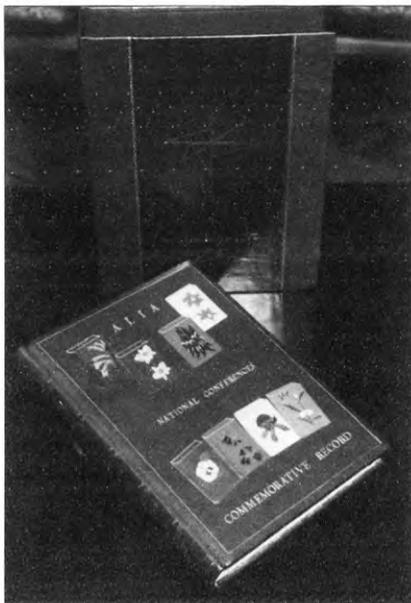


After the conference...

The ALIA Conference Book

A new treasure for the Association



At the conference in Perth ALIA received a magnificent product of the bookbinder's art. The volume will commemorate ALIA's national conferences. It is a book of blank pages waiting to chronicle in calligraphic hand the highlights of this, the first,

and subsequently the next 24 occasions. The title page, introduction and record of the 1990 Conference have now been entered and duly signed by conference dignitaries.

It featured at the Opening Ceremony when the Western Australian Minister for Education, the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop, who officially opened the conference, was invited to sign it as part of the ceremony. The book was officially handed over to the Chairman of the Albury-Wodonga 1992 Conference Committee at the Closing Ceremony. However he has allowed it to remain in Perth and it is at present on display in the Alexander Library Building as part of the Parchment to Print-out exhibition being held there until November. The volume will then be taken to Canberra for the opening of the new ALIA headquarters building and will remain there until the next conference.

The book was conceived as a commemorative gift from the Perth Conference to future ALIA conferences. The Western Australian College of Advanced Education, one of Perth's tertiary institutions for professional library

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REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST

PUBLICATION N° NBG 1263

ISSN 0 158-0876

education, kindly sponsored the volume and Dr Douglas Jecks, the Director of WACAE, presented the finished

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ALIA 1990 Conference obituary

The conference is over ... long live the conference!

ALIA's 1990 Biennial Conference is over! It is great to see the Albury-Wodonga Committee so enthusiastic about their turn in 2 year's time.

The Perth Conference seemed a very happy one, though not without one or two hiccups. The Conference Committee went into mild panic when the Opening Ceremony finished ahead of schedule (who said politicians only give long speeches?) and the last item on the program, the Françaix Wind Quintet, was still en route from an earlier engagement! But once they arrived, they were great. The audience very patiently returned to the Concert Hall for their performance, and were again treated to a WA Youth in Music event, the first being the University of WA Collegium Musicum chorale. A number of other cultural events were held throughout the conference.

We all tucked into our first conference meal after this ceremony, and the food and conference wine were pronounced delicious. Mustard Caterers of Perth did the bulk of the conference catering; SWETS sponsored the wine for the opening ceremony and the dinner held later in the week. None of us suffered from weight loss ...

People commented favourably on the Program Committee's decision to have the plenary for the day set the daily theme and for this to be held first thing each morning, bringing all delegates together. We were very fortunate that each plenary offered an outstanding paper, with each appealing to differing segments of the audience. ALIA President Lynn Allen set a very high standard with her thoughtful and thought-provoking opening address. The Conference Committee soon real-

ised that a number of plenary speeches were rewritten to match it!

The plenaries all mentioned the importance of the role of libraries in preserving and encouraging human knowledge. Technology was also mentioned, mainly in the light of our use of it as a tool and our not being driven by it. In his Geraldine Doogue video interview with the Librarian of Congress Dr James Billington, Dennis Richardson reminded us of the problem of capturing segments of time with constantly updated databases. A later paper by Alison Crook reminded us of the need to capture magnetic information for archival purposes.

User pays, and level playing fields for all users came up in the pre and conference discussions. Lauchlan

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work to the ALIA President on 11 September. The idea came from Ursula Mulder, a member of the Conference Social and Hospitality Committee and she organised its creation. Alfred and Isobel Pritchard, master bookbinders, were responsible for the craftsmanship.

A technical description of the book is Verges Arches mould made paper, top edge gilt before sewing, sewn on four tapes, hand sewn headbands,

leather lining in split boards, reversible adhesive used throughout, covered in maroon goatskin with various leathers used in the book inlays and flower onlays, blind and gold tooling.

The decoration on the cover symbolises the eight Australian States and Territories, each of which is represented by its official colour, and onlaid onto this are the respective State's floral emblems.

It is to be hoped that future conferences will value this book and keep the record going. ■

WHO'S WHERE

Staff addition at Baker and Taylor's Australian office

Patricia Baigent BA Dip.Lib AALIA, has been appointed as Library Consultant at Baker & Taylor's Australian office.

Patricia previously worked as Marketing Representative for Bennett-Ebsco Subscription Services. She also has extensive experience in working in libraries.

In her new position Patricia will be the main B & T contact for Australian librarians.

During November Patricia will be attending sales meetings in the United States before taking up her new job in Australia in early December.

Joe Mauch, remains as B & T's regional sales and marketing manager. He has responsibilities for the overall operation of B & T's Sydney office as well as the company's Tokyo office. ■



Left to right: Margaret Medcalf, ALIA 1990 Chair; Dr Douglas Jecks, Director, WA College of Advanced Education; Dr Lynn Allen, ALIA President; Ursula Mulder, member ALIA 1990 Social and Hospitality Committee.

Library statistics *Number crunchers look to the future*

On Saturday, 29 September a pre-conference 'think tank', chaired by Warren Horton, was held on the issue of statistics for libraries and the information industry. Some 60 senior members of nearly all sectors of Australian libraries explored the issues raised in the discussion papers.

The meeting examined the range of data-gathering, and the uses to which such data could be put in the evaluation of information services. Overseas experiences were reported by Don King and José-Marie Griffiths of the

American consultancy King Research Inc. Australian perspectives were given by Carmel Maguire (UNSW) and Chris Whitaker (Director, Corporate Development, WA Department of Education).

A series of papers reported progress in data-gathering by different groups, work on performance measurement, and ideas about performance measurement.

The debate in the afternoon recognised that there were several issues involved in statistical data-gathering.

Among the most important of these is their relationship with performance measurement. In this regard, it was felt important to move from simple input/output measurement towards measures of benefit and impact. There was also a clear consensus that standardised data be collected to permit comparison between libraries and across sectors.

A summary of the debate will be circulated to interested parties, including ALIA and ACLIS, and a full set of papers will be published soon. ■

Survey

I would like to thank everyone who sent in a response to the Professional Development survey. The results of the survey will be published in this column in a future issue of *inCite*.

Industry Training Agents

There have been a number of people seeking clarification about the role of Industry Training Agents (ITAs). As a deal of confusion exists, I will list the functions of ITAs as stated in the draft

P·D·Q

Professional Development Questions

guidelines. The guidelines will accompany the training guarantee legislation.

The rules are:

- ITAs issue/refuse certificates to employers for:
 - (i) activities constituting an eligible

training program, and

(ii) expenditures constituting eligible training expenditures.

- ITAs also 'play an important role in bringing about a change in industry's attitude to training and thereby improve the quality of training'.

- ITAs 'will have a role in coordinating training in their industry sectors by collecting information on good quality training and distributing it within their sectors'.

Carol Kenchington ■