

# New openings in the Long White Cloud

**Distance Education Teaching for Library and Information Studies Begins in New Zealand—at a price.**

**I**N 1992 the Department of Library and Information Studies of the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand will begin to offer the Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies in the distance education mode. This course was formerly available only as a one-year full-time course on campus. The move to offer distance education responds to a recommendation by Professor Wilfred Saunders, formerly of Sheffield University library school, in his report on education for librarianship in New Zealand.

Studying at a distance is expensive: students will pay course fees of NZ\$2 740 for the first year and \$2 640 for the second year. On-campus students pay course fees of only NZ\$520. Most of the distance education students are expected to be already working in library

and information centres.

Alan Richardson, Chair of the Victoria University of Wellington Department of Library and Information Studies at Charles Sturt University-Riverina (CSU-R, at Wagga Wagga) for a week in 1990 to investigate teaching library and information studies in the distance education mode. His Department has since purchased two distance education packages from CSU-R for the subjects LSC4614 Research Methods and Evaluation and LSC4524 Libraries, Knowledge and Communication and is preparing other packages itself. Charles Sturt University has not offered access to its distance education courses for individual overseas students, so New Zealanders have not been able to study librarianship at CSU.

There was a follow-up visit from Victoria University by Margaret Higgins in the last week of November 1991 to investigate distance education teaching, especially for reference and library management. Alan Richardson now reports that 'we are snowed under with applications for our 1992 courses, and the distance course will be ready to run with an intake of fifty students by February 1992.' The University will use Otago University's teleconferencing facilities located throughout New Zealand for weekly three-hour tutorials and there will be a Wellington one-week residential school in February each year. Students will need access to an MS-DOS microcomputer to carry out course work distributed on diskette for some subjects.

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## Library Services to Deaf People

**G**UIDELINES for Library Services to Deaf People, edited by John Michael Day. The Hague: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, 1991. (IFLA Professional Reports, 24). \$22.00; US\$10.00.

Guidelines for Library Services to Deaf People are meant to inform librarians about the library needs of deaf people. They apply to all types of libraries which have deaf persons as any portion of their clientele, including public, school, and academic, as well as special libraries serving government, commerce and industry, the arts, military, hospitals, prisons and other institutions. They are statements of general principles, meant to serve both as an encouragement to establish services for deaf persons and as a

means to assess the completeness and quality of such services.

The guidelines are international in scope, and therefore must be tempered by national and local limitations on practicality (e.g. the application of guidelines regarding the use of technological aids should be dropped where such technology is not available). Additionally, the Guidelines are meant to serve as a guide in the development of national guidelines for library services to deaf people as they may be easily modified to conform to local circumstances. In the absence of any local guidelines, these guidelines could easily apply.

No doubt, these Guidelines can be readily adopted or adapted to become national guidelines for library services to deaf people in Australia. Because of their clarity and conciseness they can

furthermore serve as an example for the development of guidelines on services to other disability groups.

The Australian Library and Information Association is encouraged to place the Guidelines for Library Services to Deaf People on its agenda, and librarians are invited to purchase, peruse and investigate developments which may gradually improve services to their deaf community.

Copies may be ordered from the following two addresses:

IFLA Headquarters, c/- Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Prins Willem Alexanderhof 5, The Hague, The Netherlands. Dfl22.00.

Gallaudet University Library, 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002—3695, USA. US\$10.00.

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## Koorie employment in Public Libraries

**New Guidelines released in Victoria**

**A**SUB-COMMITTEE of the ACLIS State Committee, chaired by Ruth Cameron, Manager of Melbourne City Libraries, has recently published *Guidelines for the Employment of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in Victorian Public Libraries*.

The production of the *Guidelines* was one of the objectives of the ACLIS Victorian State Committee's *ACTION PLAN 1990-1991*. This in turn arose from the Libraries Summit 1988, Session H, Serving Users with Special Needs:

Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

These *Guidelines* are to assist Public Libraries throughout Victoria to achieve the employment of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in a variety of employment modes. They have been drafted in consultation with Koories in Victoria in relation to both content and text, and have been endorsed by the ACLIS State Committee in Victoria.

It is anticipated that the *Guidelines* will be most effective in those areas of Victoria, city and country, where there is a significant Koorie population. The *Guidelines* have been divided

into two sections, employment and services which facilitate employment.

The employment potential is for full time or part time librarians, library technicians or library officers. However, consideration is also given to work experience students and volunteers.

Under these *Guidelines* 'services' means library collections and activities by, for and about Koories. Copies of the *Guidelines* are available from ACLIS Secretariat or Melbourne City Libraries.

*Ruth Cameron*