

IN THE NEWS

Indexers medal

The Australian Society of Indexers Medal is again being offered for an 'outstanding' index to a book or periodical compiled and first published in Australia.

To be eligible for the award, the index must be in print and must have been first published in Australia after 1987. It must have been compiled in Australia even though the text to which it refers may have originated outside Australia.

All interested persons are invited to nominate up to three indexes which meet the above criteria, and which they consider worthy of consideration. Don't be bashful, you can nominate your own index!

Recommendations with bibliographical details should be sent to the Secretary, Australian Society of Indexers, GPO Box 1251L, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, 21 September 1990.

New course in music librarianship at Monash

A new course, 'Issues in Music Librarianship', will be offered by the Graduate Department of Librarianship, Archives and Records at Monash University in the second semester of 1990. The course was developed to meet a small but reiterated demand for attention to the special requirements of music provision in Australian libraries. The expertise, interest and academic training of a current staff member at the Department, Dr Ross Harvey, and the interest of the Music Department have been combined to develop and offer this course.

'Issues in Music Librarianship' will examine music provision in libraries, particularly in light of changes in the field and in areas requiring further development. Special reference will be made to Australian libraries. The course aims to identify and evaluate particular issues or problems in music provision in libraries, and to develop possible strategies to address them. It will be taught during the second semester (16 July-26 October), in 12, weekly seminars.

Topics covered are: the Australian context and Australian issues; location and adequacy of Australian music holdings; the music trade, Australian music publishing, copyright; acquiring music; bibliographic control of music; preservation of sound recordings, printed music, manuscripts; reference services, especially Australian music reference works; resource sharing; sound recordings; and special collections (musical instruments and paper-based archives).

'Issues in Music Librarianship' can be taken as a single course ('Not for Degree') or as part of degrees offered by the Department (the Master of Arts [Librarianship], the Master of Librarianship, and the Diploma of Librarianship).

Enquiries should be directed to: Dr Ross Harvey, Graduate Department of Librarianship, Archives and Records, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3168. Telephone (03) 565 2959.

Disc's computer system gives bookworms better service

Bookworms across the State will have greater access to the SA Public Libraries' 500 000 plus publication catalogue following the installation of a \$5 million custom-made computer system designed in Adelaide.

South Australia-owned Disc Computer Systems will program the Public Libraries Automotive Information Network (PLAIN) computer system to give the 134 public libraries from Ceduna to Mt Gambier online access to the State's entire bibliographic collection.

Disc Computer Systems managing director, Peter Bourne, said all the public libraries would be online by 30 November this year, giving SA the world's largest library computer link-up system.

Commonwealth of Australia receives gift from King of Thailand

The King of Thailand presented the National Library with a revised edition of the *Tripitaka*, the canon of the Buddhist scriptures. The presentation was made by the Ambassador of Thailand, His Excellency Dr Chawan Chawanid on 4 June 1990.

This revised edition was published to mark the occasion of His Majesty the King of Thailand's 60th birthday in 1987. In keeping with tradition, the new edition is being presented to major world learning centres. The 90

volumes of the *Tripitaka*, in Thai script, deal with discipline and the rules regulating the order of Buddhist monks, discourses from Buddhism, and a collection of discussions on Buddhist philosophy.

The presentation was also attended by the First Secretary of the Royal Thai Embassy, Chet Dherapattana; a representative from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and National Library staff.

The National Library's Asian Collections include two other *Tripitakas*, one in the Cambodian language and the other in the Tibetan language. The word 'Tripitaka' means three baskets, representing discipline, discourses, and scholasticism. The presentation of the *Tripitaka* is an important addition to the National Library's holdings on Buddhism. Holdings include the Australian Buddhist Library consisting of 4000 volumes of reference works, monographs, periodicals, audio-cassettes, and a bronze Buddha image which weighs 184 kilograms.



From left: Jan Fullerton, Director General Collections and Services; Marie Sexton, Principal Librarian, Asian Collection; His Excellency Dr Chawan Chawanid, Ambassador of Thailand; Lek McFadden, Librarian, Thai Collection.

Cleaning up? One library's rejects are another library's jewels!

On a recent visit to the island of Mindanao in the Philippines Grace Chu Te, senior business analyst with AMP Australia, met the public librarian from the city of Butuan.

She expressed a dire need for library materials. The library recently suffered a fire which gutted the building and destroyed much of the collection.

Since returning to Australia Ms Chu Te has undertaken the task of collecting books, periodicals and other library materials for this library and would welcome further donations. She can be reached on (02) 257 5235.