

resources — both human and physical — that have been developed since 1965 in CAE libraries will continue to be the basis of a significant part of the information infrastructure for the education and culture of the Australian people.



James O'Brien is the head of the Resources Centre at Kuring-gai CAE, Sydney, a position he has held since 1977. Prior to that he was chief librarian at the Salisbury CAE, Adelaide. He has also had extensive experience in university, public and school libraries in the United States and Greece. He has been actively involved with many LAA activities and has been Secretary/Treasurer of the Association of Librarians in CAE's for several years.

# Being there

'And what's an information management consultant?' Six months ago I would have been able to keep you enthralled for an hour and five minutes on the finer points of how I was moved to resign from a secure job as manager of a college library to set the world on fire peddling my services to business and industry bent on resolving all their 'technology' problems.

I scoffed at those who smiled awkwardly and said: 'a brave step'. I was surrounded by an aura of confidence. After all, I had done all my homework hadn't I? I had in hand wonderful full-text retrieval software destined to turn information management on its head and everybody seemed to know at least one business or professional person who had made a near fatal mistake about choosing systems and choosing computers. Lots of people shivered with delight when I showed them the wonders of ZyINDEX — within three and a half weeks I would be an overnight success.

Three-and-a-half weeks turned into three-and-a-half months, overnight. I learned a number of very painful lessons. As a librarian I used to take a long time to make up my mind and I was one of the faster ones. Librarians don't make decisions about software as fast as I thought they might and even when they make the decision it takes forever to get the orders through all the redtape.

The reason for this article is that through all the highs and lows, I have discovered that you need the support of others in the profession. I don't mean that through your colleagues you get all the breaks or the right introductions. I would have to say that that's not where the opportunities are coming from. It is now very obvious to me that the most valuable thing I

have done in my career is to become really involved in the LAA.

I can now testify personally that anyone who goes out on their own and doesn't have the support and security of the LAA must at times feel lonely and cut off from the library world. I not only count as important the contacts and sharing of information, I could never really estimate the value of friendship. Sometimes it is just a meeting, a few drinks after a Branch Council meeting or it may be the opportunity to get together with the librarians at the coalface, laugh and scream a little, and, of course, gossip about who and what.

But, I do have a question. Why, with so many vital, energetic, professionally wise and innovative people out there, do we still have such a bad image? I see those people every day because they are the ones who are exploring all of the possibilities offered by the new technology. They are looking at being real information managers in their company or organisation. They understand information management and they are raising the profile of the library and the librarian. To these fine ambassadors I say, don't be shy. Share your ideas and your experience: the LAA needs your contribution in its Groups and Sections.

And to those who see themselves branching out to the world of consulting, don't — without first listening to good advice. You may not be lucky enough to your own personal small business consultant, but use the agencies, join a group or take a class. And find someone, a colleague you can moan to, groan to, plan with, travel with, start with, leave the project with, leave the used coffee cups with and you'll do fine. And by the way in case you are wondering, I'll stay as long as I can. I really love it out here on my own.

Bev Kirby

## Call for Nominations Australian Serials Special Interest Group

The Australian Serials Special Interest Group wishes to call for nominations for the 1989 executive and committee. Nominations will be accepted for the positions of Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and six committee members. Please send nominations to Patricia Baigent, Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services, 35 Mitchell Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060 by 21 November 1988.

ASSIG is also seeking corresponding members from all states of Australia, especially NT, SA, TAS, WA, and New Zealand. If you are interested please contact above address.

A unique opportunity to work in a disaster environment with no need to flood your own library.

- Participants will be given:
- a series of lectures on disaster and conservation issues.
  - hands on experience using recovery equipment — pumps, generators, emergency lighting.
  - an opportunity to enter and recover materials from a simulated disaster struck building.
  - a chance to follow damaged materials through the various stages of recovery, including the freezing of material, and a visit to a conservation unit.

PLACES LIMITED TO 60 LIBRARIANS OR ARCHIVISTS AND 40 CONSERVATORS

DATE:  
TUESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY  
TO  
FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 1989

# LESSONS FROM LENINGRAD!

a  
Simulated Disaster

When Disaster Strikes

Be Prepared

## REGISTRATION FORM

Registrations are limited to 40 conservators and 60 librarians. Registrations will be processed in order of receipt. Registrations close on the 16th December, 1988.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a conservator? yes/no

Institutions: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(for correspondence)

Please send registration form to: Mr. Max W. Borchardt,  
Library Co-ordinator, CAVAL Ltd. 10 Prospect Hill Rd,  
Camberwell, Vic. 3124.  
Contact phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOMMODATION will be in the Deakin University Colleges. Persons not wishing to take advantage of these facilities may make alternative arrangements of their own. A discount of \$50.00 will apply for all applicants who do not wish to use the college accommodation.

I DO/DO NOT wish to use college accommodation.

Registration Fee: DRACULA MEMBERS \$375.00  
Others \$400.00

## PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM

CAVAL will invoice you or your organisation upon receipt of this registration form.

Name of person or organisation to invoice: \_\_\_\_\_

Cancellations received before the 16th of December will incur a \$20.00 handling fee. Cancellations after the 16th of December will be refunded only 80% of the registration fee.