

# FRONT

L I N E



Ruth Quinn: NT Branch President.

**T**here are three important issues for the Northern Territory Branch Council this year:

- A sub-committee is looking into the feasibility of having specific positions created for librarians-in-training. At the moment, all librarians-in-training study as external students and most of them work as well. In the Northern Territory Public Service (NTPS) they have no formal positions and work as either Admin. Assistants or act in Library Techni-

cian positions.

- The Branch is lobbying for a separate designation — and hence better rates of pay — for Trainee Library Technicians. Currently the NTPS offers traineeships for people enrolled in the Associate Diploma of Library Practice course, but these are designated as Trainee Non-Classified under the ACOA award.
- Branch Council is also lobbying for a Parliamentary Librarian for the Northern Territory. The Legislative Assembly maintains a library collection, but has been without a professional librarian for more than 3 years. (This was brought to national attention in the 20 March issue of *InCite*.)

The library scene in the Northern Territory has changed significantly with the amalgamation, on 1 January, of the Darwin Institute of Technology and the University College of the Northern Territory to form the Northern Territory University (NTU). It is an unnerving but exciting time for all those involved in the planning of a new university.

Northern Territory libraries are at the forefront when it comes to cooperation. A joint-use facility — a public library and Open College of TAFE in the one building — will soon be officially opened at Katherine. LINNET (Librar-

ies in the Northern Territory network) is another form of cooperation. (This particular network was omitted from the recent article on networks and cooperatives in *InCite* of 20 March.)

LINNET consists of Northern Territory public libraries, high school libraries, tertiary education libraries, education centres, the State Reference Library and some government departmental libraries. All are linked by a computer network using the DOBIS/LIBIS software package mounted on an IBM mainframe. A feature of the system is OPAC, but some member libraries are also using it for circulation control, periodicals management, acquisitions and inter-library loans. Using the same terminals, libraries can access ABN, ASCIS, ACIN, APAIS, AGP and AUSINET and, soon, DIALOG, ORBIT and AUSTRALIS. A truly unique system that could be a world first. Trust the Territory!

Best wishes from the Top End and the Centre! We are an active and friendly group in the Territory, and if you are travelling through please drop in and say hello.

Ruth Quinn  
NT Branch President  
(Reader Services Librarian, NTU)



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