

Feedback

Health Libraries Section

NSW Group

The NSW Group has been very busy this year with several activities already being held.

First up a session with guest speaker Andrew Took about The Law and Health Librarians. Andrew a nurse, solicitor and university lecturer who also prepares cases for the GIO representing hospitals in NSW spoke about the type of information sought by lawyers, particularly in health related matters and the role of the librarian in providing such information. Many interesting points were raised and questions asked by the audience, who felt that they had gained a great deal from the session.

In April, health librarians were addressed by Michael Brittain from the UK who has been heavily involved in the implementation of technology in the National Health Service and the gradual change to entrepreneurial activities by the hospitals in those countries. Michael, who was sponsored by The University of Technology — Kuring-gai, spoke about the current status of medical librarianship in the UK and how health librarians should be more assertive in selling their knowledge and skills; skills that closely correspond to the requirements sought for the thousands of new positions resulting from the new technology and changes to the National Health service.

The last general meeting took place at Worksafe Australia in early June. Our Branch Representative, Barbara Hall explained the work of Worksafe and showed off her library in its new premises with its recently installed SEA URICA integrated library system. The new databases being produced at Worksafe will be important tools for health librarians and others interested in occupational health and safety, chemical hazards, toxicology, etc. Those librarians wishing to find out more about the resources available at Worksafe should contact Barbara and her very helpful staff.

Linda Mulheron
President

Mannum School Community Library wins State award

The Val Gauld School Community Library Award, which recognises involvement and cooperation between the library, the school and the community was presented to the Mannum School Community Library by the South Australian Branch of the Australian

Library and Information Association. The winning entry, submitted by Eva Pukk, the chief librarian, was the Nganguruku History and Culture Project. This project had been instigated by Eva and implemented in the school during 1990. It had been successful in attracting a Community Arts in Libraries grant from the South Australian Public Libraries Branch.

The grant went a long way towards helping to establish a cooperative working relationship between various teachers from different school faculties and the school community library; between the local Aboriginal community and the library; between the Mannum and Districts Presenters group and the library; and between the primary school and the school community library.

The program for the Nganguruku History and Culture Project involved the provision of a venue whereby white/Aboriginal cultures could work together for the benefit of the town of Mannum and surrounding areas. It helped to nurture a spirit of mutual respect and heighten the recognition of the local Aboriginal group. The program was also designed to encourage non-traditional library users to perceive the library as a



friendly environment, and to promote the vital part which school/community libraries play in giving people tools to understand their world and develop empathy towards cultures different to their own.

The project resulted in a booklet prepared by all Year 8 students containing original stories and illustrations in the style of an Aboriginal Dreaming, a mural depicting the creation of the River Murray painted by local Aboriginal children (which is now located at the front of the Mannum High School) and exhibitions and story telling sessions during National Arts Week 1990.

Di Booker, President ALIA (SA) in announcing the award said that the project was an excellent illustration of the role that the library plays in informing and educating the community about the many cultures, and particularly the Aboriginal culture, which make up Australian society. The Nganguruku History and Culture Project highlighted the focus that the school community library has in fostering knowledge and preserving the history of the area for both the school and the general community of the Mannum area.

The award is sponsored by Adelaide-based publisher, Auslib Press and comprises a plaque and cash award of \$300.

The award will be presented by Val Gauld to the library on Wednesday, 29 May 1991 at the Mannum School Community Library at 5 pm.

Di Booker
President ALIA (SA)



Pat Young (left) from Mt Druitt Hospital and Barrie Sullivan, St Vincent's Darlinghurst, retired recently and were farewelled by the Group.

Reference discussion/E-Mail Group on AARNET

A new discussion/mail list called Reflibs has been set up on AARNET under the auspices of RAILS, the ALIA reference special interest group. It is intended to be a forum for reference librarians and other

continued next page...

interested people along similar lines to LIBREF-L in the United States. Messages or comments to Reflibs will be sent to the reference staff in each university and become part of an ongoing discussion. Any issue likely to be of interest to reference librarians can be discussed through Reflibs. This would include CD-ROM/online services, reference collection management, staffing, statistics, difficult enquiries, new technologies, reader services policies, user education etc.

Reflibs will be moderated by reference librarians at the Auchmuty Library, University of Newcastle with Jim Cleary (149-21 5856, fax 049-21 5833) the primary contact person. Requests to join Reflibs and housekeeping messages to the moderator should be sent to: reflibs-request@neddy.newcastle.edu.au Items for circulation through Reflibs should be sent to: reflibs@neddy.newcastle.edu.au

All items intentionally posted to Reflibs will appear on the list. Only housekeeping messages sent inadvertently to Reflibs rather than Reflibs-request will be deleted. It will be up to members of the mailing list to indicate if they think topics or messages are inappropriate.

Jim Cleary
Information Services Librarian
Auchmuty Library □

Australian Library and Information Association
Library Manager of the Year Award
Nominations are now being called for this award for 1991

Aim

- To recognise and encourage good management practices within Australian libraries and information services.
- To encourage the development of an organisational climate within libraries and information services which promotes innovation and a better working relationship between managers and their staff.

Eligibility

The award of ALIA Library Manager of the Year is open to any member of the Australian Library and Information Association responsible for the management of a library service, an individual library or information service, or a significant organisational unit within a larger library or information service.

The award is for management rather than supervision, and nominees should be able to demonstrate outstanding performance in planning, resource allocation and the organisation of staff. A nominee will be expected normally to be responsible for the direction of staff including professional staff.

Nominations

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by two members of the staff of, or clients of, the organisation in which the nominee is employed, including at least one person within the library or unit which the nominee is responsible for managing.

Nominations should include:

- Name of nominee.
- Title of position held
- Name and Address of organisation.
- Number of staff whom the nominee is responsible for managing.
- Major achievements of the manager in the previous 3 years.
- Reasons why the nomination is regarded within his or her organisation as an outstanding manager.

Selection

The award will be administered by a sub-committee, consisting of one member of the ALIA Board of Education, one member of General Council, and the Past-President of ALIA. Criteria which will be considered by the sub-committee in making a recommendation for the award include:

1. Demonstrable improvements in service delivered to the library or information services' clientele, as a result of decisions for which the manager is responsible, or through submissions made by the manager to higher funding/decision-making authorities.
2. Demonstrable improvements in working productivity obtained in the library or unit for which the manager is responsible.
3. Implementation of innovative approaches to services delivered, or to the organisation of work.
4. Improvement or establishment of successful relations between the service and its clientele, the manager and his/her staff, or between units in the service.
5. Examples of effective planning and implementation of new services or procedures.
6. Demonstrable improvements in decision-making procedures and/or communication (among staff or to/from users), in areas for which the manager is responsible.

Nomination forms are available from the Executive Director, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600, telephone (06) 285 1877, toll free (008) 02 0071.

Nominations close on 30 September 1991.



C.D. ROM AND ASSOCIATES...

FOR THE DISCERNING CD-ROM USER

WE HAVE THE RANGE...

- ★ Compact Cambridge ★ UMI ★
- ★ WilsonDisc ★ ISI ★
- ★ Elsevier ★ OCLC ★
- ★ Chadwyck-Healey ★ Boston Spa ★
- ★ Library of Congress ★ BookData ★
- ★ Springer-Verlag ★ CMC Research ★
- ★ Diskrom ★ and more...

WE HAVE THE LATEST...

- ★ **INSPEC ONDISC** ★
- ★ MEDLINE—Including Reference Update
- FREE ★ EXCERPTA MEDICA ★ SEDBASE ★
- BEILSTEIN—Current Facts in Chemistry ★
- COMPUTER SELECT ★ BOSTON SPA
- CONFERENCES ★ BOOKFIND-CD ★ ENGLISH
- POETRY—Full Text Database ★ TIMES
- Newspaper ★ GUARDIAN Newspaper ★

WE HAVE THE HARDWARE...

- HITACHI • PIONEER 6 DISC DRIVE • NEC • CD-ROM WORKSTATIONS •
- CD-ROM NETWORKS • DIAL-UP ACCESS •

Call, fax or write for our complete price list:

C. D. ROM & Associates

648 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, Vic. 3132

Ph: (03) 872 3211 Fax: (03) 872 4814



DISCOVER OUR COMMITMENT TO CD-ROM SERVICE