

A dialogue of partners

Sue Halbwirth has just returned from an international workshop on book donation programs

MORE THAN A hundred representatives of bodies concerned with assisting developing countries to build up their libraries attended this workshop in Baltimore, sponsored by IFLA, UNESCO and the Canadian Organisation for Development through Education. The workshop highlighted issues of identifying what materials to send, quality control, logistics, distribution mechanisms and adapting foreign books to the local needs.

Susan came home convinced more than ever of the importance of the programs. In Australia the program is handled by the Australian Centre for Publications acquired for Development, ACPAD, funded by

AIDAB and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It operates mainly in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, but has sent materials further afield where the need is greatest. It is currently collecting a shipment for the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

ACPAD is always interested in contacting institutions or individuals who have materials to donate, or would like to discuss book donation activities, or who may be involved in other similar activities in Australia. If you are interested, contact Susan at ACPAD on (06) 285 8222 or fax (06) 285 3036. ■

Australian Library Week in WA

Deanne Barrett has been on a busperson's tour

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Specials borrowed an idea for Australian Library Week from their Queensland colleagues and organised a series of library tours.

During the week, more than forty librarians visited five different special libraries.

On Monday Joanne Marchioro introduced us to services such as Worldnet conferences and teleconferencing organised by the US Consulate, and demonstrated the CD Roms used by the US Information Service Library. Tuesday's visit was hosted by Patricia Sclaro and the library staff at Princess Margaret Hospital, who showed us the complexities and variety to be found in a medical library.

On Wednesday, Bobbie Bruce and her Data Management Team gave us an interesting insight into Western Mining Petroleum Division's Library and the Seismic Library. Bobbie and her staff explained the two libraries' different roles and collections, and demonstrated the in-house database system *OPALOIL*.

We visited the Crown Law Library on Thursday, where Lynne Lyon arranged a display of the law materials in the library. Lynne also talked about the role of the library within the crown law system in WA. We were given a demonstration of the new *SWANS* database (marketed as *Law-Net* by State

Print) and the library's own in-house database.

The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority was the final visit for the week. Jennie Carter provided another interesting tour and explained the uniqueness of her library service and her position as Librarian.

The WA Special Libraries Committee thanks all the Librarians who gave so freely of their time to make their libraries available for the tours. We also thank all those who attended these interesting and enjoyable events, which could well become a fixture in our calendar for future years. ■

1993 Meckler Catalogue new available

THE 1993 CATALOGUE for the full range of United States Meckler publications, dealing with information technology for libraries, is now available from Television Education Network, the exclusive Australian agent. The Catalogue is free of charge, and prices—which include postage and packaging—are in Australian dollars. It is spiral-bound, for ease of use. To obtain a copy, contact Kathy Speakman at Television Education Network Pty Ltd, 2nd Floor, 412 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000 phone (03) 602 2055 or fax (03) 670 2448. ■

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