



IN THE NEWS

A close liaison

The Victorian Ministry for the Arts has set up a Library Services Unit to support and implement government policies in library and information services throughout Victoria.

The unit will provide administrative back-up to the Libraries Board of Victoria, as well as managing financial assistance programs to municipal public libraries. The unit will also assist with the introduction of accountability procedures and performance measures in public libraries.

Close liaison has been established between this unit and the LAA Victorian Branch to ensure effective communication and consultation on specific matters.

LIBMAN II launch

A new version of the library and information management system, LIBMAN, was launched recently by VTEC Pty Ltd.

LIBMAN II, contains such features as a multi-user facility, OPAC, thesaurus, a comprehensive serials system as well as many other features, allowing greater flexibility and integration.

LIBMAN is now installed in 18 special and public libraries in Australia and New Zealand. For more information on this new release, contact Claudette Pope on (03) Cont'dCont'd page 20618 6554 or Wendy Masterman on (02) 27 5937.

It's summer... school's in

The Women's College, University of Sydney, will hold a two-week Centenary Summer School from 9 January - 10 January 1989.

The theme for the two weeks is a 'A Force for Change'. A highlight of the two weeks will be a childrens' literature morning at 9.00 am on 10 January with Jan Mark, Patricia Wrightson, Nadia Wheatley and Libby Gleeson. Cost for the morning is \$35.

For more information and a registration form contact the Co-ordinator, Jenny Hudson (02) 51 3761.

NBC awards

The National Book Council is calling for entries for the 1989 Banjo and New Writers' Awards.

There are to be two Banjo Awards of \$10,000 each for books (fiction and non-fiction) which are of strong literary merit and which make an outstanding contribution to Australian literature. The New Writers' Award, open to writers under 35 or to a first book writer of any age, includes a return overseas air fare and a research grant.

Public libraries will receive posters, bookmarks and sets of books as soon as the shortlist is announced. For more details contact Frances Awcock, National Book Council (03) 347 5855.

Wired for Popline

Aldis, specialists in CD-ROM, have announced seven new databases in their SilverPlatter range of CD-ROM products.

The new databases will be progressively introduced on to the Australian market in the next few months. Among the new databases are: EINECS, a register of more than 100,000 chemicals; MathsSci Disc covering the literature of Mathematics, and Popline containing more than 150,000 citations on population, family planning and related issues.

For more information on these and other databases, contact Jenny Casey on (03) 647 9724.

Morale booster

The Armidale City Library, NSW, was the winner of the Professional Service section of the Armidale Business Awards presented recently.

The Award was organised by the Armidale Chamber of Commerce with more than 200 nominations received. Selection criteria for the Award included customer service, public image and merchandising.

Jean McBride, Chief Librarian saw the award as a morale booster for any public library.

Kids choice

The third annual Young Australian's Best Book Awards (YABBA) were held recently at Ballarat CAE. The Award winners are as follows: Jeannie Baker's *Where the forest meets the sea* - best picture story book; Nadia Wheatley and Donna Rawlins' *My Place* - best fiction for younger readers; and Paul Jennings' *Unbelievable* - best fiction for older readers. Almost 18,000 young Australians voted in this year's Awards, allowing children to express their opinions on Australian childrens' literature..

For copies of the Award list and brochure contact: YABBA Council, PO Box 238, Kew, Victoria 3101, (03) 861 9169.

Needle in a haystack

Systematics Information Systems have become the agent for an Australian-developed text storage and retrieval system known as ConText.

Formerly known as CSRDOC, ConText provides fast and easy access to information contained in any form of text including catalogues and telexes. It also solves the filing and retrieval problems of legal documents, technical abstracts, bibliographical indexes and various other documents such as reports.

So, to solve your 'needle in the haystack' information retrieval problems, contact Anthony Meggitt or Graham Whittall at Systematics on (02) 411 3255.

teaze (-z), 2-n. Person given to teasing (-z)-n, dried prickly flower-head used as cloth, plant producing these. teas'er (-z-) n, teasing question or task.

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