

# Access to library services ... make no exception

## 7th Criminal Justice Librarians' Conference

The 7th Conference for Librarians in the Criminal Justice System was held in Canberra from 29 to 31 May at Burgmann College, ANU. The conference, organised and hosted by the Australian Institute of Criminology, attracted participants from a wide range of organisations including correctional and police agencies, prosecuting bodies, government law departments and academic law departments.

The theme of the conference was 'Information for the 1990's and Beyond' and a number of the papers focused on the technology which is now available to access information from remote locations in quick time. Linda Rouse, of ILANET, and Graeme Newman, Professor of Criminal Justice at the State University of New York, gave papers on the availability and use of electronic mail services for criminal justice professionals. Bob Missingham, of DISKROM, and Brent Fisse, Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Sydney, looked at the application of CD-ROM technology in the legal and criminal justice environment.



A demonstration of ILANET presided over by Linda Rouse.

Margaret Davson, of the Australian Police Staff College, Marilyn Withers and Virginia Pursell, from the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and Pat Durrant from the State Library of Tasmania, all presented case studies of libraries and library networks that were relevant to the work of criminal justice librarians.

Demonstrations, particularly demonstrations with hands-on opportunities have always been a feature of these conferences. Participating demonstrators included NEC Information Systems, the National Library of Australia with OZLINE, CINCH, FAMILY, APAIS and SUPERSEARCH, and CCH, publishers of the *Australian and New Zealand criminal law letter*.

A feature of the conference was the focus on the requirement of prisoners to have access to adequate prison library services. Elizabeth Buckley, Library Manager for the New Zealand Department of Justice prepared a paper outlining developments in the provision of services in the New Zealand prison system which was delivered by Robyn Anderson, and Philip Roberts' paper commented on the Australian system.

## A standard approach

During the conference *Australian prison libraries: Minimum standard guidelines*, an ALIA endorsed standard, was launched by Chief Justice Jeffrey Miles of the ACT Supreme Court.

In his address Chief Justice Miles noted that the standards 'define the purpose of prison libraries as taking care to "fulfil the needs of the inmates during their imprisonment and to

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Chief Justice of the ACT Supreme Court, Jeffrey Miles (left) with Sue Kosse, ALIA Executive Director and Philip Roberts, convener of the working party responsible for the development of *Australian Prison Libraries: Minimum Standard Guidelines*.

provide the information which will help them subsequently to re-establish themselves in the community". The guidelines (also) cover practical aspects of the service such as accommodation, staffing, budgeting and equipment, as well as the composition in quantity and quality of stock.

▶ From 1 ....

The realities of the political and administrative differences existing in the criminal justice system of each Australian State have also been examined and addressed. As a result care has been taken to be more explicit in detailing what is considered to be the requirements of a good library service. The guidelines have been prepared to compromise in such matters as quantity of stock and administrative areas, while not in the matter of professional principles, for example, in freedom from undue censorship, and appropriate staffing and management structures.'

Chief Justice Miles later noted that 'it was of particular interest to (him) that the guidelines recommend the inclusion of a law collection. The United States Supreme Court case of *Bounds v. Smith* (430 U.S. 817 : 1977) endorsed the provision of prison law libraries as one mechanism by which prisoners' legal rights and their meaningful access to the courts may be protected.

The word access is significant in this respect. The provision of an adequate library within a prison or prison system is of little benefit to the inmates unless they are granted proper access to its facilities.'

In her foreword to this publication Averill Edwards acknowledged the Association's indebtedness to the Working Party, convened by Philip Roberts together with Jackie Broadsmith, John Myrtle, Robert Pestell and Ellen Quinn, whose substantial efforts resulted in these guidelines.

*Australian prison libraries: Minimum standard guidelines* is available from the ALIA office. \$20 non-members, \$15 members, plus \$2 postage.

### Free to a good home:

#### Australian Special Libraries News

V. 10 No. 1, March 1977

V. 22 No. 4, December 1989

also

#### Cataloguing Australia

V. 3 1977, (1-2 and 3-4), and

V. 6-9 1980-1983.

These are available to someone willing to pay postage or arrange other transport and are currently in Melbourne.

**Contact:** Rose Hockham, at the ALIA national office on (06) 285 1877 or fax: (06) 282 2249.

## LETTERS

### Dear Editor,

I share David Waters' concern at the high cost of the Perth conference (*inCite* No. 7).

I am not concerned for myself — I am on a relatively high salary — but I worry that fees of \$450 are excluding our most important resource — our younger librarians and library technicians. Add to that travel costs to Perth (which are high for the great majority of members) and accommodation, and the Perth conference presents a real disincentive to participate and grow professionally for most members.

As Mr Waters points out, this year's ALA conference costs its members \$US75. It includes the 'free' extras such as attendance at all sessions, entrance to trade exhibits, receptions and teas, which Averill Edwards touts in support of the Perth \$450 fee. There is no 'free' symphony concert, but is the Perth one really free? The Perth conference fee is anything but the 'bargain' Ms Edwards applauds, and even though tax-deductible it is inhibiting many people from attending.

ALIA must bring its conference costs down very considerably to ensure participation and professional development by the next generation of librarians and library technicians. I think we have let them down in 1990.

Neil A Radford  
University of Sydney

## Duplicate maps

The Library and Information Service of WA has a list of duplicate and discarded maps available for distribution to libraries. The selection is very varied. For a copy of the list contact: David Whiteford, Manager: Map Collections, Library and Information Service of WA, Alexander Library Building, Perth WA 6000. Telephone (09) 427 3206; fax (09) 427 3256.

### Does it exist? Do we need it?

A 5 minute video on the pleasures and perils of a career in library and information services for showing at careers markets etc.

Please phone Diana Oliver, NSW Branch Councillor, on (02) 521 0353.

# WHO'S WHERE

**Barbara Hall**, formerly Chief Librarian of the Botany Municipal Library from 1986-1988 has returned to Sydney and has been appointed to the position of Chief Librarian of the Worksafe Australia Library (National Occupational Health and Safety Commission).

The library will be re-locating to the new Worksafe headquarters (now under construction) in November.

**Mollie Fein**, Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL), is currently on exchange at Dandenong Valley Regional Library, Springvale, Victoria. She has exchanged with **Christine Mackenzie**, Reference and Information Services Librarian for 6 months, from June to December. After a short holiday in Queensland, Mollie settled into work on 19 June. BCPL is well recognised for its innovative demand buying, high circulation and involvement of the branch staff in system wide planning.

**Tim Meredith** has been appointed to the position of Senior Librarian (SL), Government Library and Information Services (GLIS) at the State Library of Tasmania. The majority of public sector libraries belong to a network managed by the State Library through agreements with individual agencies. Tim is well qualified to assume the role of SL (GLIS), having worked in major government libraries and through his management and policy formulation experience both as Senior Librarian, Planning and Development at the State Library and in his recent secondment to the University of Tasmania.

The amalgamation of government departments is providing the opportunity to consolidate libraries and to review forward planning and strategies for the network.

**Tony Marshall**, formerly Manuscripts Librarian, La Trobe Library, has moved to Hobart to take up the position of Manager (Tasmaniana Services). The State Library of Tasmania is actively reviewing its stateiana collecting policies and services. The creation of a new management position and the appointment of Tony is an integral part of this process. Immediately prior to taking up his new position, Tony was on secondment to the Public Records of Victoria.