

## Serials management in Australia

A new and home-grown manual from Haworth Press

**S**erials Management in Australia and New Zealand: Profile of Excellence, edited by Tony Burrows and Phillip Kent, has been published simultaneously as the Australian & New Zealand Journal of Serials Librarianship, Vol. 3, Nos. 3/4, 1993. (The book's details: New York, Haworth Press, 1993. 175pp. A\$29.95 hard, A\$23.95 soft. ISBN 1-56024-453-4. Review copy supplied by Haworth Press)

Within this comparatively slim volume, the current state of serials management in a wide ranging selection of thirteen Australian and two New Zealand libraries is described, with papers being contributed by librarians responsible for serials management in each of the selected libraries. Included in the selection are academic, state and special libraries, large and small libraries, libraries with manual and automated processing, and libraries with centralised and decentralised processing for serials.

Several have experienced institutional amalgamations. Each paper/chapter includes some background

to the parent organisation or institution, the library's organisational structure, the place of serials management and processing within this structure, budgetary details and other special local issues and factors influencing their serials management practices. The papers are well organised and clearly set out in a consistent format. There is no index.

The staffing structures and the policies, practices and services offered by the selected libraries vary widely. Some examples of this diversity include the 'total serials management' approach of RMIT and their collection and use of reshelving data for collection management; the concentration on the use of consolidation services at Bond University; the establishment of multiskilled processing teams (combining cataloguing and acquisitions) for the complete processing of particular groups of serials at State Library of NSW; the policy of rotating staff through the various serials processing units at the National Library of Australia; and the emphasis on user-driven procedures and value-added

services in specialist libraries such as Parliamentary and Western Mining Corporation.

In the main, the papers are essentially practical in approach, with most covering staffing, workflows, local policies and procedures in some detail, even to the inclusion of a list of the 'qualities esteemed in a good serials assistant' from one contributor. Almost all make some mention of the increasing inclusion in their collections of CD-ROM format indexes and full text periodicals, and their move (or intention to move) towards a greater use of technology such as electronic communication, receipt of invoices on tape, and online access to suppliers' databases, to streamline acquisitions processing and problem solving.

This volume should interest any librarian involved in serials work, and it offers plenty of practical ideas for any serials manager faced with the need for change. *Judy Evans*

*(This is the first of the longer reviews planned for future issues. Volunteer reviewers are called for! And what do readers think?)*

## The sounds of old Australia

A new series of educational cassettes recaptures historic events in sound

**P**eter Burgis is the former head of the National Film and Sound Archive. In retirement he has founded a new recording company to publish historical sound documents which are both educational and entertaining. The tapes give the authentic and original sound with no artificial enhancement or excessive filtering.

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Write for further information to Kingfisher Cassettes, PO Box 1660, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444. ■

## Birds on a CD-ROM

SCSI Corporation is distributing this new multimedia guide for Windows users

**S**impson and Day's *Birds of Australia* is now available as a Multimedia PC CD-ROM running under Windows. The disc uses colour visuals, sound and text throughout. It includes 792 bird pictures with over 400 bird song recordings as well as a complete list of the bird families of the world.

There is an extensive use of maps, so that the distribution of birds by states can be easily reviewed. There is also a series of shows that highlight the name of the bird (it is spoken as well as written) and the user can hear the song as well as see the bird.

RRP is \$199, and there is a special offer for schools at \$179. More information can be obtained from Robert Ek at SCSI Corporation on telephone (02) 894 6033 or fax (02) 894 6766. ■

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