

# A Hamburger in Wollongong

Pam Epe, University of Wollongong Library

When German library science student, Chris Gessel, was asked where she wanted to do her practicum, her answer was Australia. A second-year student at the Fachhochschule Hamburg, Chris chose the University of Wollongong for her three month study visit.

Why pick Wollongong? Chris wanted something exotic. Her previous practicums had been spent in Hamburg at the Public Library and at the African Institute. She surfed the Net and found the University of Wollongong. The similarity between the University and the Fachhochschule were sufficient to entice Chris southward.

Within days of her arrival in February, the academic year commenced and Chris was thrown into the hustle and bustle of orientation activities. Most of her time was spent working with the Reference Services team. She adjusted quickly to assisting at the Information Desk and participating in information literacy classes.

Her special project was to locate and evaluate dictionaries available on the Web for inclusion on the library web pages. Chris also had a cameo role in the library's orientation video. At her farewell, she was presented with a copy of the video as a memento and as proof that the last three months were not just a dream.

Reflecting on her stay Chris said that it



(l-r) Chris Gessel with Lynn Wright, University of Wollongong reference librarian

was 'a good decision to get work experience at Wollongong and that it provided a chance to experience something different to librarianship in Germany ... I would like to mention the really good teamwork within the library. I felt really comfortable in the team of faculty librarians and have enjoyed working as part of the team. I have enjoyed all new experiences, in other sections of the library, and of course all the places I have seen in Australia.'

The benefit has not been one way. According to reference librarian, Lynne Wright, having Chris in the team provided opportunities to learn about librarianship in Germany and to consider service alternatives.

The library's international relations program has well-established links with university libraries in Thailand and Indonesia. It is hoped that Chris will be the beginning of contact with Germany. ■

## Prize for teacher-librarian

Jane Morris, [pictured (r) with Margaret Starre, ALIA WA Branch President] a student in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering at the Edith Cowan University has won the 1996 Australian Library and Information Association prize for teacher librarianships which is awarded to the student with the highest academic results in the Graduate Diploma of Science (Teacher Librarianship) at Edith Cowan University.

Ms Morris was presented with her award at the graduation ceremony on 25 March 1997. ■



**Starting in August, Preservation of audiovisual collections** — developed in conjunction with the National Film and Sound Archive, it will be conducted in distance mode. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **20/8 NSW Special Libraries section** A career management/knowledge management seminar. Contact: Yasna Palaysa, ph (02) 9228 5107.

**27-28/9 Australian Society of Indexers conference.** *The Future-proof Indexer.* Mountain Heritage Country House Retreat, Katoomba. For further details contact: Michael Wyatt, ph (02) 9931 7764, fax (02) 9331 7785, keyword@ozemail.com.au, home page at <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi>

### NT

• **6/6 NT Library Technician section meeting.** Casuarina Public Library, 5.30pm. Contact: Marilyn Hawthorne, phone (08) 8946 6193, fax (08) 8945 1317, marilyn@library.ntu.edu.au

• **19/6 NT Branch meeting** NTU Library, Conference Room, 4.30pm. Contact: Kaye Bartlett, ph (08) 8946 6179, fax (08) 8945 1317, kaye@library.ntu.edu.au, <http://www.ntu.edu.au/library/libhome.html>

### QLD

• **11/6 Darling Downs Regional group meeting** Guest speaker: Graham Rusher — on how he has worked (and is working) with many different Librarians and automated library systems. Contact: Taisoo Kim Watson, ph 076 312 466, fax 076 312 920, watsontk@usq.edu.au

• **16/6-8/12 Qld Library Technician section meetings** State Library of Qld, Metway Theatre, 5.30pm (unless advised otherwise). (16/6; 14/7; 11/8; 8/9; 13/10; 10/11; 8/12). Contact: Ailsa O'Donnell, ph (07) 3259 3025, fax (07) 3259 3084.

• **18/6 Qld Public Libraries Section.** *Sex, lies and videorecordings — censorship — the current issues.* (Relevant to all spheres of information work). Michelton Library, 37 Heliopolis Parade, Mitchelton. 2-5pm, \$20 ALIA members, \$25 non-members. RSVP to Fiona Emberton, ph (07) 3403 5939 by

continued next page...