

Korean books for NLA

Chang-bum Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, recently presented the National Library of Australia with 215 books about Korea, in the English language.

This significant gift of books on subjects ranging from art to religion, geology, language, history and politics, economics and folk crafts will add to the library's already considerable strengths on Korea. The Korean Collection is Australia's largest and is being

increasingly called upon with the growth in teaching programs in Korean language and culture. The library receives current newspapers, journals and books published in both North and South Korea. Being one of Australia's major trading partners and with increased tourism from North-east Asia, Korea is of growing importance.

These books will be entered on ABN and will be available on interlibrary loan to any Australian library. □

Ambassador Lee is seen with Warren Horton, Director General, NLA, and the library's two Korean members of staff, Jung-hee Fry (left) and OK Park. Both are wearing the traditional full length Korean women's costume — the hanbok — to mark this special occasion.



National Library of Australia

CIIM at CSU New centre at Wagga Wagga

A centre for intelligent information management (CIIM) is being set up at Charles Sturt University – Riverina, in Wagga Wagga. The main aims of this centre will be research into expert systems, their integration with more conventional computer systems, and the development of expert systems, particularly in the areas of library and information management, and agriculture. These application areas reflect strengths of this university. The School of Information Studies currently comprises the disciplines of computing and library and information science, and the school is in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. Being a rural and regional university, research and development in agriculture is encouraged.

One of the first projects of CIIM is joint sponsorship with ELISS (NSW) of the Intelligent Library Systems conference to be held at the university in September next year. This conference will concentrate on the integration of expert systems with other computer systems in library and information management. It follows the very successful Libraries and Expert Systems conference held here in July last year.

For more information contact Stuart Ferguson (ELISS-NSW), telephone (069) 22 2171 or John Weckert (CIIM), telephone (069) 22 2372. Both work at the School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University – Riverina, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650, fax (069) 22 2733.

An Australian in Riga

Library services in a multicultural environment — East and West

Some 20 overseas representatives from Japan, USA, Canada, Australia (Robert Pestell) and various European countries joined delegates from the Baltic States and Soviet Republics for this IFLA pre-conference seminar held in Riga, Latvia in August. The Latvian State (now National) Library welcomed us all for a rewarding 3-day program. Contrary to expectations, there is a flourishing book publishing trade in Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian, although many books are produced by underground presses and do not appear in State-owned bookshops. All book purchases have to be via Moscow and paid for in hard currency, at an artificially high exchange rate. The Baltic States have understandably been somewhat ambivalent in their attitude to supplying books to the West, as they received little, if any, benefit. However, this is expected to change now independence has been achieved and the government can develop its own overseas trade agreements.

As Maxine Rochester reported in *inCite* 16, the IFLA Moscow Conference was little affected by the 'coup that wasn't'. The Round Table on Mobile Libraries (RTML) had the unfortunate time-slot of 9 am on the Monday morning, when tanks were trundling around the Parliament, a block away from the conference centre, and several hastily built barricades were being thrown up. The only delegates there in fact were Robert Pestell, newly elected chairman of the Round Table, Thelma Tate, Rutgers University, USA and secretary of the RTML, and G Maksimova and Elena Nebogatikova, Leningrad State Public Library who were to present papers on mobile library services in the USSR. Although delayed, the Open Forum did take place, with further papers on mobile library services in Venezuela and in the French and Australian contexts. With 18 delegates present by the end of the session it was clear that a minor event like a coup was not going to affect dedicated librarians!

The English version of *Mobile Library Guidelines*, by Robert Pestell (IFLA Professional Report, No. 28, ISBN 90-70916-33-9), under the auspices of the IFLA RTML, is now available from IFLA Headquarters in The Hague for NLG 22, or equivalent in dollars. French and Spanish translations are currently in process.

Robert Pestell

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