

IN THE NEWS

IBM Book launched at Curtin University of Technology

On Friday, 18 May 1990, IBM Book was launched at Curtin University of Technology as a major teaching tool in the Department of Library and Information Studies. Among those present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Reeves, Professor Patricia Layzell Ward, Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies, Dennis McGrillan, Education Industry Account Manager for IBM in Western Australia, and Bill Jarman, WA State Manager for Stowe Computing Australia.

IBM Book has been installed on a System 36 Computer and is using 10 000 records donated by the Edwards Group of Colleges as a database. Students are able to practice the full range of automated library tasks including issues and returns, cataloguing and report generation, and lecturers can monitor their progress and print out samples of their work at will. The system will be fully supported by Stowe's locally based customer support representative. Plans for the future include the connection of more terminals and a personal computer to the system, to allow access to a greater number of students.

Stowe is a major supplier of library systems both in Australia and overseas, and is delighted to be involved in this project with Curtin University which it regards as part of its ongoing commitment to the library industry in Western Australia.

Standing, left to right: Professor Patricia Layzell Ward, Head, Department of Library and Information Studies; Bill Jarman, WA State Manager for Stowe Computing Australia; Professor Peter Reeves, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Division of Arts, Education and Social Science; Vicki Wilson, Customer Support Representative (Library Systems) Stowe Computing; Dennis McGrillan, Education, Industry Account Manager for IBM. Seated: Jane Edinger, President ADLIBS (CLIS student association).

Low on dollars High on commitment

The Executive of the National Book Council have committed funds in support of the Banjo Awards which are still without a major sponsor. The shortlist will be announced at a Sydney based function on 20 July by which time hundreds of the shortlisted books will have been distributed to bookshops and libraries around Australia. A publicist has been commissioned to promote the shortlisted books and the awards themselves which will be presented in Melbourne on 3 September at the ANZ Pavilion of the Victorian Arts Centre. The Executive has commissioned the casting of the Banjo medallions (for presentation to the short listed authors) and statuettes for the winners. Without a sponsor there will be no prize money but every effort will continue to be made to find it.

The Executive of the National Book Council has also called a summit meeting of heads of the key industry bodies to restructure the Council and to shape its future.

World's best business features go online

A database of over 100 000 summaries of business feature articles from more than 800 of the world's leading newspapers and magazines is now available in Australia via Femtree Information's online Investext/Plus service.

The authoritative ABI/Inform business database offers 150-word summaries on the latest international management techniques, corporate strategies and business trends.

Publications used include *American Economic Journal*, *Barron's*, *Business Week*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Forbes*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The Director (UK)*, *Computer World and Management Accounting*.

Each record is carefully summarised to convey the major points and conclusions of

Local literacy

As part of its contribution to International Literacy Year 1990, Brunswick City Council has sponsored the production of a literacy poster for Brunswick which was printed by Redletter Press, to highlight the issue of adult literacy in Brunswick. The aim of the poster is to increase public awareness of literacy issues and to guide persons with literacy problems to literacy programs that meet their needs. A competition was organised by the Brunswick Literacy Task Committee to find a suitable design which could be used on the poster.

The Brunswick Literacy Poster was launched by the Mayor, Cr Simon Pryor, at the Brunswick Public Library on 25 May 1990. At the ceremony Cr Pryor reaffirmed Council's commitment to the promotion of literacy in Brunswick. He awarded the prizes to the winners in the competition.

The first prize went to Martin Boles of Brunswick, whose design features on the poster. The other prize-winners were April Anything (2nd prize) and Michael Vella (best entry by entrant aged 16 yrs or under).

Copies of the poster can be ordered from Redletter Press, tel: (03) 380 9444 or through the Brunswick Public Library.

the complete article, saving time because the article is filtered and concentrated. The complete articles are available on request by air courier delivery.

The information can be used for backgrounding corporate strategies, checking competition, monitoring new products, profiling industries, updating management expertise and examining legislation and regulations.

ABI/Inform is available via easy-to-use software on Femtree's Investext service, which also offers databases of business information from major listed companies in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Investext/Plus is distributed in Australia by Femtree Information, part of Femtree Computer Corporation Limited.



New look for NLA

The National Library is currently undertaking major renovations to the existing building to improve public access to services and collections and to upgrade the fire prevention facilities. The renovations began in 1989 and are scheduled for completion by 1991.

The new Library Shop on the ground floor is the first completed stage of the program. It opened in December 1989 and has already proved most successful. The structure of the shop was designed to ensure the view of the Leonard French Windows remained unobscured. The glass walls and increased lighting have enhanced the view and renovations to the other side of the Foyer are expected to bring the other eight windows more vividly into focus. The shop is now able to increase the range of goods stocked while retaining an emphasis on publications, particularly Australian literature and history.

The next stage of the program will be a cafe to be opened by the end of this year. Located in the north-east corner of the foyer, the cafe will incorporate the area under the mezzanine and that of the previous print shop. The facility will provide an elegant enclosed dining area and, subject to necessary planning approval, an outside area. The ground floor will then be extensively remodelled to provide an expanded open-access reference collection, a closer integration of the Australian and general reference services, more visible exhibition space, and better facilities for people with disabilities.

The National Library is now more than 20 years old. Public expectations of service, associated facilities and access to the collections have changed over the years and are conditioned also by the establishment of other major public buildings in Canberra with more modern facilities. Advances in technology also require building changes if opportunities for improved service are to be grasped.

The building renovations, for which a total of \$7 million has been allocated, are designed to improve services to users, increase staff productivity, facilitate cost-effective collection expansion, highlight the library's collections and services, provide an improved working environment for both staff and users, and increase safety and security.



The new Library Shop on the ground floor of the National Library is the first completed stage of the NLA's major renovation program.

Registered publications

Australia Post gives the thumbs down to National Book Council's proposals

Australia Post has rejected proposals put by the National Book Council on behalf of independent magazine publishers. These proposals would have resulted in Australia Post's major objective being fulfilled — namely a reduction in losses sustained by the present registration provisions.

The National Book Council proposed that a postal charge increase of 1 cent or 2 cents across the board for all periodicals would be more acceptable than the proposed discriminatory price increases based on cover price. It argued that postal charges should be based on size and weight of an item rather than on its monetary value. The National Book Council's offer to participate in a working party set up to consider the best means of reducing losses within the Registered Mail operations of Australia Post was also rejected.

In formal discussion with and in correspondence from the Chairman of Australia Post, R B Lansdown and with the Chief Manager Mail Network, Dr David Smyth it is clear that the Prices Surveillance Authority has come on strong in calling Australia Post to accountability. The National Book Council questions what responsibility a major government utility should have to ensure that Australians have access to the range of ideas and information being disseminated through its magazines and periodicals. It is these magazines whose future is made even more uncertain as they are required to pay postal increases of up to 200 per cent in one hit — that is, without an opportunity either to phase in extra costs or to budget adequately for them. Very small operating margins will inevitably see some of our best known magazines fighting harder for survival or losing the battle altogether.

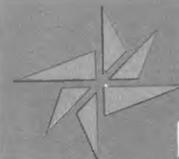
Legionnaires' disease

The NSW Public Works Department has issued a new edition of the code of practice for the control of legionnaires' disease and some other health hazards.

The code is a comprehensive document covering roles, responsibilities and duties of architects, hydraulic engineers, plumbers, electrical services engineers, manufacturers of cooling towers, mechanical services contractors, maintenance engineers, water treatment specialists, building owners/managers and relevant authorities.

The Code is available (by post only) from the Supervising Engineer, Investigations and Standards Group, Public Works Department, 23rd Floor, State Office Block, Phillip St, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Cost is \$30 per copy, inc. postage. For further details telephone (02) 228 5681.



Changes to Vital Link

Branches

NSW Branch: Secretary: Louise Head, Library, East Sydney Technical College, Forbes Street, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010, tel: (02) 339 8704. (Page 2)

Regional Groups

Central Queensland: President: Cheryl Haughton, c/- Rockhampton Municipal Library, William Street, Rockhampton, Qld 4700; Treasurer: Sue Druskovich, c/- Rockhampton Municipal Library, William St, Rockhampton, Qld 4700. (Page 4)
Central Western NSW: Secretary/Treasurer: c/- Margaret Macpherson (President). (Page 4)

Special Interest Groups

Australian Serials: Secretary: David Sinfield, University of Western Sydney, Nepean Library, PO Box 10, Kingswood, NSW 2750, telephone (047) 36 0344. (Page 8)

Information Management and Consulting Association:

Treasurer: Craig Boaden, telephone: (02) 918 9324, fax (02) 918 6803. (Page 8)

Rural and Isolated Libraries: Convener: John Bahrij, 6 Cyprus Avenue, Figtree, NSW 2525, tel: (042) 27 0555. (Page 9)

Sections

Children's and Youth Services Section, WA Group: President: Pam Whiteford-Hey, 93 Robert Street, Como, WA 6152, tel: (09) 474 2222. (Page 13)

Public Libraries Section, Qld Group: President: Fiona Gleadow, c/- Kallangur Library, 1428 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur, Qld 4505, telephone (07) 204 4944; Treasurer: Anna Raunik, c/- State Library of Queensland, Public Library Division, 24 Macquarie Street, Teneriffe, Qld 4005, tel: (07) 358 4588. (Page 20)

School Libraries Section, SA Group: Treasurer: Margaret Strickland, c/- Woodlands Church of England Girls Grammar School, Brighton Rd, Glenelg, SA 5045, tel: (08) 294 9022. (Page 21)

TAFE Section, Qld Group: President: Jim Graham, Chief Librarian, McAuley College, PO Box 247, Everton Park, Qld 4053. (Page 24)