

ASIAN LANGUAGES AND STUDIES

The Department of Employment, Education and Training will continue to support Asian Studies by allocating \$946 500 in 1989-90 to provide a continuing program for the professional development of teachers of Asian languages, and \$500 000 to fund the establishment of a national coordinated program for the training of teachers of Asian languages and studies.

MULTICULTURALISM

Under the Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Supplementation Program of the Federal Government, tertiary education institutions and registration/certification bodies receive funding for proposals aimed at integrating cross-cultural elements into the curricula of professional and paraprofessional courses. Of a total of \$1 500 000 for 1988-89, \$600 000 was provided as a contribution to the establishment of the Languages Institute of Australia.

LIBRARY STATISTICS

The Statistical Advisory Group of the Cultural Ministers Council was established to improve the definition, range and quality of statistics available to the culture-leisure industry. At a workshop in Canberra on 20 October, the third of a series of three, draft papers entitled 'The National Culture-Leisure Industry Statistical Framework (March 1989)' and 'The National Culture-Leisure Industry Statistical Framework:



Available Data and Sources (March 1989)' were presented, as well as a document that was

to provide a statistical basis for the whole of the library industry. Suggestions on these were invited so that a report on available industry data could be presented to the Cultural Ministers Council in May 1990. A further document will be circulated for comment before the end of the year, and any comments will need to be sent in by February.

There were significant problems in the presentation of data that had been prepared by a consultant, without, it seems, any library input and with limited time for consultation. The eventual result should be a

library-wide set of statistics and commentaries from all sectors, which should, hopefully, be very useful.

Included in this program are national and State libraries, public libraries, special libraries, school libraries and libraries in higher education establishments.

ABN INCOME

The Federal Government has agreed that ABN should be allowed to operate on a commercial basis with retention of revenue and freedom from resource constraints. Such a step — one of the recommendations of the National Library Review — provided that ABN had a better planning framework incorporating a rolling 3-year strategic (business) plan and annual operational plans.

COPYRIGHT

The Copyright Amendment Bill, which passed through Parliament in the middle of the year, was reviewed by Derek Fielding in *InCite* 10(10), 10 July.

The Copyright Law Review Committee in its 1988 report saw the main issue as balancing:

'... two principal public interests, one in the community having access, as cheaply as possible, to the whole range of copyright material and the other in ensuring that copyright owners are not deprived of adequate protection.'

PRICE OF BOOKS

The Prices Surveillance Authority Inquiry into the Price of Books has been well publicised in the media. The Authority recommends an open market; specifically it recommends that the importation provisions of the Copyright Act for books be removed, except for pirated books and those by resident authors published in Australia.

The Inquiry found that most of the benefits of the closed market accrued to foreign publishers, and that the virtual ban on import competition conferred more protection on publishers than Australia's most tariff-protected industries received. It found that publishers have used the Copyright Act to charge higher prices for books in Australia than would have been possible in an open market, and referred to the Canadian experience with competition. It also found that Australian publishing and Australian authors had not benefited to any significant degree from the importation provisions presently in place.

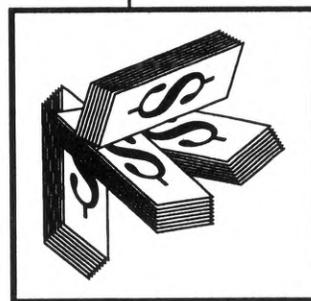
The next step appears to be the submission of a paper to Federal Cabinet.

BIBLIOMETRICS

In August the Australian Science and Technology Council released its 'Profile of Australian Science', a 463-page study of the current state and potential of basic scientific research.

Chapter 9 deals with the 'Bibliometric Analysis of Australian Basic Research' and chapter 10 with 'Bibliometric Indicators of Research Priorities', where data in the Computer Horizons Inc. journal set for 1973, 1980, and 1984 were manipulated. In appendix 1 is a summary of the methodology of literature-based measures of research output, which may be of

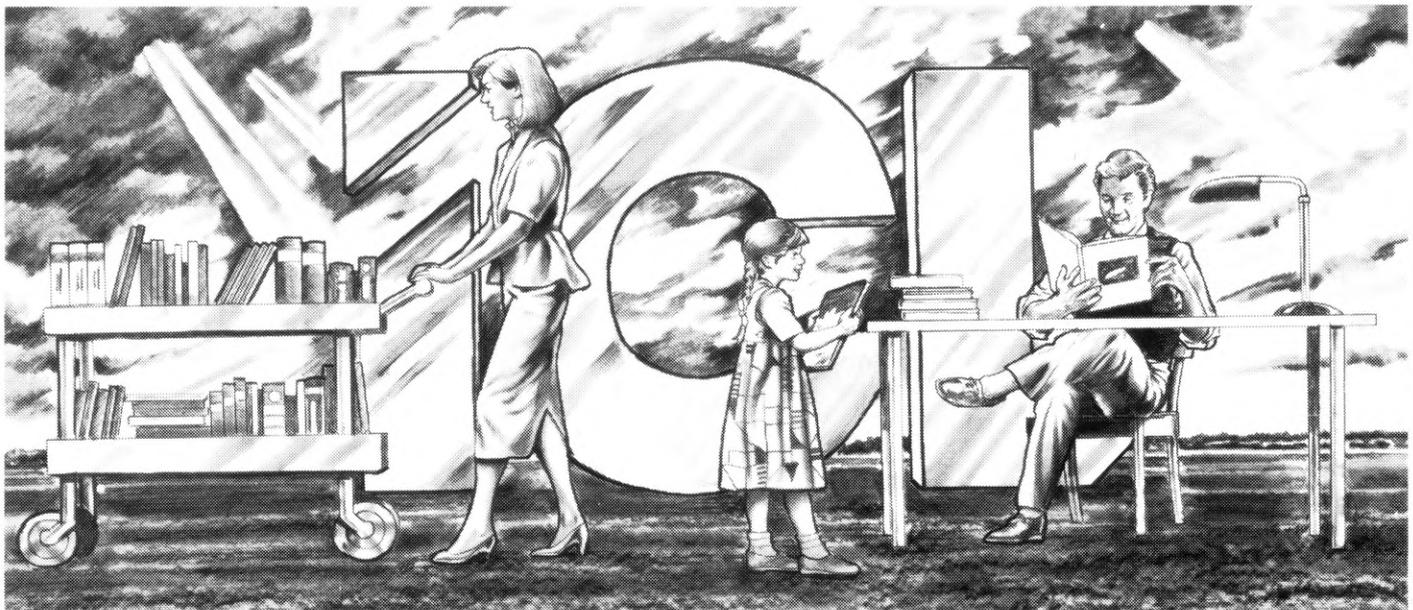
interest to many librarians and others at a time when performance indicators are in vogue.



LIBRARY PROVISION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The planned review mentioned in the previous issue is still under discussion within the Department of Employment, Education and Training. It is understood that the review will be set up soon and that it is intended to complete stage 1 in the first half of next year.

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