

LISWA and Bookprint Reading 1990

The Library and Information Service of Western Australia (LISWA) began 1990 with one of its most successful events, the launching of Bookprint Reading 1990 by Dr Vartan Gregorian. Dr Gregorian, former President of the New York Public Library for 8 years is now President of Brown University, Rhode Island USA.

Widely acclaimed as an educator with a flair for management, salesmanship and showmanship, Dr Gregorian spoke on reading and literacy and marked the United Nations' Year of Literacy by launching Bookprint Reading 1990. Dr Gregorian's lecture was entitled 'Creating the Future; Reading and Libraries in the 1990s' and he talked of libraries as 'representing humanity's collective memory and of their being the democratic equaliser, with knowledge freely and anonymously available to all.'

Over 120 people attended a cocktail party and lecture, many of them leading professionals from a variety of areas. The State Librarian, Dr Lynn Allen, the Chairperson of the Library Board, Dr Peter Reeves, and the President of the Western Australian Librarian Foundation, Ron Sheen and the Minister for

the Arts, the Hon. David Parker MLA, also spoke at the lecture which was held in the Alexander Library Theatre.

Bookprint Reading 1990 publications

Among the publications produced by LISWA was a brochure which outlined the Bookprint Reading 1990 activities planned for Western Australia. Activities including the State Literacy Conference 1990, Reading in Fellowship, DISK Group Readings, Public Readings by members of international PEN, the Katharine Susannah Prichard Foundation, Feminist Book Fortnight, and a Children's Activity Book were detailed in the pamphlet which is available from the State Librarian's office.

An insert entitled 'Literary Supplement' for this State's major daily newspaper, the *West Australian* was also prepared by LISWA in conjunction with the Council for Better English. Two hundred and ninety six thousand copies were produced and distributed. The insert explores issues such as: what it's like if you can't read, the joy of reading and the State Literacy Conference.

An activity book for children is planned and will be produced by the Young Peoples Services Librarians and published by LISWA in July 1990. It will be distributed to all public libraries in the State and marketed to schools and libraries nationally.

Exhibitions

The Library and Information Service of Western Australia has a small Bookprint Reading 1990 display on the ground floor of the Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre which details each month's Bookprint Reading 1990 activities.

Also planned for Bookprint Reading 1990 is a major exhibition 'Parchment to Printout'. This exhibition is still at the planning stages but it is envisaged that it will run in the Alexander Library Building from September to November 1990 and will explore the development of the written word with a special Western Australian flavour.

Lennie McCall

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The Ozline network

OZLINE is a network of bibliographic databases established by the National Library of Australia in 1987. Initially it provided access to 3 databases produced by the National Library, namely: Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS), Australian Government Publications (AGP) and Australian National Bibliography (ANB).

In mid-1988 it was decided to include databases produced by other organisations which provided information in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This decision was made as a direct response to a perceived need for a database host in these disciplines. In view of the strength of the National Library's collections in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and its ability to provide document support, OZLINE appeared to be ideally equipped for the task.

Four databases added

Over the past 15 months four databases have been added to the OZLINE network. The first was Multicultural

Australia Information System (MAIS) which is produced by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. This was followed by the Australian Criminology Database (CINCH), produced by the Australian Institute of Criminology. Then came Family and Society Abstracts (FAMILY) produced by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, followed by the Australian Sport Index (AUSPORT) produced by the National Sport Information Centre at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Australian historic records register

By the end of May the OZLINE network hopes to have added the Australian Historic Records Register (AHRR), produced by the National Library. This database comprises a comprehensive list of over 3500 collections of historic records held by individuals, families, community organisations and businesses around Australia. The records include letters, diaries, photographs, financial records, sketches and recipe books which could be used as

research tools to gain insight into colonial and contemporary life in Australia.

By including databases such as AUSPORT and AHRR which have minimal overlap with existing files, OZLINE hopes to be able to run an interesting and viable set of databases which are of maximum value to Australian searchers.

CD-ROM

With an eye on the latest trends in database technology, the National Library has become associated with a venture by RMIT to publish a new CD-ROM product named AUSTROM. Eleven databases with Australian content in the Social Sciences and Education will be made available through this product, four of which are presently on the OZLINE network, namely: APAIS, CINCH, FAMILY and AUSPORT.

By running OZLINE on a cost recovery basis and making a number of its databases available on CD-ROM, the National Library aims to give library users easier and cheaper access to the information they need.

