In Brief

Bookprint Reading 1990

The Bookprint Reading 1990 Management Committee met for the last time in March. The committee had coordinated the Australia-wide program which distributed 335 000 posters, 100 000 pamphlets, 100 000 bumper stickers and over half a million reading lists throughout Australia in 1990.

The National Book Council will be holding the remaining stock of posters and merchandise from the campaign, and a full report of the campaign has been sent to funding bodies and to UNESCO.

A small surplus in funds has been made over to the National Book Council. The funds will be used to finance accommodation and fees for well known aboriginal teacher and story teller May O'Brien to visit Lake Cargelligo in the centre of NSW.

For further information, please contact Jan Smark Nilsson, Executive Director, National Book Council on (03) 663 8655.

APSIG

ALIA's Asia and Pacific SIG has just distributed the tenth issue of its newsletter, five pages packed with information about library issues and happenings in our region. Interested? Contact editors George Miller or Susan Prentice at ANU on (06) 249 4448.

Victorian arts funding guidelines — out now

The Victorian Ministry for the Arts' guide to funding for arts organisations in 1992 is now available.

Programs of Assistance — A Guide to Funding, identifies funding programs and the criteria for the allocation of grants for arts activities in 1992. It describes how to apply for grants, and offers information about the policies, priority and funding categories offered by the Ministry.

For copies, telephone the Victorian Ministry for the Arts on (03) 649 8888.

Applications for grants must be lodged with the Ministry by 30 June 1991.

Simone Kewley

An ORAQLE comes to Brisbane

State Library of Queensland expands its computer network

The State Library of Queensland is expanding its multi-library computer network as more of the State's libraries take advantage of the benefits of using ORAQLE.

ORAQLE is the code name for the online library management system designed and developed over the past 12 years by the State Library of Queensland. The library created its own programs for ORAQLE because at the time there was no system available which could accommodate its needs. There are now six fully integrated modules for enquiry (command and menu driven), stack retrieval, cataloguing, circulation, acquisitions and serials control.

In the past 12 months, three local authority library services and one regional service have joined the Network which now supports ten libraries. The expansion of the ORAQLE network enables the State Library to assist public library services in Queensland.

The libraries benefit from shared usage of computer resources as they do not have the expense of establishing, accommodating and maintaining a computer site. As well as lower costs, participating libraries can be assured of ongoing support from an organisation whose primary goal is to provide the best library service possible.

All libraries in the Network are involved in planning and making policy decisions for the Network through an ORAQLE Users Group, which meets once a month to discuss enhancements, problems and policies.

Running a shared network requires some standards, particularly in relation to cataloguing. The ORAQLE network has adopted a set of standards which is monitored by the Cataloguing Branch of the State Library of Queensland. Bibliographic data is coded according to Australian MARC Specification as published by the National Library of Australia. AACR2 level 2 is used for non-fiction items and AACR2 level 1 is used for fiction items.

To aid consistency, all participating libraries have access to the complete Library of Congress Subject Headings Thesaurus online, which is updated weekly via magnetic tapes from the United States.

Other advantages in the shared Network include the training and support provided by State Library staff and the formation of a union catalogue. The shared catalogue will increase interlibrary loan cooperation and allow quicker access to the State Library's resources.

The ORAQLE online system incorporates its own security so that only authorised users can perform specific tasks. Anyone can access the OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) using Austpac, local dial-up or the Network, but they cannot alter any of the ORAQLE records. The ORAQLE software is run on a FUJITSU M760/4 using the FSP operating system. The system currently supports 170 terminals and records up to 80 000 transactions a day.

Enquiries about ORAQLE should be addressed to Director, Mike Bishop at the State Library of Queensland on telephone (07) 840 7858, fax (07) 846 2421.

Doctoral program at UC

The Centre for Library and Information Studies at the University of Canberra has enrolled Trish Milne as its first PhD student in its newly approved doctorate program in the School of Communication. Trish has just completed both a Graduate Diploma in Arts and her Master's degree in the same centre. In her Master's degree she developed a profile of the reviewers of children's books in Australia.

For her PhD thesis, Trish has returned to the area which is her major interest, the effects of technology in information use. She plans to investigate the change in information seeking habits of academics and researchers which results from the introduction of readily available technology through a Campus Wide Information System such as is being established at the Australian National University which she plans to use as a case study. Colin Steele, University Librarian, strongly supports her study.

Peter Biskup

As others see us...

David Richards' appreciation of Neil Simon ('The last of the great American playwrights') in the Sunday *Age*, 21 April, included the trenchant comment, 'To look at Simon is to mistake him for an accountant or a librarian. He dresses just this side of drab.'

Which side of drab, one wonders, does Mr Richards dress?