

# The Distributed National Collection

**John Shipp has sent this record of the Colloquium held in Adelaide in March**

Almost sixty delegates met at the University of Adelaide in March to review the progress of the DNC and decide on future action. Invitations were issued by the President of the Council of University Libraries (CAUL), John Shipp, to the head of every Australian university library and every State and Territory Library, and to the National Library of Australia, CSIRO and the Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services (ACLIS). ACLIS's brief in selecting its delegates was to ensure all the other sectors would be represented: from parliamentary libraries, special libraries, public libraries, TAFE libraries and the National Preservation Office.

The colloquium allowed for the presentation of seven papers on various topics relating to the DNC, with ample time for discussion of the issues:

<i>Overview of the DNC</i>	(Alison Crook);
<i>A University view</i>	(Helen Hayes);
<i>Collecting agreements</i>	(Tom Cochrane);
<i>Coordination arrangements</i>	(Earle Gow);
<i>Electronic access and delivery for journals</i>	(Ray Choate);
<i>University reactions</i>	(Brian Cook); and
<i>The National Library perspective</i>	(Warren Horton).

A final session was dedicated to discussion on future action. John Levett acted as facilitator.

## Major issues

A lively debate in each session ensured that a great many issues were canvassed during the colloquium. These included:

- the need to move the concept of the DNC forward;
- the need to treat monographs and serials differently within the overall DNC framework;
- the critical importance of access as the key to the success and effectiveness of the DNC concept;
- the relevance or appropriateness of the concept of national self-sufficiency;
- the role of the National Library of Australia in carrying forward and coordinating the operational aspects of the DNC;
- the role of ACLIS as a coordinating body which focuses on the critical issues affecting Australian libraries and information services;
- cooperation between CAUL and ACLIS (and possibly the NLA), in funding an issues paper on the establishment of an Australian electronic access and delivery system for journals;
- the need to reconvene perhaps every three years, to review the main issues and the progress made, and to establish new goals.

## Resolutions

Some resolutions were canvassed during the meeting, and others were brought forward in the final discussion session. The following resolutions were passed:

1. That this representative meeting asks the National Library of Australia to consider undertaking responsibility for coordinating the operational aspects of the DNC at the national level. (The NLA should issue a statement outlining the range of tasks it would undertake and the advisory mechanisms it would see put in place.)
2. That in future discussions regarding the DNC, greater emphasis be placed on the critical importance of access as an inescapable corollary of collecting.
3. That this meeting notes with pleasure the progress made in advancing the concept of the DNC, and the clarity, goodwill and sense of commitment evidenced in the discussions.

Future action arising from these resolutions would be in the hands of the bodies represented at the meeting, in particular CAUL, CASL, ACLIS, NLA and CSIRO. ■



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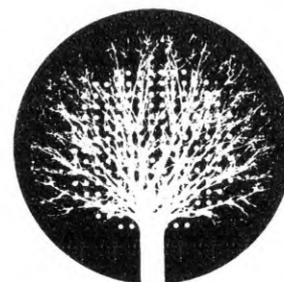
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