For years and years I slaved away at
College
Thinking that one day I'd use that
knowledge
For exploring and improving human
souls!
She went on to become a check out chick in
Coles!*

*A man I heard emitting moans and groans
About the cost of interlibrary loans
How unfair it was that tertiary
institutions
Should demand from public libraries con-
tributions
They know we cannot possibly afford it
(An academic sitting nearby just ignored
it.)*

IFLA 88, I'll be there —



K.R. Cooper
Chief Executive
The British Library



As one of the world's major research libraries, the British Library values its links with the international library community. An awareness of international library developments is a significant element in national library planning, and the annual IFLA conference provides a unique opportunity to keep abreast of worldwide trends and developments.

In addition, the library recognises that a good deal of useful work is carried out at the general conference and its satellite events. We have a long-standing involvement in many of IFLA's activities, supplying officers and members of sections, standing committees and working groups, as well as hosting a number of IFLA's core programs.

Our links with the rest of the English-speaking world are especially important, and the British Library has a history of good working relations with Australia, notably on bibliographic activities (such as AACR2). Many of my colleagues have benefited from stimulating and instructive visits to Australian libraries, and I am looking forward to following in their footsteps on this (my first) visit to Australia. I shall particularly welcome the opportunity to meet again some of the recent Australian visitors to the BL, who have included representatives of the National Library and the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne.

K. R. Cooper

EXCITING AUTOMATED LIBRARY SYSTEMS

EXCITING EXCELLENT AUTOMATED POWERFUL FLEXIBLE COMPLETE

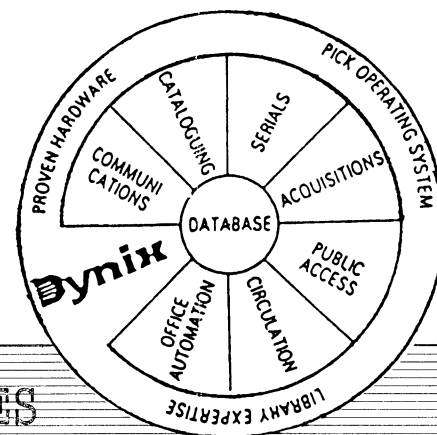
INTEGRATED SYSTEMS
LINKED MODULES
INTERLIBRARY NETWORKS

MODULAR CONCEPT
PORTABLE
AFFORDABLE

SUCCESSFUL WORLDWIDE
BOTH IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES
AND ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENTS

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION,
CALL OR WRITE TO:

DYNIX AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
34 GREENHILL RD
WAYVILLE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5034
(08) 373 0622



A UNIQUE COMMITMENT TO LIBRARIES