

Telelibrary at VALA conference An Australian technological debut

You are here in Australia flicking through the pages of a rare journal, stored only at the British Library — how is this done?

The National Conference of the Victorian Association of Library Automation (VALA), to be held in Melbourne in November, will see the debut of the Telelibrary Pilot Project. This pioneering research and development project has been jointly undertaken by Telecom Australia, RMIT Libraries, the Collaborative Information Research Institute (CITRI) and Kodak Australasia. The project leader is Jeff Leeuwenburg, who is the Principal Consultant, INFORMIT, which is the commercial arm of RMIT Libraries. He is also a consultant to CITRI.

Practical demonstrations of the system, which was developed at RMIT during 1991, will be given at the INFORMIT stand at the conference. Telelibrary is a system for the electronic scanning, storage, retrieval and delivery of full-text documents. The purpose of the project is to test the practicability of using Telecom's Integrated Services Data Network (ISDN) and other fast, high capacity communications networks to obtain technical, educational and research documentation from virtually anywhere.

For the first evening of the conference, Telecom, as one of the sponsors of the VALA Conference, is arranging a worldwide hook-up with other organisations that have participated in the Telelibrary Project which is also known as the ILIAD Pilot for Inter-Library Image Access and Delivery. These other participating organisations are: the National Library of Australia, the State Library of New South Wales, the University of Western Sydney, Telecom Research Laboratories, the British Library Document Supply Centre (Yorkshire), Blackwells (Oxford), Delft University of Technology (Netherlands), the Library of Congress-Congressional Research Service (Washington DC), San Diego State University, and the National University of Singapore.

For further information please contact the RMIT Librarian, Don Schauder, on (03) 660 2062.

The National Maritime Museum to open on 30 November

The museum's library began in mid-1986, with an empty, rented office, five boxes of books, a desk and a chair!

Now it has grown to around 10 000 monograph titles and around 650 serial titles. It has been open to the public by appointment since 1986 and receives many reference enquiries from around Australia by mail and phone.

The primary tasks of the library are to cater for the research needs of the museum project, and the professional needs of all the different specialists within the museum. At the same time a collection of standard texts and reference sources has been built up.

Early building blocks of the collection were the fortunate acquisitions of personal libraries gathered by maritime historians such as Vaughan Evans and Norman McKellar. Donations large and small from people and organisations around Australia have enabled the library to obtain many standard and out of print works, and give depth to its collections in a very short time.

The library has a good coverage of many of the maritime history journals and Australian boating magazines. The oldest are

the *Naval Chronicle* issues of 1799-1814, while the oldest book in the collection is a 1774 volume on health problems in the Royal Navy and among prison populations.

Other materials include microforms and a small collection of audiovisual materials and plans. While the library does not have a photograph collection, it holds indexes to the major ship photo collections around Australia.

By far the majority of library users and enquirers are genealogists trying to locate information on immigrant ships. The library also lends to other libraries in Australia and overseas through the interlibrary loans scheme. It is a full member of ABN.

All aspects of the library's activities are automated using the Ocelot system, including serials, acquisitions and circulation, with a computerised public access catalogue in use since early 1987. This gives library users a much broader range of access points than are available with a traditional card catalogue. The catalogue is available to visitors at terminals in the library, and to museum staff working from their desks. □

(Excerpted with kind permission from the ANMM newsletter, SIGNALS, Winter 1991.)



The Museum Librarian, Frances Prentice (right), with the Technical Services Librarian, Jan Harbison (left) and Penny Dempsey who supervises the interlibrary loan service.

Co-op Library Services launched at Specials conference

University Co-op Library Services celebrated its official launch into national library supply at the Special, Law and Medical Librarians Conference in Canberra with quite a bang — a complimentary bottle of Minchinbury Champagne for each delegate!

Initial feedback from libraries on the new service has been most favourable, with many

acquisitions librarians seeing the advantage in purchasing from a large Australian stockholder. With over 40 branches, there are well over 100 000 different titles in stock at any given time.

The company has released a kit of information on all new services. For details phone (008) 22 2762 or fax (02) 212 3372.

Where will the library user lead us?

On 28 June 1991, DA Books & Journals celebrated 40 years of supplying scientific, technological and medical books to Australians.

An occasion such as this provides an ideal opportunity to reflect upon the changes which have occurred during this time. Willem Krins, the founder of the company, pushed his wheelbarrow full of books back home from the post office in Ocean Grove. These books began a family business which has now become Australasia's major library supplier of books and journals in science, technology and medicine.

The nature and sophistication of the DA service has changed to match needs of their library customers. DA are no longer just a 'seller of books' but a true information provider in an increasing variety of forms. Books have been supplemented by other forms of information such as CD-ROM, audio-video, software and electronic publishing. All will have their place in the libraries of the future.

40 years on — DA staff outside their Melbourne head office.

To meet the demands of their clients, the libraries of today require a greater commitment from their chosen suppliers. Successful suppliers have to be active in helping to stretch shrinking budgets and in providing the most relevant and up-to-date information to users.

DA have travelled a long way in their

first 40 years, and it is exciting to imagine where the next 40 years will take them. New forms of information and new technologies will continue to be embraced to ensure the economical provision of the best information to Australasian library users. □



British Library fights off poverty BL appoints high-level fund raiser

The British Library has appointed a top fund raiser to maximise its sponsorship income.

Rachael Ward, who joined the library as Head of Development on 29 July, will raise funds for several key projects for the library's new building at St Pancras, including the opening ceremony and the exhibitions and education program.

The library faces several financially lean years as it prepares to move to St Pancras and relocates 300 posts to Yorkshire. Already this year the library has implemented a £4.5 million savings package to keep its budgets on target for 1991-92. Significantly perhaps, Rachael Ward is moving to the library from Shelter, the national campaign for homeless people, where she was Head of General Fund-raising from 1988 to July this year. □

CSU libraries to get \$3m boost Big increase in business periodicals

Charles Sturt University libraries at Wagga, Albury and Bathurst will receive \$1 million per year between 1992 and 1994 to upgrade holdings of books and periodicals. University chancellor David Asimus announced this at the launch of a new library service, Business Periodicals Ondisc (BPO), which has allowed a four-fold increase of the university's holdings of business periodicals and journals. He said that good library resources were fundamental to the work of the university.

The university library is the first library outside a metropolitan area in NSW to have installed BPO, which indexes 800 journals and makes full text of almost 400 journals available to students across the university. These journals mainly cover the discipline of business, but also include marketing, health management, agricultural business and other areas relevant to CSU courses.

The new \$3 million funding was in addition to pledged capital upgradings worth more than \$8 million already underway at the Bathurst and Wagga campus libraries. The capital upgrading includes \$4.3 million in extensions to the Wagga campus library, with a 200 per cent increase in floor space to be completed by

February 1992, and extensions to the Bathurst campus library worth \$4.5 million, to be completed in 1993. Improvements will also be made to the Albury campus library.

The upgrading will increase library reading spaces to a level comparable to those at other university libraries in Australia.

(Maxine Rochester drew our attention to the report in *The Daily Advertiser*, on which these notes have been based.) □



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'Our multicultural past'

State Library of NSW receives grant from Australian Bicentennial Multicultural Foundation

Libraries have traditionally collected little in the way of diaries, letters, photographs, and personal papers associated with the ethnic community. While the coverage of the Mitchell Library is world-renowned for English language materials, there are significant gaps in relation to the major contribution made to Australia's development by non-English speakers. The State Library of NSW is attempting to fill those gaps, and to provide the opportunities for future research into the economic, social, and cultural impact on Australia's development made by the many different ethnic communities.

In 1990 the State Library applied for a grant from the Australian Bicentennial Multicultural Foundation (ABMF) to enable the library to target these records. The grant application was successful and on 24 July a cheque for \$68 000 was accepted by the Premier Nick Greiner on behalf of the library from Ross Tzannes, Director of the Foundation, at a very well attended function. This grant will permit the library to extend work that has already been done with the Italian community to other communities in NSW. Initially, the library will concentrate on the Chinese, Greek and Italian communities but it is hoped to stimulate interest from other ethnic groups and to expand collecting to



cover as many community groups as possible.

Alan Ventress
Manager, Collection Development
State Library of NSW □

Left to right: Hass Dellal, Executive Director, ABMF; Alison Crook, State Librarian, SLNSW; Ross Tzannes, Director, ABMF.

Children's literature

New Centre in University of SA

A new Centre for Children's Literature has been established within the University of South Australia. The centre will

- offer consultancy to institutions (e.g. schools, libraries), companies (e.g. booksellers) and individuals with a professional or recreational interest in children's literature;
- arrange conferences, workshops and seminars;
- undertake grant-aided research;
- edit and publish the work of members

of the centre and others;

- establish a South Australian Children's Choice Book Award;
- produce bibliographies and updates of publications, especially those originating in Australia;
- coordinate the work of interested bodies in SA, including teaching institutions and libraries;
- raise the profile of children's literature as a discipline in the University of SA and in the State as a whole.

The centre's first book, *Young Adult Fiction — yesterday, today and tomorrow* by Roxanne Kelly-Kobes, \$8 (+ \$1 p/p), was published recently. It contains critical evaluations of contemporary adolescent novels.

For further information about the centre and the Children's Choice Book Award contact John Foster, University of SA, Salisbury Campus, Smith Road, Salisbury, SA 5109, telephone (08) 259 2315. □

Big step forward

New computer to link six campuses of the University of SA

The six campus University of South Australia was established on 1 January 1991 from a merger of the City, Levels and Whyalla Campuses of the SA Institute of Technology, and the Magill, Salisbury and Underdale Campuses of the SA College of Advanced Education. It has over 20 000 students.

A major step forward in the development of the new University Library

was taken in August with the installation of an Encore Multimax 520 computer at the Underdale Campus. This computer will enable over 200 terminals to be connected to the library's system, which uses Dynix software. One of Australia's largest library database mergers will see the databases of the former libraries combined soon to achieve the aim of the system fully operational by January 1992. The library is

also aiming to be able to have multifunctional computer terminals on all staff desks.

In addition to receiving nearly \$1.2 million for the system, the University Library is a major beneficiary of the University's new telecommunications system which is currently being installed at a cost of \$1.8 million.

Alan Bundy

3M self-charging system

Tried at Uni of W Sydney, Macarthur

The Campbelltown library of UWS, Macarthur, was pleased to be the first test site for the new 3M Self-Charging Workstation. 3M, UNILINC (formerly CLANN) and the computer software firm CPS have worked together to develop the system, which 3M now plans to market internationally.

The system works on the same principles as automatic teller machines and is as simple and efficient to operate. The latest laser scanner technology from the USA is used to read bar codes on both user ID cards and books. The system is connected to the library's GEAC host computer, so that all existing rules, regulations and messages of the library's circulation system are utilised. The system is 'clever' enough not to allow reference books, closed reserve items, etc from being loaned, and automatically rejects more than one item being charged out simultaneously. Technically the system is quite complex, but it was successfully operational from day 1 of the 4-week trial.

For further information about



the system contact Chris Ennor, 3M, on (02) 498 9247; about its use in a library environment contact James O'Brien, UWS Macarthur, on (046) 20 3118. □

The hardware is neat and compact.

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