

Patron Self Check

Design award for 3M library innovation

An Australian Design Award has recently been granted to the Patron Self Check System (featured in *inCite* 17). The system allows library patrons to perform their own automated book check-out duties, using hardware comparable to an automatic teller machine in a bank.

3M Australia Pty Ltd, which manufactures the Patron Self Check System, aimed to produce an efficient way of reducing the check-out pressures on librarians. A key factor was to be able to interface into any existing library circulation and control system without requiring alteration to that system.

The Patron Self Check System's design had to satisfy the specific needs of library staff and users. These include a robust construction to withstand unskilled and potentially rough handling by library patrons; a system capable of reading any format of bar code in any position on the book; the ability to discern when more than one book is placed in the discharging unit; a small and aesthetically pleasing unit; a simple to operate process; and a fast and accurate operation.

The General Manager of the Australian Design Award program has commented that the high level of innovation and the extensive research and development program that was involved in the design of the Patron Self Check System had enabled a promising concept to be realised. □

Library Locums' Placement Survey 1990-1991

Library Locums has just completed its third annual statistical summary of library/information positions placed through its service in the financial year 1990-1991.

Demand for library staff fell by 6 per cent from the previous year, in line with the higher level of unemployment but less than the national unemployment average of around 10 per cent.

Most of the decline occurred in engineering, science and legal libraries, and in Government libraries. Vacancies were down by 50 per cent from the previous year.

By contrast, there was a significant increase in the number of permanent part-time positions — up from 3 per cent in 1989 to 28 per cent 1990-1991. There was also a continued call for temporaries to cover staff vacancies, maternity leave, holidays and special projects.

Another consequence of rising unemployment throughout the year was an increased demand for experience. Fifty one per cent of all placements

required qualified and experienced librarians. Demand was concentrated at Librarian Class 1 level with 2 years or more experience. Qualified and experienced library technicians accounted for 18 per cent of the remaining placements.

The greatest call was for experienced cataloguers and online searchers.

For qualified librarians in 1990-1991 there was an increase in positions offering mid-range salaries and a decrease in the lowest ranges. A trend that Library Locums has noticed is that the salary range for experienced librarians has significantly broadened, frequently reaching \$50 000 to \$60 000 per annum. This suggests, at least in the private sector, that there is wide variation in the market place for skilled library staff.

Additional information was gathered in Library Locums' survey about salaries, skills analysis and recruitment procedures. Call Marion Nicolson at Library Locums, telephone (02) 699 1855, and she'll be glad to answer your questions. □

What people were paid

<i>Library Technicians</i>	1990-1991	1989-1990	1988-1989
\$17 500-\$20 999	0%	12%	19%
\$21 000-\$23 999	83%	75%	77%
\$24 000 +	17%	12%	4%
<i>Qualified Librarians</i>	1990-1991	1989-1990	1988-1989
\$25 000-\$27 999	22%	30%	56%
\$28 000-\$31 999	28%	41%	21%
\$32 000-\$34 999	14%	18%	16%
\$35 000-\$40 999	22%	11%	7%
\$41 000 +	14%		

Harold White Fellowships

National Library makes five awards for 1992

Harold White Fellowships for 1992 have been awarded to Inez Baranay, Professor John Hardy, Dr Andrew Hassam, Professor Bill Mandle and Professor Merry White. The Fellowships, named after former national Librarian Sir Harold White, will enable the five recipients to carry out research using the National Library's collections for periods of up to 6 months.

Sydney novelist and journalist Inez Baranay will be seeking material for a trilogy of novels exploring relationships between Australia and South East Asia. John Hardy of Bond University will study the poetry of Alexander Pope making particular use of the renowned David Nichol Smith Collection of 18th century literature. Canberra historian Bill Mandle plans to relate the Oxford Movement

of 1833-45, especially the work of John Henry Newman, to modern theories of propaganda and communication.

Andrew Hassam, a graduate of the University of Wales, will make a detailed analysis of the texts and cultural context of diaries kept by 19th century immigrants on the voyage to Australia. Merry White of Harvard University, who has written extensively about Japanese expatriates, plans to write a history of foreign settlers in Japan drawing on the Harold S Williams Collection.

It is only the second year since the Fellowship Scheme was set up that two overseas scholars have been awarded Fellowships. This reflects the unusual number of good applications from other countries, as well as from Australia. □

The Library Gallery

The Library and Information Studies Department is a part of Box Hill College of TAFE which recently moved to Doncaster. One of its main roles is the training of library technicians who are para-professional members of the library workforce.

One area of the library technician course concerns the design, production and mounting of displays of all types. These skills are useful to those involved with libraries, and also to those involved with museums, galleries and local history societies — in fact to anyone who is responsible for mounting a display. People from many such areas have come to the college to study just this subject.

The department will extend this subject to a full certificate course in 1992. It will be a part-time course and will deal with exhibition techniques and management. It will be a

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practical course and as far as is possible will mirror the work place. In order to do this the department felt it necessary to extend its work spaces from boards and cabinets to a total gallery type of environment.

To this end, The Library Gallery has been set up in the campus library of Box Hill College of TAFE by Pamela Naylor, Head of Department, Library and Information Studies, with lecturers Clare Atkins and Chris Dunham. The first exhibition was a sound sculpture by Ernie Althoff. Until recently Ernie was composer in residence with the music faculty of Monash University.

It is planned to have 8-10 exhibitions per year and anyone interested in exhibiting their works should contact a member of the gallery team on (03) 846 0222. The gallery will initially be open to the public Monday to Thursday 9 am - 7.30 pm and Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

Pam Naylor □

Library Week at the State Library of Queensland

The State Library of Queensland tackled promoting Library Week with an innovative display tracing the development of the book from earliest times to the latest in computer publishing and technology.

Highlights included a copy of an Egyptian limestone relief fragment illustrating hieroglyphics, and a facsimile copy of 'The Gutenberg Bible' which, as far as western civilisation is concerned, is the first book ever printed from movable type.

To complement this display, members of the Lettering Arts Society of Queensland conducted daily calligraphy demonstrations. In addition staff from the Preservation Services Division of the State Library also conducted daily demonstrations of book binding.

Coinciding with Library Week was the inaugural lecture in Australian Literature for the State Library. It was delivered by Dr Bruce Dawe, Associate Professor of Literary Studies at the University College of Southern Queensland. Dr Dawe, widely recognised as Australia's most popular poet, attracted a crowd of almost 200 people. He spoke about how his poems emerged, from the initial draft to the finished work.

The lecture is part of a series, to be presented annually, designed to emphasise the fact that the library's role is communication, and that the original form of communication was oral, not written.

This theme was reinforced by another Library Week activity, 'Storytelling for Adults'. One of Brisbane's foremost storytellers, Bettina Nissen, gave a presentation highlighting the power of the spoken word.

Library Week this year was well attended, however the State Library hopes to improve on this each year as we strive to show that libraries are more than just books.

Kim Landers □

In Brief

Preservation in NT libraries

During 1990 the NT Preservation Sub-committee of ACLIS, convened by Baiba Berzins, conducted a survey throughout the Northern Territory to identify preservation needs and problems which existed in libraries and related organisations.

Questionnaires were distributed to 116 libraries, archives and special collections.

Responses clearly showed that NT collections had major preservation problems and that librarians and other curators needed to improve their own awareness about preservation issues and solutions.

The sub-committee recommended the publication of articles about conservation and preservation and the publication of a leaflet on key preservation issues.

A draft leaflet, *Preservation of Library Materials* has now been produced. It lists equipment distributors and selected reading and video sources, and covers the key preservation issues. It is currently being considered by the ACLIS, NT Committee.

Greg Coleman
Convener

ACLIS Preservation Sub-committee (NT) □

Towards the Clever Country... through information literacy

'Information literate people are those who have learned how to learn. They can always find and use the information they need. What are the implications for the clever country?' 'How can the teaching of information skills be integrated into the tertiary sector?' These are just two of the questions that faced 110 participants at the information literacy workshop held in Adelaide last month.

Apart from the resolutions agreed during the sessions, this lively and productive workshop has already led to the establishment of an SA Forum for Information Literacy, to development of research proposals and promotional material. It is to be followed up with a National Information Literacy Seminar in Adelaide, 2-4 December 1992.

More information on this important topic will appear in an early *inCite* next year.

Di Booker □

ADFA gets grant for AUSTLIT

The Australian Literature Online Database (AUSTLIT) operated by the Australian Defence Force Academy has been awarded a major Australian Research Council grant, worth \$100 000, to undertake retrospective indexing of the literary content of 19th and early 20th century Australian journals and newspapers. This material has not previously been indexed and its inclusion in AUSTLIT will, therefore, be of enormous value to researchers, and others interested in Australian literature.

Decisions about which journals and newspapers will be indexed will be decided by an editorial committee comprising members of the English Department and the library at the Australian Defence Force Academy. The indexing and inputting of material will commence in 1992 and take place over 1992 and 1993. □

Windfall for Caroline

Caroline Beatty, Product Manager of CD-ROM and Associates, recently made a killing on Sale of the Century. Caroline was fortunate enough to win three nights on Sale of the Century and walked out with over \$100 000 worth of prizes. Well done, Caroline! □

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