

Bringing the nineteenth century into the twenty-first century...

Jean Bailey, senior library technician, Fisher Library, University of Sydney

The full content — text and images — of journals, newspapers, novels and short stories published in Australia from the period 1840–45 will be digitised and made accessible through the Internet by a collaborative project between the University of Sydney Library, the State Library of New South Wales, the National Library of Australia and Monash University Library.

The Australian Cooperative Digitisation Project, 1840–45, initiated by the University of Sydney Library, will provide the digital conversion of significant nineteenth century Australian material to enhance literary and historical research. The purpose of this collaborative project is to ensure both increased access to, and preservation of, this material through an integrated process of preservation microfilming, digital scanning, network access, and selected full-text enhancement.

The project will provide access to the published record of life and activity of the period 1840–45, regarded as seminal in the de-

velopment of a colonial culture and the emerging sense of an Australian identity in the colonies.

This period, following the end of convict transportation to NSW and preceding the influx of the gold-rush migrations, heralded the introduction of representative government in 1842 and witnessed the early years of mass free migration to the Australian colonies. It was a period marked by an upsurge in local publication in both the older and newer centres of settlement to meet the demands of the increased population and the commercial opportunities emerging in the colonies.

Images of all material will be accessible via the Internet through the National Library of Australia in the later half of 1996, for browsing and down-loading if required. The fiction of the period will be further converted at Monash University Library to be fully-searchable in ASCII form as well as accessible as images. This will mean that individual words and phrases can be quickly located in the texts. Technical and user

specifications are being developed and the production work of filming and digital conversion will be contracted to commercial vendors. Other products of the project to be investigated include CD-ROM on demand and print reproduction.

The project will address many of the major technical and management issues of large-scale digital conversion, and develop new partnerships in collaboration between major institutional libraries, librarians, researchers and industry. The project will assist in the development of technical specifications and skills based on international best practice, and will present a new level of resource-sharing between libraries.

The coordinator of the project is Ross Coleman (University of Sydney), the chair of the project is Professor Elizabeth Webby (University of Sydney), and other librarians on the steering committee of this project are Alan Ventress (State Library of New South Wales), Colin Webb (National Library of Australia), and Robert Stafford (Monash University Library).

every Australian enterprise needs to know about world trade data. Metcalfe Auditorium, SLNSW. Contact Jenny Affleck (02) 212 2867.

11/3-27/5 Advocacy, public programs and outreach An elective in the degree program open to a limited number of practising professionals — 3 hours a week. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact Maureen Henninger: (02) 385-3589; Fax (02) 385-3430; e-mail: M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

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• **12/3 ALIA NSW Branch Council meeting** 6pm in the Jean Garling Room, Mitchell Wing, SLNSW.

• **13/3 Specials Committee meeting** Contact Moya Lum, (02) 257 5481, fax (02) 257 3867.

13, 19 & 27/3 Introduction to DB/TextWorks, DB/TextWorks Advanced Course & DB/TextWorks Bridging Courses. Full day courses 9-5pm. Venue: Trimagic Software. For information and bookings contact Trimagic Software, Authorised Training Centre (02) 413 1799; fax (02) 413 1710

• **13/3-8/5 NSW Library Technicians Section Meetings.** UTS, City Campus Library (13/3). Uni of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus (9/4). Sydney Institute of Technology (8/5). Further dates & venues TBA. Contact Loraine Wiseman, (02) 852-5930.

• **14/3 NSW Special Library Section.** Setting up a Home Page on the WWW. 5pm for 5.30pm at Paxus Australia, 201 Miller Street, North Sydney. \$15.00 Specials, \$20 ALIA, \$25 others. RSVP: Elizabeth Drynan (02) 9958 7099 fax (02) 9958 0699

14-28/3 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (14/3), Trade-marks (26/3), Business (28/3). Sydney Contact (02) 212 2867.

• **25/3 CYSS AGM & Seminar:** Focus on the Future — the evolution of SF for Children. Speakers: Gail Sunderland, Penny Hall and Sophie Mason. 9.15am, registration 8.45am. Cost: \$40 ALIA, \$50

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