

Feedback

Cataloguing for Online Access

9th National Cataloguing Conference

Melbourne, 28-30 November 1991

Is AACR still relevant for online catalogues? Can access points be improved? How does an online environment affect the organisation of cataloguing departments?

These are some of the issues that will be covered at the 9th National Cataloguing Conference.

Michael Gorman, currently Dean of Library Services at Henry Maddern Library, California State University, Fresno gives the keynote address on *AACR in an electronic environment and the future of cataloguing*.

If you want the 'early bird' discount, register now! Your 'early bird' registrations (ALIA members \$180, non-members \$220) must be postmarked before 30 October.

Accommodation has been arranged at Ormond College, Melbourne University and the Elizabeth Tower Motel. The conference dinner will be on Friday, 29 November at the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron.

For further information contact the registration secretariat Designer Events, 269 Clarke Street, Northcote, Vic 3070, telephone (03) 481 3976, fax (03) 482 4617. □

WANTED

Neil Hinsch

Deputy Librarian, NSW Law Libraries

DESCRIPTION: As the winner of our 'AGPS Legal Products Survey contest', the Australian Government Publishing Service is offering you \$1000 worth of AGPS publications.

AGPS would also like to thank all others who replied to the survey.

\$1000 REWARD

The Economic and Social Role of Public Libraries

A report commissioned by ALIA NSW Branch

This report on a brief preliminary research project, by Hans Guldberg, Economic Strategies Pty Ltd, sets out to define a framework for the analysis of the economic benefit of public libraries and to provide an initial perspective.

The substance of this explorative research was to define problems, provide some overall estimates of the size and growth of the public library 'industry', identify key issues associated with the nature of library services in relation to the various types of library users, define research objectives, and outline an appropriate research program.

Public libraries in NSW represent about one-thousandth of the total State Product, but the proportion has been declining. Measured at constant prices, library expenditure increased by 2.1 per cent per annum over the 1980s while the total State Product rose by 2.6 per cent per annum. The funding of public libraries has become more exclusively a local government responsibility while State subsidies and grants have declined in real terms.

Public library statistics published by the State Library provide pointers to the economic and social role of public libraries. Possible issues include:

- the availability of library materials has been growing much more strongly than circulation (loan) activity;
- falling turnover, especially in large metropolitan libraries;

- persistent evidence of relative lack of opportunity to benefit from public library services in country areas, including small and declining renewal of stock, scarcity of qualified staff and low expenditure on libraries generally.

Library statistics are not generally suited to reflect changing demand patterns. One exception is the data on books in community languages, which show strong recent growth in languages such as Chinese and Vietnamese. At local library level (Fairfield), statistics covering the 10 years to 1990 give an interesting insight into the manner in which strong growth in the available bookstock preceded strong growth in circulation.

The multi-faceted demands which public libraries have to meet are vividly illustrated in the report, and justify the inclusion of the 'social' (community) role as well as the 'economic' role of public libraries.

Further research is recommended, with two main strands. First, the available statistical and other literature should be further explored to provide as solid a base as possible. Second, a combined community and in-house analysis should be undertaken in (up to) five libraries ranging from inner metropolitan to provincial towns. This analysis is intended to make good present deficiencies in data and to ensure that differences between libraries are fully understood.

(excerpted by Peter Judge)

Challenges for the 90s

DESIG Conference, Armidale 2-3 December

Register now for the 1991 Distance Education Special Interest Group Conference — *Challenges for the 90s: Technology, Libraries and Distance Education*, in Armidale on Monday and Tuesday, 2-3 December.

In a varied and stimulating program, papers will be presented by school, TAFE and university librarians, academics, an instructional designer, and the Director of the University of New England's Distance Education Centre, Professor John Chick. Topics to be covered include: open learning; remote access to CD-ROM and OPACs; inter-active radio; and teaching through video.

Registration is \$70 for ALIA members, \$90 for non-members, including lunches and morning and

afternoon teas. Excellent low-cost accommodation has been reserved at the Mary White College, and a gala dinner will be held on Monday night.

The 1991 DESIG Conference will be of interest not only to librarians of institutions which teach at a distance, but to the many other tertiary, school, special and public libraries which external students determinedly use!

Contact Richard Ryan, telephone (067) 73 3421, fax (067) 71 1602; Robyn Warwick, telephone (067) 73 4261 or Pam Pitkeathly, telephone (02) 646 6486 for further details. Registration forms are also available from ALIA, telephone (008) 02 0071.

Margaret Maticka
Convener, DESIG

Indo-China focus

The Asia Pacific Special Interest Group held a lunchtime meeting in the Conference Room at the National Library of Australia on 28 August, to listen to two local librarians discuss their experiences on recent visits to Indo-China.

Peter Haddad and Donna Reid both gave fascinating talks on their travels and the work they carried out in the region. Peter spent several weeks at the National Library of Vietnam in April and May, followed by brief visits to the national libraries of Laos and Cambodia; Donna has visited Laos twice to give courses in basic library training. Their visits were organised by the National Library with financial assistance from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Marie Sexton □



Donna Reid, Head of the Library School, ACT Institute of TAFE, Reid Campus, with Peter Haddad, Principal Librarian, Monograph Acquisition and Control, National Library of Australia.

Victorian Premier's Literary Awards

Richest annual national awards

A total of 352 titles were entered for the seven awards, with prizes totalling \$67 500.

The Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction — *Still Murder* by Finola Moorhead (Penguin).

The Nettie Palmer Prize for Non-Fiction — *Wild Card: An Autobiography, 1923-1958* by Dorothy Hewett (McPhee Gribble).

The C J Dennis Prize for Poetry — *The Winter Baby* by Jennifer Maiden (Collins/Angus & Robertson).

The Louis Esson Prize for Drama — *Diving for Pearls* by Katherine Thomson

The A A Phillips Prize for Australian Studies — *Heralds and Angels: The House of Fairfax, 1841-1990* by Gavin Souter (Melbourne University Press).

The Diabetes Australia Prize for New Writing — *Revolution by Night* by James Bardon (Local Consumption).

The Alan Marshall Prize for Children's Literature — *Strange Objects* by Gary Crew (Heinemann).

Of the seven winning authors, it is interesting to note:

- Dorothy Hewett, winner of the Nettie Palmer Prize for Non-fiction is the mother of Tom Flood, winner of the 1990 Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction.
- Jennifer Maiden's *The Winter Baby* won the 1991 NSW Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry.
- Gary Crew's *Strange Objects* won the 1991 Children's Book Council of Australian Book of the Year and the 1991 NSW Children's Book Award.
- James Bardon's *Revolution by Night* won the 1991 Banjo New Writer's Award.

Me and Karl Marx

*I searched you out
clothed in off-white and crumpled
The remembering of fine grey writing
on the cover I exposed on the tram
to impress an earnest student
You were living on the bottom shelf
confined to wait for the next generation
between Germaine Greer and Teddy Robinson.*

Juliet Riseley □

Randwick City Library Service

Inauguration of Vonnie Young Auditorium

Friends and colleagues of the late Vonnie Young are invited to the inauguration of the Vonnie Young Auditorium in the new Bowen Library, 669-673 Anzac Parade, Maroubra, NSW 2035 on Saturday, 2 November 1991 at 2.30 pm.

The occasion will also be a staff reunion for all ex-members of staff of the Randwick library services.

Details: Robyn Ward, Director of Library Services (02) 314 4888. RSVP 21 October 1991.