SACAE CHOOSES DYNIX

The South Australian College of Advanced Education (SACAE) has announced its decision to install a Dynix Automated Library System.

SACAE, operating over five campuses, with its 600,000 volumes, is Australia's largest college library, and also the last to automate. It has been the intention to do so since the amalgamation of the college in 1982, but funding and administrative difficulties, and retrospective catalogue conversion have delayed the process.

Nevertheless the whole operation has been carefully planned, allowing the college to ensure the smooth running of the whole operation. A retrospective conversion program being handled by SAZTEC will be largely complete by the end of 1988. Automated circulation will be in operation on the campus by the beginning of next year.

In 1986 the college began enquiries into automated library systems by writing to all potential suppliers, outlining their requirements. These responses were evaluated by a working party, and, with the assistance of library consultant Glenn Sanders, a straightforward tender document was drawn up. This stated the library's needs very clearly and



Alan Bundy with Ralph Egan

various library suppliers were invited to provide details of cost of the library's requirements. This made the process simple for the companies concerned and simplified the library's own evaluation process.

Checks were carried out with libraries using the systems under consideration to find out what their experiences had been. It was at this stage that Dynix first appeared on the scene. At that time Dynix was still a comparative newcomer to the Australian library scene; a member of the working party carrying out SACAE's evaluation was invited to attend a demonstration of the system and was favourably impressed..

So favourably, that Dynix immediately

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joined the systems under consideration SACAE's Chief Librarian, Alan Bundy, con tacted every customer using the Dynix system most of whom were in North America and the UK. Almost everyone responded — and over whelmingly it was a good response.

In summing up the reasons for selecting the Dynix system, Alan Bundy said that the system's flexibility allowed it to meet every need of the library and provide a very good integrated system. The user-friendliness of the OPAC was a very strong point and he appreciated the excellent local suppor provided by the organisation. (The team in Adelaide is headed by Ralph Egan.)

The Dynix system has also been selected by the South Australian Department of Education as the solution to their desire for a uniform approach for the provision of automated library services throughout the state SACAE's decision following the Education Department's selection of the system means that students and teachers will have the advantage of using the same system as they progress through the different stages of their education and working lives.

Dynix is now the most installed system in the US and has several other users in Austra lia and New Zealand. In recognition of this growth an Australian users group is being established called CODIA — Customers o Dynix in Australia. The secretariat for CODIA is being provided by SACAE Library for the first two years.

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Australian Studies Discussion Group

An Australian Studies Discussion Group was established during the American Library Association Conference in San Francisco at the end of June.

The group got off to a good start with a reception hosted by David Rutter, Australian Consul-General in San Francisco at which members had the opportunity to sample some fine Australian wines.

The ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) Board of Directors approved the body as an official ACRL discussion group. Its purpose is to: 'provide a forun for discussion and for the exchange of information among librarians involved in collecting materials from Australia and related areas of the western Pacific; promote support of Australian studies by libraries; and develop and maintain liaison with other organisations such as the American Association of Australian Literary Studies.'

Meetings are being scheduled for future ALA conferences, and an item on the agenda for the mid-winter conference will be Aus tralian belles-lettres. The group is also interested in other suggestions for discussion The group's Convener is William Schenck University of Oregon Library, Eugene, Oregor 97403 (503)-686-3096.

William has advised that Australiar delegates to ALA conferences will be welcome to attend the group's meetings, and that he is happy to receive items of interest for discussion.

Jenny Adam Director

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