

A regional diversity

I think there is little doubt that Asia/Pacific matters are now a firm part of our conference agendas. Not only was there a good variety of papers in Wellington, but the major part of the first plenary was spent on the region. The surveys by Robyn Stokes, Helen Jarvis, Warren Horton, Karen Peacock, Donita Simmons, Sandra Lee, and Heather Moorcroft provided a rich background for delegates' consideration.

APSIG ran a half-day library associations open forum, which to me was perhaps the most challenging offering. We heard about the work and problems of PIALA (the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives, based in Guam and serving the islands of Micronesia), the Hong Kong Lib-

ary Association (which we found has no paid employees) and the emerging library association in Cambodia (amongst whose many problems is overcoming resistance to the very formation of such associations). The session led to some extremely useful contacts being established and, for ALIA, a much clearer idea of how it could consider approaching cooperation and assistance projects in the region.

As a general comment, I was impressed by the built-in Maori cultural protocols. The most striking session? — without doubt the bravura performance by Moana Maniapoto-Jackson who sang, strutted, entertained, and delivered a powerful message about information equity, and deserved her standing ovation

Anthony Ketley

The N-Strategy workshop

N for New Zealand, National, Nineties, Nelson, National Library, NZLIA (the co-sponsors) and for definitely Not the Library Summit: strategic planning for the future of library and information services in New Zealand.

Built on an input seminar at which funders and users of services defined the issues which they believed important, theme papers were prepared and workshopped around the country. They were brought together, refined, reshaped and prioritised at an intense hard-working conference in Nelson in 1992. Initiatives selected for further effort were assigned to sponsors, with on-going work coordinated by a vision group — like the original working group who developed the whole program, representative of the National Library and NZLIA.

In Wellington those working on various initiatives and those interested who still had stamina by Friday afternoon gathered for an update. Reporting back was brisk and efficient, conveying the energy and enthusiasm put into efforts since 1992. The whole group endorsed efforts and encouraged further work — particularly emphasising the need to get the benefit of efforts out to the wider NZ community and to avoid professional navel-gazing. A first step will be to involve funders and users again.

At 5pm on the 5th day of the conference the group departed re-energised by awareness of the sum of all the efforts. Having been out of touch with efforts since Nelson in 1992 I was most impressed with the breadth and depth of really practical initiatives which have been developed to provide for the further of library and information services in New Zealand.

Helen Tait

The trade exhibition area



The trade exhibition area has traditionally been a focal point for ALIA conferences, networking and catching up on library technology being areas of prime interest to delegates. Pictured Ms Diane Maloney (right), Manager Libraries and Informations Services, Manakau City Library (NZ) discusses a need with S&M Supply Company Customer Advisor, Ms Andrea Gill