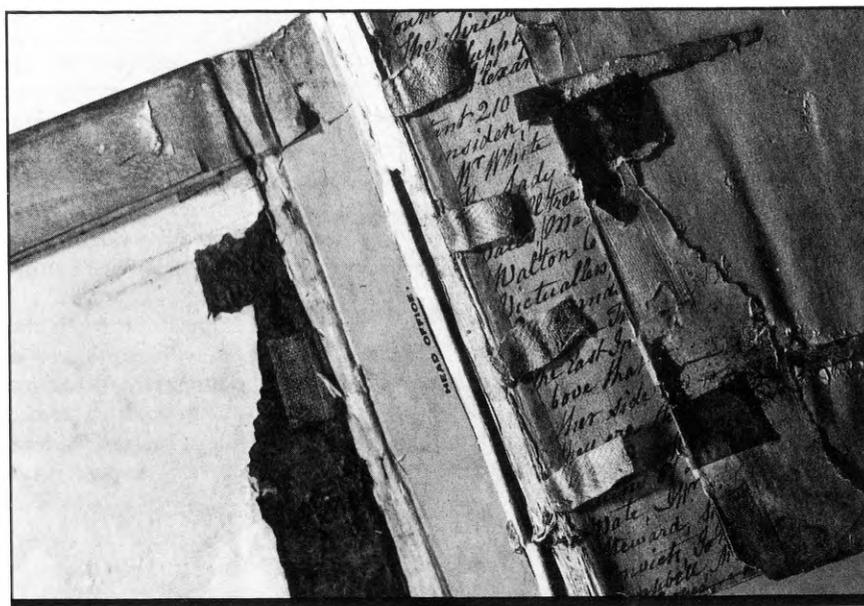


# Conservation on the move: onward to 2001



**M**ore than a hundred librarians, archivists, conservators, paper manufacturers and records managers attended an extremely successful day-long conference at the State Library of New South Wales on 3 August. The meeting marked the completion of ALIA NSW Branch's bicentennial conservation project 'Conservation on the move'. As well as reviewing the project's achievements, the speakers and participants charted new directions for pressing on with this important initiative.

Michael Photias MP, representing the Minister for the Arts, opened proceedings by reviewing the challenge of preserving Australia's documentary heritage and foreshadowing the support of the NSW Government for a national preservation program as we approach 2001 — the centenary of Australia's federation.

The keynote speakers, Janine Schmidt (State Library of NSW) and Jan Lyall (National Library), members of

the ACLIS Conservation Task Force, presented a report on the work of ACLIS (and before that, ALIC) in identifying the essential elements of a national preservation plan and in following up the recommendations of the Australian Libraries Summit on preservation. Jan Lyall also reported on her recent overseas visits to national preservation centres, and the lessons they provide for the establishment of an Australian national preservation office. Copies of the speakers' published progress report *Preserving Australia's documentary heritage* (July 1989) can be obtained from the ACLIS office at the National Library of Australia.

Helen Price — ALIA's energetic and committed Bicentennial Conservator in charge of the 'Conservation on the move' project — reported on her activities over the past 3 years, including a series of practical workshops, visits to country libraries, and the preparation of the best-selling book and video *Stopping the rot*. One of Helen's satisfied customers, Judy

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### News and Articles

A wise investment

7

Special Champion honoured

8

ALIA Study Tour for 1989

11

ALIA 1990 Conference

12

...and more

### Regular Features

Frontline

2

Notes from the Executive Director

4

In the News

6

Feedback

9

The Source

15

Letters

17

Events

18

Washington, gave a fascinating, illustrated account of how the council archives and local studies material in the Sydney municipality of Lane Cove were rescued from a town hall basement and restored to useful and productive life. Over the luncheon break, the staff of the State Library's Preservation Department, led by Manager Alan Howell, provided guided tours of the Library's preservation laboratories and demonstrations of preservation techniques and equipment.

The major villain in the deterioration of library and archival materials is

Continued 5 ●●●

**1** Inside cover of John Easty's journal — private marine — (1787-1788) written aboard Scarborough. The journal was rebound at an unknown date when the binder added pieces of office 'waste' to strengthen its construction. It was recently rebound using permanent materials and techniques

From 1 ●●●

acidic paper, which means most paper made since the 1860s. Science media personality David Ellyard described the origins of this staggering problem, which has caused — or will cause — the slow destruction of most present library and archival collections. Non-acidic ('permanent') paper can be manufactured at about the same cost as acidic



paper, and with less environmental damage, but, he said, paper mills have a heavy investment in the acidic technology and few voices are raised demanding permanent paper. David was followed by Jan Lyall, who briefly put the case for standards that define paper permanence.

Brief reports were given by representatives of APM and APPM, the two



major Australian paper manufacturers, or their companies' responses to the acid paper problem. Essentially, they see little consumer demand for permanent paper, so they are not highly motivated to invest in the equipment to produce it. Both speakers praised ALIA for raising awareness on this vital issue, and promised to take back with them the concerns of archivists and librarians.

The appropriateness of microform and optical disks as replacements for deteriorating paper storage of information was ably discussed by Ann Pederson of the University of NSW School of Librarianship. After defining the desirable characteristics of information storage technology (e.g. durability, portability, ease of use) she concluded that paper was the most flexible, but, because of its inherent instability, microform was the next best option. She stressed that the fundamental question is how to identify which records are important enough to be preserved permanently, because the preservation of all is not feasible.

The future of libraries and archives rests with the next generation of their staffs, and both ALIA and the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) are concerned to ensure that students and practitioners have 'conservation literacy', as Sigrid McCausland from ASA put it. She and David Jones, representing the ALIA Board of Education, outlined requirements for educational programs to include awareness of preservation and conservation issues.

Like any well-designed conference, this one set the context, explored the issues, and built to a climax. In a brief final statement, NSW State Librarian, Alison Crook, announced — to well-deserved applause — the State Library's new enterprise 'Conservation access', the theme of which is 'history is on our side — time isn't'. Conservation access, of which Helen Price is to be the coordinator, is an entrepreneurial venture to provide conservation-advice workshops and facilities for the treatment of items made from paper. Preventive conservation is the key. Further information is available from Alan Howell, the State Library's Preservation Manager (State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000; telephone (02) 230 1679.)

Conservation on the move has been an outstandingly successful bicenten-

Continued 6 ●●●

2 From left: Alan Howell, Manager Preservation, State Library of NSW; Helen Price, Conservator, ALIA Bicentennial Conservation Project; Patricia Ward and Faye Lawrence, Joint Co-ordinators ALIA Bicentennial Conservation Project.

3 Delegates to the **Conservation on the move** conference examining a photograph through the preservation Department's electronic binocular microscope.

## ALIA General Council

### President

Ms Averill M.B. Edwards, PO Box 3381, Manuka, ACT 2603; (062) 62 1604.

### Vice-President

Ms Lynn Allen, State Librarian, c/- State Library Service of WA, Alexander Library Building, James Street, Perth, WA 6000; (09) 427 3111.

### Past-President

Mr A. Bundy, c/- SACAE Library, Holbrooks Road, Underdale, SA 5032; (08) 354 6260.

### Chairperson, Board of Education

Mr Eric Wainwright, Deputy Director-General, National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra, ACT 2600; (062) 62 1377.

### Australian Capital Territory

#### GENERAL TREASURER

Mr Kerry Webb, c/- National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra, ACT 2600; (062) 62 1535.

### New South Wales

Ms Tanya Whitmarsh, c/- Ryde Municipal Library, Civic Centre, Devlin Street, Ryde, NSW 2112; (02) 808 0575.

### Northern Territory

Ms Patricia McKay, c/- Northern Territory University, Library, PO Box 40146, Casuarina, NT 0810; (089) 20 4184.

### Queensland

Mr Alex Cutts, 10 Belfort Street, Stafford Heights, Qld 4053; (07) 40 4852.

### South Australia

#### GENERAL SECRETARY

Ms Anne Harris, c/- The Orphanage, SA Department of Education, GPO Box 1152, Adelaide, SA 5001; (08) 372 1818.

### Tasmania

Ms Christine Frey, PO Box 764, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005; (002) 20 2351.

### Victoria

Mr Bruce Davidson, Parliamentary Librarian, Parliament of Victoria, Spring Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3002; (03) 651 8231.

### Western Australia

Ms Mary Papachristos, Manager Library Services, Department of Corrective Services, 441 Murray Street, Perth, WA 6000; (09) 426 7599.

# IN THE NEWS

## Visiting Fellow

Pam Pitkeathly, Associate Director of the Resource Centre at Cumberland College of Health Sciences, is spending a period as Visiting Fellow in the Department of Information Studies at Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, Lindfield.

While at Kuring-gai, Pam will give lectures on information management in both graduate and undergraduate programs, and act as a resource person for teacher-librarianship studies. Pam hopes to spend some time furthering her research into the staff development needs of personnel in academic libraries, before the scene is changed by amalgamations. She will return to Cumberland in December 1989.

## Students take a stand

The students of the Library and Information Studies Department at Curtin University are currently organising a student conference to follow the ALIA 1990 Conference. It is envisaged that this conference will be run over one day and address issues of particular relevance to students.

The students welcome the participation of *InCite* readers in determining issues of importance to library students and their future development as professionals. Suggestions may be forwarded to: Tina Ackerman, c/- Department of Library and Information Studies, Curtin University, Kent Street, Bentley WA 6102.

## AAP DATA

AAP DATA — a new archival database service developed by Australian Associated Press (AAP) — allows business and government departments to monitor financial, economic and major political news and information from Australia and New Zealand. The information gathered by AAP is updated every 24 hours.

The database can be accessed through a personal computer, using a modem and a communications software package.

The service has been designed to meet the needs of business analysts, investment advisers, sharebrokers, government and private industry economists, statisticians, librarians, and others servicing the economic sector.

AAP DATA's financial services include details of all announcements lodged with Australian Stock Exchanges and the New Zealand Stock Exchange. In addition, subscribers are provided with a broad overview of international political, economic and trade activity.

For further information on AAP DATA, contact Mr Craig Eyes, AAP Melbourne, telephone (03) 619 9300, and see advertisement on page 9 of this issue of *InCite*.

## Asian library journal

A new journal catering to the needs of librarians, publishers and information professionals in the Asia-Pacific region is being launched in March 1990.

The *Asian Library Journal* will be published in Bangkok and will provide a high editorial standard, calling on a pool of experienced specialist writers based in various Asian countries. The editorial panel of consultants consists of prominent international librarians and information professionals.

The *Journal* will be published quarterly and unsolicited material and advertising will be accepted. For more information contact the publisher, Yeow-wei J. Yee, Karger, Suk & Yee Ltd, 90/20 Rajaprab Road, Makkasan, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.

## For legal eagles

DISKROM Australia — a joint venture between the Australian Government Publishing Service (AGPS) and Computer Law Services, Sydney — launched its first software package at the Third Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference.

Called the Corporation Act Disk, the package will improve the efficiency of law libraries by making law and statutes more accessible than ever before.

DISKROM's purpose is to publish a variety of Commonwealth materials on compact disk (CD-ROM), allowing the user to access the data easily using an IBM personal computer. New products will be released periodically.

For further information regarding the Corporation Act Disk, contact Bob Missingham, DISKROM Australia, telephone (062) 95 4838

# WHO'S WHERE



5

Mr James A. Lumbers, formerly Assistant General Manager of the CSIRO Information Services Unit in Melbourne, has recently been appointed as a management consultant with PCEK-Bevington — a management consultancy firm specialising in organisational effectiveness. Mr Paul Reekie will be the Acting Assistant General Manager until a new appointment has been made.

5 James A. Lumbers

▶ From 5 . . .

nial initiative of the NSW Branch of ALIA. Its conservator, Helen Price, has travelled extensively and worked tirelessly to further the conservation cause over the past 3 years. She has been strongly supported by the originators of the concept, Patricia Ward and Faye Lawrence, who have administered the project since 1986. We are all in their debt, wherever we may be.

Neil A. Radford



## CORRECTION

In *InCite*, 28 August 1989, page 1, the ALIA Statement on Free Library Service to All was incorrectly stated as being the ALIA Statement on Free Public Library Service to All.

Also, Vikki Hopwood, National President of ALIA'S Library Technicians' Section was incorrectly referred to as Vikki Stopwood in the caption on the 10th birthday of ALIA'S Library Technicians' Section. The *InCite* Managing Editor apologises for these oversights.

