

The future of the acquisition librarian

Kay Cole, secretary,
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The ALIA conference provided the focus for the National Acquisitions Section's main events for the year. This was a one-day seminar *Accessing information 2001 — the role of acquisitions librarians in the new millennium*, held at the Centra Hotel, adjacent to the conference site, on Monday 7 October. The site and the date, as well as the quality of speakers, ensured attendance by delegates from all states.

After listening to speakers, the seventy-nine delegates to *Information 2001* participated in a workshop focussed on new priorities, task and infrastructures for staff working in acqui-

sitions, serials and collection development. The seminar papers and reports will be published in *Acquisitions*, the section newsletter. The Acquisitions Section also established its own home

page in 1996 for information about events, contacts and publications. The Acquisitions home page is on ALIANet at <http://www.alia.org.au/alia/sections/acq/home.html>. ■



Speakers at *Accessing information 2001* held on 7 October. Left to Right: Sharon Cline McKay, Blackwells Periodicals; Jerelynn Brown, SLNSW; Christine Maher, LaTrobe University; Carolyn Young, QUT; Colin Steele, ANU; Margaret Phillips, National Library of Australia.

Information sharing and networking the key

Greg Fowler, Health Libraries Section, South Australia

The Health Libraries Section in South Australia has travelled a slightly different path in 1996 with renewed enthusiasm amongst members indicated by the increased participation in general meetings. Several functions were organised this year and, where possible, the executive committee liaised with the Special Libraries Section (South Australia) to encourage information sharing and wider networking, and to avoid duplication.

Much interest was shown in and attendance was excellent for, the joint Specials and Health Libraries Sections visit to the new WorkCover Library in May. The visit was preceded by a social lunch and the visit proved so popular that another will be planned at a later date. A social evening was held at the Chesser Cellars, Adelaide on 4 September to welcome new and old members to the Section. The evening was kindly sponsored by the Ramsay Group and it was an excellent opportunity for health library workers to meet in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

This year has also seen the development of a vision for South Australian Health Commission libraries which is both exciting and innovative. At the end of 1995, the South Australian Health Commission Libraries Consortium was formed to explore the possibility of creating a system for accessing CD-ROM databases via a wide area network.

Library managers and health workers have supported the Consortium in the development of a business case.

This long and complex process has enabled South Australia Health Commission funded health unit librarians to form stronger links and to share in this exciting vision. The aim of the project is to provide the libraries and health units staff with access to a greater range of databases using a standard, user friendly interface. The Working Group has just completed the Business Case and it will be submitted in the near future to the INFO2000 Project Directorate, SA Health Commission for funding. This project will continue to determine the agenda and directions for SA Health Commission libraries in 1997.

Guests were invited to address the groups members at general meetings. They included Maureen Bell (librarian, Glenside Hospital) and Ray Choate (chief librarian, University of Adelaide) to talk about the proposed move of the Glenside Hospital psychiatric and mental health collection to the University and how it would impact on mental health workers in South Australia; and Elizabeth Ho (State Library of South Australia) to talk about the new developments in the State Library and, in particular, the library's directions in relation to the provision of health information to the general public. ■