

Combining Library and Parliament in NT

From 9 January this year, Darwin's striking new Parliament House will not only be home to Northern Territory politicians but also to the new Northern Territory Library. The Northern Territory Library will amalgamate the collections of the former State and Parliamentary libraries and offer an information service to both the public and to parliamentarians and their staff. As such, it represents a unique joint-use facility.

The Northern Territory Library will draw on the existing strengths of the State and Parliamentary libraries as well as offering several new services and promoting them to the expanded client group.

The library will offer a client-focused service that includes fast-track document delivery, current awareness services, access to the local network Linnet, ABN, and Internet, extensive CD-ROM and online databases and the specialised and extensive Northern Australia Collection.

The Northern Territory Library will be a new working environment for State and Parliamentary library staff and represents an opportunity for all staff to broaden their professional experience. Staff have already found that professional and learning opportunities were very much a part of the planning process when each accepted responsibilities in addition to their normal duties.

One of the more daunting tasks was the promotion of the move to Parliament House. It was essential that the community received a clear three-fold message that included dates of the move, the location of the new library, and that the Northern Territory Library would be open to the public just as the State Library had been.

The promotional campaign aimed to reach as many sectors of the community as possible and incorporated a mix of media, from banners strategically placed on major traffic routes, to 'on the move' flyers for distribution within the library and a direct mailing of 'on the move' posters. Advertisements were placed in the local paper and even on the back of the Govern-



A tropical setting for Darwin's new Northern Territory Library

ment Gazette. Newspapers and a variety of local newsletters that ran regular library columns received articles about the move.

The culmination of this promotion was the State Library wake hosted by Friends of the Library. The wake was well-attended by approximately 200 guests from many sectors of the Territory community.

Planning is well under way for the promotion of the opening of the Northern Territory Library, and the necessary policy formulation has begun. The Northern

Territory Library opens for business on 9 January, with the formal opening celebrations planned for later in the year.

The location of a major public library within Parliament House has not gone without comment. However, the move represents a unique opportunity to make Parliament House a place for the people.

It is hoped that the Northern Territory Library will become one of the Territory's success stories, and prove once again that it's different in the Territory.

Jenny Saunders

Credit transfer arrangements in Library and Information Studies

Through the AVCC Credit Transfer Project, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (with funding assistance from DEET) has been developing national credit transfer arrangements in a range of fields of study, in order to assist students transferring between universities, or from TAFE to universities, and seeking credit for their prior studies. One of the fields of study in which minimum levels of credit will be piloted in 1995 is Library and Information Studies.

Under the pilot scheme, students who have a relevant and completed Associate Diploma (whether in university or TAFE), or partly completed degree studies, in the same or a comparable field of study, will be granted minimum

credit for their prior studies, when admitted to a Library and Information Studies degree course.

The recommendations for the pilot scheme were developed by a Reference Group, chaired by Professor John Levett of Monash University and including, in addition to other university members, representatives of ALIA and of TAFE.

Details of the pilot schemes, including a list of participating universities, are available from universities, State/Territory university admission centres and from Dr Anthony P Haydon, director, Credit Transfer Project, Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, PO Box 199, Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000, phone (08) 223 1855, fax (08) 232 6405, or e-mail thaydon@avcc.edu.au. ■