

In the News

UNESCO seminar

Thirteen librarians and archivists from the Pacific Islands concluded a two-week course on conservation and preservation of library and archival materials in a tropical environment. The course was held at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, Canberra, from January 22 to February 3 1989 and was funded by UNESCO, AIDAB, and the National Library of Australia under its Regional Co-operation Program.

Members came from Tonga, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Guam, New Caledonia, American Samoa, Western Samoa, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Palau, Cook Islands, Micronesia and Niue. All of these countries have tropical climates with high humidity and heat, both of which pose problems for the long-term preservation of library collections.

New library building for Pakenham, Victoria

The Shire of Pakenham is to build a new library building to replace the outdated premises currently occupied in John Street. It is hoped the new building will be completed and operational during 1989-90.

Bicentennial Gift for Springvale

On 20 September last, Mr Eddie Micallef, State MP. for Springvale, presented a set of the Historical Records of Victoria to the Springvale Library.

The collection gives users the opportunity to study the achievements of Victorian pioneers through authentic documents.

James Bennett Library Services

U.K. company B.H. Blackwell Ltd is in the process of acquiring the International Library Division of John Menzies PLC, which includes James Bennett Library Services Pty Ltd.

Women Writers for Braille

Women writers have almost swept the board in the Braille Book of the Year Short List for 1989.

Tim Richards 6.2.89

We are saddened to record here that Tim Richards, 23, of the NSW State Library, was accidentally drowned on 6 February while on a four-week Outward Bound course in the Brindabella Mountains near Canberra. Tim had completed his BA (LIS) at RMIHE at Wagga, and was to have graduated in April.

His parents, Mr and Mrs G. Richards, 19 Myra Street, Wahroonga, NSW 2076 have heard from many of his friends from RMIHE and from the libraries where he worked. However, they would like to hear from anyone else who has special memories or pictures of Tim, especially at the Wagga college.

Barrett Reid, who was one of the three judges for the Award, said that the judges were fascinated that five of the books chosen were written by female authors. The Short List for the Braille Book of the Year Award for 1989 is: *It's raining in Mango*—Thea Astley; *Oscar and Lucinda*—Peter Carey; *A house of trees*—Joan Colebrook; *The living hothouse*—Marion Halligan; *Charades*—Janette Turner Hospital; *Sitting on penguins*—Stephen Murray-Smith; and *Martin Boyd: a life*—Brenda Niall.

Valmai Kirkham Fenster Memorial Scholarship

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies is pleased to announce the 1989 Valmai Kirkham Fenster Memorial Scholarship, a biennial scholarship for students from Australia, New Zealand or other nearby nations with connections with the British Empire and Commonwealth.

An award of \$1,500-\$2,000 is available every two years for students interested in advanced training at the UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Application for fall 1989 are accepted until the scholarship is awarded.

For additional information or application forms contact: Barbara J. Arnold, Admissions and Placement Office, UW-Madison, School of Library and Information Studies, 4217 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706, USA.

Subtitled Video Project

The Australian Caption Centre's intention in establishing a unique Subtitled Video Project was to enable deaf and hearing impaired people and speakers of other languages to gain equitable access to the wealth of material

available on video. It now requests your feedback to ensure this is happening, and would appreciate receiving information from libraries on the following:

- what subtitled videos they have in stock;
- utilisation of these videos;
- presentation of the videos (i.e. packaging, including indications that the video carries subtitles); and
- other suggestions, particularly regarding new titles.

Please contact: Ms Courtney Kidd, Australian Caption Centre, Level 1, 88-90 Foveaux Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010. Fax: (02) 281 2198. Telephone: (02) 212 5277 (voice and TTY).

Dealing with disasters

The National Preservation Office of the British Library has produced a 20 minute video entitled 'If Disaster Strikes!' dealing with all aspects of disaster planning for libraries. Further information may be obtained from Geraldine Kenny, National Preservation Office, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG.

Copyright news

Bulletin 65 from the Australian Copyright Council seeks to summarise the main provisions of the Copyright Amendment Bill as passed by the House of Representatives on 23 November 1988. For copies or further information contact the Council on (02) 957 2941.

In further copyright news, it is expected that a report to the Attorney General from the Copyright Law Review Committee on the importation provisions of the Copyright Act 1968 will be published shortly. Contact officer for the Copyright Law Review Committee is Lauren Honcoe (062) 719 609.

Travelling book show

The venues and dates for the British Council's Travelling Book Exhibition for 1989 have been finalised. The 200 books and journals are of particular interest to librarians. Details and catalogues may be obtained from Elizabeth Ramsay at the British Council, PO Box 88, Edgecliff NSW 2027. Phone (02) 326 2022.

ALA news

The executive director of the American Library Association (ALA), Thomas J. Galvin has announced his retirement effective from November 1989. In other news from ALA, President F. William Summers advised that the ALA had resumed its exchange programs with Soviet libraries, suspended since 1980.