

RESEARCH USE OF AV MATERIALS

Progress report

Work is under way on the *Researcher's Guide to Audiovisual Resources in Australian Libraries*. Volume One, expected to be published by the LAA in the first half of 1986, is the Proceedings of the LAA Workshop held at Macquarie University Library and the Australian Film and Television School in June this year.

Part A, *The User's View*, will consist of papers by Hank Nelson (historian, ANU), Ed Stokes (local historian, photographer and writer), Ina Bertrand (media researcher & film historian, Latrobe University) and Peter Luck (television broadcaster and producer), plus a summary drawn from discussion by Workshop participants, of facilities needed by users accessing av research collections.

Part B, *The Collector's View*, will include edited background papers for workshop sessions which analysed problems of dealing with the various media, plus a statement of principles and guidelines for the management of AV research collections.

Volume 2 is a longer-term project, the *Directory of Australian Research Collections of Audiovisual Materials*. The LAA's Committee on Audiovisual Services is anxious to receive suggestions from librarians and researchers as to the most useful content of the *Directory* (apart from the obvious elements of institutional names, addresses, phone numbers, contact names etc). It is envisaged that the *Directory* would be used not only by filmmakers and librarians, but by academic researchers generally. Policies on collection access and use; arrangement of the *Directory*; subject approach; arrangements for updating; Viatel or other electronic means of access, are some of the aspects on which the Committee is eager for your ideas. Please write to: Bert Cornelius Special Collections Librarian, Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW, 2113, or phone (02) 88 9080.

Where is the Donald Bradman Collection?

Stumped? Run out and buy [groan] the Australian Librarian's Manual, volume 3. Out soon.

Database Update

How do librarians who graduated some years ago and who have had limited experience of database construction and searching gain the expertise in these areas? Some do it by trial-and-error when their job requires it; others never really have this opportunity and it restricts job mobility; and some do short courses (which are often too short!).

RMIT's Department of Information Services (nee Librarianship) hopes to offer another alternative in 1986 by way of 'single subject' enrolment in the new Graduate Diploma in Information Services.

Next year, RMIT's current Graduate Diploma in Librarianship is to be replaced by a Graduate Diploma in Information Services. This more broadly based course is aimed at meeting the needs of traditional information service areas, including libraries, as well as newly emerging areas.

The revised course places more emphasis on the design and development of databases and the organisational environments of information service work. Some subjects, such as Database evaluation and use are well suited to the needs of librarians who wish to learn more about structures of databases, indexing, compiling a thesaurus and evaluating databases. At this stage the staff at RMIT are seeking indications of interest from members of the profession who might be interested in taking up this option. Interested readers can contact Cheryl Schauder or Marianne Broadbent at RMIT on (03) 660 2900.

NOW AVAILABLE

Policy & Planning Guidelines for Public Libraries

In 1982, General Council approved funding for a Public Library Standards Revision Project and these guidelines are the first stage of the three-stage project.

Sydney: Library Association of Australia. 1984. 16pp. ISBN 0 86804 019 3.

LAA members price \$2.95; non-members \$3.50. Special discount if 10 or more copies are purchased — \$2.50 per copy.

Available from the LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo or through Bennetts or Mannings, library suppliers.

Talking Book Award

Bernard Smith's *The Boy Adeodatus* has been named Talking Book of the Year by the Royal Blind Society.

This is the sixth year the society has presented an award, and is also the 50th anniversary of Talking Books in Australia. The award was presented by Morris West on October 16.

How a Talking Book is made

The Royal Blind Society's talking book library consists of some 4000 titles, and last year sent out a record total of 113,000 copies to library borrowers throughout NSW and the ACT.

The library is one of the best equipped recording projects in Australia, and talking books are recorded professionally by actors as well as others engaged in radio and television.

A great deal of effort goes into the production of a talking book. First it is read by a presenter on to a reel-to-reel tape. Then, the whole thing is checked by a proof reader who listens to the tape and compares it to the print. Any mistakes are picked up — fluffs, mispronounced names or words — and the reader is brought back to correct the errors. This is time consuming as the inflection, volume and modulation of the voice must match the original.

After that the tape is timed and completely assessed by production staff, before being committed to cassettes.

Although the cassettes look just the same as those used in ordinary cassette players, there are two major differences. They are played back at half the normal speed and each cassette has four tracks instead of the usual two. This allows each cassette to play for six hours, instead of the usual 90 minutes and reduces the number of cassettes needed to a quarter.

Special machines, costing \$250 each, are lent to blind and visually impaired people for use. The machines remain the property of the Royal Blind Society and are fully maintained and loaned free of charge.

The Royal Blind Society's library contains a wide range of recreational reading — fiction and non-fiction. Students are also catered for with textbooks and special items converted into talking book form on a request basis.

Where can you unearth the Coffin Collection?

Dig up the answer in the Australian Librarian's Manual, volume 3. Out soon.

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