

FIRST WESTERN LIBRARIAN WORKING IN A CHINESE LIBRARY



Ms Susan Prentice, Senior Librarian responsible for East Asian Area Studies in the Australian National University Library, will be the first librarian outside China to work in the National Library of China in Beijing since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949.

The invitation from China has come as part of a long established exchange programme of staff and material between the ANU Library and libraries in China. Over the last ten years the Library has enjoyed cordial relations with many educational institutions in China and much assistance has been given by the Chinese to build up the Chinese Collection in the Library. During the last four years, eight librarians have been sent by Chinese libraries to receive further training in the Library. Although other major libraries in the West such as the Library of Congress and Harvard University Library in the United States; the National Diet Library in Japan and the National Library of Australia have all received visiting librarians from China, none has been on a continuing basis like the ANU Library.

The invitation from the highest Chinese Library authority is regarded as an honour for the ANU Library and as recognition of its contribution to the Chinese Library world. In 1983, Mr Colin Steele, the University Librarian, was invited by the Ministry of Culture to visit China together with the Director-General of the National Library of Australia and two other senior staff each from both institutions.

The continuing visits by both sides and the willingness of China to send librarians to the ANU Library is an indication of the very close library co-operation that exists between Australia and China.

Ms Susan Prentice will leave for China towards the end of April and spend six months attached to the Chinese Acquisitions and Cataloguing Department of the library — an area of library operations which is not normally open even to foreign librarians making brief visits to the library. During her stay, it is expected that Ms Prentice will also visit other major libraries to strengthen exchange relations between the ANU library and libraries in China.

ACI BRANCHES INTO MICROCOMPUTER LIBRARY SOFTWARE

ACI Computer Services and ABALL Software Inc. of Regina, Canada, have signed an agreement giving ACI exclusive Australasian marketing and support rights to the OCELOT Library System.

OCELOT, designed for school, special and small public libraries, provides online inquiry, cataloguing, circulation and acquisitions. OCELOT uses the MS-DOS or PC-DOS operating systems and runs on IBM PC, XT, AT, look-alikes, and local area networks.

The integrated Catalogue and Circulation Modules, with Authority Control for Names, Subjects and Titles also support online searching for See and See Also cross-references without re-keying. Circulation records are generated automatically during cataloguing and circulation status can be displayed from the online catalogue.

The Purchase Module is a complete acquisition system for ordering monographs and serials which includes vendor statistics and fund accounting.

Ian McCallum, Head of ACI's Information Management Division, says that for 12 months they've been looking for a MARC-capable standalone micro system to balance their DOBIS/LIBIS offering. With the addition of OCELOT ACI believe they can effectively address most libraries' requirements for management systems. More details from Ian McCallum (03) 544 8433.

SCHOOL NEWS

In response to your request for news about school libraries, readers may be interested to know that the MIC MARC software programmes are being progressively introduced at Templestowe Technical School.

The school's Micromation computer has been enhanced with a 40MB hard disc drive and to date two of the four integrated modules have been established — cataloguing and on-line search. It is anticipated that circulation will follow later this year and finally the management programme.

Student enrolment is approximately 800; stock is about 9,000 items; library staff totals 4.5. Our experience with the system is relatively brief — since September 1984. At this stage we feel very happy with the software but dubious about the prospect of continuing in a shared-use system whereby teaching departments, administration and library must all negotiate for time and space. We believe the library would be better served by a dedicated system or possibly one shared solely with administration.

MIC MARC is an Australian designed programme used in at least 15 Victorian schools (apart from several industrial applications) and a Users' Group has been established. If financial assistance from the Victoria In-service Education Committee is available this group should be able to meet with the software designer on a regular basis. In this way users will be able to indicate their priorities for upgrades which at present are received twice a year. For further information contact Ros Collins at Templestowe Technical School, Cypress Avenue, Lower Templestowe 3107, tel: (03) 850 6333.

GRAPHICS FOR TEACHER-LIBRARIANS

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