

Research into community language cooperative systems

The improvement of multicultural library services for speakers of community (or 'heritage') languages is the focus of a research project currently being conducted in Sydney. Funded by the Local Government Development Program and by contributions from over 20 Sydney Metropolitan Councils, the project aims at investigating cooperative mechanisms between public libraries which would lead to improved access and equity for users of multicultural library services. It is being coordinated by a Working Group of the Metropolitan Chief Librarians Committee (MCLC), convened by Bernie Sargeant from Marrickville Council.

Consultation with ethnic community organisations, key service providers in public libraries and other interested individuals and groups will be initially a key element in the research. Comments about aspects of multicultural library resource provision and suggestions about relevant cooperative mechanisms are most welcome from *inCite* readers. The range of issues to be considered may include, for example, community language holdings and development, cataloguing, acquisition, staffing, centres of excellence, etc. There is every intention to learn from the experiences of practitioners and users in other states and systems. The study and evaluation of models of cooperative activity in Australia and overseas will be a major part of this project.

Research Librarian for the project, Jonathan (Jo) Lin, has begun working with the MCLC Working Group, in close collaboration with the State Library's Multicultural Services Unit.

Jo can be contacted directly on (02) 427 7340 (478 Mowbray Road, Lane Cove, NSW 2066) or through Marrickville Library, telephone (02) 335 2162. Bernie Sargeant, Library Services Manager, is available on (02) 335 2160.

Jo Lin
Bernie Sargeant

Aborigines made visible: from humbug to politics The 1991 Kenneth Myer Lecture



Dr H C Coombs delivering the 1991 Kenneth Myer Lecture at the National Library of Australia, 29 October 1991

interaction between the white Australians and the Aborigines. He looked at the work of various commissions and in a passionate conclusion called for the rejection of the recent report of the Australian Aboriginal Affairs Council Working Party and for the Combined Aboriginal Organisations to prepare an alternative document as a basis for negotiation. Dr Coombs suggested some key points that might form part of that document.

He closed with a powerful metaphor from the Yolgnu people of East Arnhem Land: 'Into Caledon Bay, a largely land locked lagoon, flow two streams: one fresh from the rain watered hills and one tidal from the sea. In some places these streams flow side by side, to some degree spilling into one another, but retaining their separate identity and character even after both have entered and merged with the Bay itself.'

'This they say is a symbol of the two streams of people black and white which are forming Australian society, each with its own origin and character but influencing each other, yet preserving its own identity and its distinctive contribution.'

'This metaphor', said Dr Coombs, 'I find constructive and I know that from it derives some of those intellectual movements which in Aboriginal society is creating ideologies not merely of protest but of constructive purpose. In education, in painting, music and dancing, in the philosophy of science, in the understanding of Nature and our relationship with it — we have much to learn from those Aborigines who think in terms of that metaphor.'

Dr HC Coombs gave the 1991 Kenneth Myer Lecture in the National Library on 29 October, presented by the Friends of the NLA. The title had a dual significance. It picked up a remark made by an old aboriginal to the anthropologist Professor Stanner: 'White men very clever people, very hard people; plenty humbug'. It also recalled Charles Rowley's comment that 'for nearly 180 years the European colonisers had been justifying themselves and comforting the colonised while taking over their whole environment, with various styles of 'humbug' from a one-sided Christianity to pseudo-Darwinism'.

Both the man and the topic were particularly appropriate. In 1963, representatives of the Social Science Research Council, including Dr Coombs, called on Kenneth Myer seeking financial support for the Council's most ambitious project: a study of Aborigines in Australian society. Kenneth Myer's response and that of the Myer Foundation were generous and Charles Rowley was appointed Director of a 3-year project.

The study resulted in a number of publications, in particular, Rowley's trilogy: *The Destruction of Aboriginal Society*, *The Remote Aborigines*, and *Outcasts in White Australia*. These, says Dr Coombs 'Began the changes which threaten the end of what the anthropologist Stanner called "The great Australian indifference".' In the lecture, Dr Coombs traced the continuing impact of Rowley's work on the relationship and



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ILANET News...

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ILANET is well aware of how libraries make do with shrinking budgets, less staff, and yet with ever more demanding users. So make your humble PC work smarter, faster and more cost-effectively!

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- Without re-keying data, send your files of

journal claims and book orders instantly to your favourite suppliers — import replies into your in-house system for acquisition control;

- Use the ARTTel link and Library of Congress form to send directly to the British Library and LC for fast turnaround of ILLs;
- Learn the use of system commands instead of the menus to reduce online time;
- And — don't forget to clean up your mailbox regularly by checking that there are no stored files.

Happy networking!

Linda Rouse

Platypus parade

Duck-billed mammal, furry
Egg-laying phenomenon,
'Ornithoryhynchus anatinus',
Too hard to say aloud,
Prefer the simple 'platypus',
It rolls off the tongue
Like its namesake off the bank.
Domestic sightings require patience,
Only the zoo can guarantee a peek
At nature's quiet joke
On the biologist.

Jeff Hazell

An Ariadne's thread through the labyrinth of training courses

The Directory of Training Programs: July 1991: A twice yearly guide to management training courses, conferences, seminars and events for structured training programs within the guidelines of the Australian Government's Training Guarantee scheme. Managing editor Tony Schannon. Sydney: Gower/HWW, 1991. ISSN 1036-5125.

This new directory will be of great help to all librarians and information services people. It has just been published as a joint effort of Gower Publishing Australia Pty Ltd and Horan Wall & Walker Pty Limited. The Directory aims to provide information on all major management training courses, saving you the labour of ordering and studying a number of brochures and pamphlets, trying to remember what, where and when each of them offers, and for how much.

The Directory is addressed to middle and upper management. It includes current information on over 2500 different management training programs.

Data on all courses is listed in the

same format, allowing for easy comparisons of course content, dates, location, prices, etc.

The training courses, conferences, seminars, events and programs cover areas such as Communication Skills, Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, Information Technology, Management, Marketing, Policy, and 'Training the Trainer'. The training programs included in the Directory are appropriate for consideration with a view to complying with the requirements of the Training Guarantee (Administration) Act 1990, but it is the responsibility of each employer to determine whether a program is eligible expenditure under the Act.

The Directory begins by detailing the

requirements under the Training Guarantee (Administration) Act 1990. It lists the training programs by subject area, by state, and by date. The Directory also provides a list of training organisations and a list of training resources, such as books, video-tapes, games, activities, exercises, etc. There are comprehensive indexes.

The Directory of Training Programs will be of benefit to any company involved in staff training. It will be updated twice a year and is available by annual subscription at \$295 for two editions from Gower/HWW Marketing & Distribution, Sales Office, 100 Harris Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009, telephone (02) 552 2366, fax (02) 552 1905.

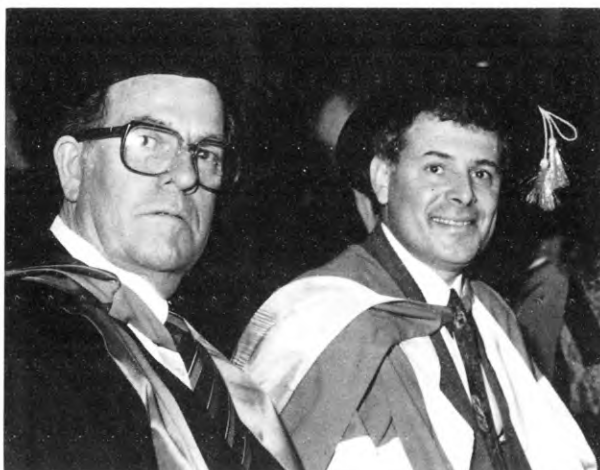
Bo Robertson

Jack Nelson earns doctorate

Jack Nelson, School of Librarianship UNSW, gained his doctorate for a thesis on *HCL Anderson, Principal Librarian at the Public Library of NSW, 1893–1906; his achievements and significance.* Anderson

had some significant achievements: the acquisition of the Mitchell collection, his transformation of the Sydney reference library into a State library, office-bearer in the short-lived Library Association of

Australasia, from 1896 to 1902, and contributions to cataloguing and indexing. Jack concludes that he was the most significant librarian of his time and has rarely been equalled since.



Dr Jack Nelson (left) is seen receiving his PhD with another newly-capped colleague at UNSW, Dr Adam Graycar.

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The collections covered in this guide include subject areas as wide ranging as computer education, pesticides, genealogy, homosexuality, libraries and staff development. Formats are listed, the sources of the collection described and addresses for contacts are included.

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Winners of 3M and Variety Talking Book Awards

The story of a woman's confusing and sometimes troubled relationship with her daughter and family has won the 12th annual 3M Talking Book of the Year Award conducted by Royal Blind Society. *Poppy*, written by Drusilla Modjeska and narrated by Christine Jeffery has been selected from a short-list of six books. The work is biographical, but also draws on fiction to fill the gaps.

The 3M Talking Book of the Year Award is designed to recognise works of literary merit available to people who are blind or print handicapped. It is open to books with an Australian theme or those written by Australian authors. The book is judged in its recorded form, so the narrator's interpretation and the author's ability to write for the spoken word play an important role in the award.

In 1991 a record 66 nominations were accepted for this award reflecting its growing importance and the growing awareness of the need to provide recreational reading for blind and print handicapped people.

The judging panel for this award included people from the literary world, as well as print handicapped library borrowers. The 3M sponsorship of the award ensures works of literary merit are recorded and presented to blind and print-handicapped readers with the minimum of delay.

In conjunction with the award for adult literature the Variety Club Young People's Talking Book Award has also been decided. The 1991 winner is *Al Capella and the Watchdogs*, written by Judith Clarke and narrated by Nicholas Opolski.

Nanjing information centre inaugurated

Wearing another hat, your editor has been managing a technical cooperation project for CSIRO and AIDAB during the last 3 years, to establish an information centre on agricultural education in the Nanjing Agricultural University. Australia has provided equipment, training and know-how; the Chinese have supplied the staff and the building.

Last month the project came to fruition and the centre was formally launched in the presence of Xiang Chong Yang, a former vice-minister of Agriculture, Dr Robert Dun, the Director General of AIDAB, and Ling Chi Hong, the Vice-Governor of Jiangsu Province. The centre will act as a national clearing house for information about agricultural education: practice, materials and publications. This information will be sought throughout China and through a network of international exchange agreements.

Peter Judge



Dr Robert Dun, AIDAB, with Xiang Chong Yang, Ministry of Agriculture.

Training libraries network

About 15 Sydney libraries with an interest in collecting information on 'training' (broadly defined as training, personal development, management development and human resource management) have formed an informal network.

The group meets every 6 months to exchange information about new products and issues in the area (e.g. the growing number of government and quasi-government authorities administering

training).

Information is shared between meetings through serials lists and telephone calls.

Anyone wanting more information is welcome to contact Bronwen Campbell, Services Librarian, Australian Institute of Management, NSW Training Centre Limited, telephone (02) 929 7922, fax (02) 959 4766, PO Box 328, North Sydney, NSW 2059.