

Moys Awarded Wheatley Medal

Betty Moys, whose contribution to law librarianship is well known, has been awarded the Wheatley Medal for indexers for 1992. The Wheatley Medal for an outstanding index is awarded jointly by the Society of Indexers and the Library Association. Betty won the 1992 award for her index to the seven-volume *British Tax Encyclopaedia* (Sweet & Maxwell, 1991).

National Conference on State Court Libraries

Lynn Pollack, Law Courts Library, Sydney, was privileged to attend the first National Conference on State Court Libraries, which was held in Columbus, Ohio from 12 - 14 November, 1992. The conference was co-sponsored by the Ohio Supreme Court and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) under funding provided by the State Justice Institute. This historic gathering has set a process in motion that may shape the future role of court libraries in the US justice system. Six chief justices and judges, 12 court administrators or court professionals, 15 county law librarians, and 23 supreme court and state law librarians from 36 states and one territory contributed to the conference as speakers, group leaders, or participants in discussions between the suppliers (librarians) and consumers (judges and court administrators) of legal information in the courts.

The purpose of the conference was to develop a national strategy to enhance the operational capabilities of state and local court libraries despite current economic challenges and continual technological changes. The participants divided into four focus groups - management and organisation, finances, services, and technology.

Each group identified the major issues in court library management and developed strategies to meet them. In the final session of the conference, the issues and solutions formulated by the focus groups were reviewed and referred to the conference staff for consolidation and further refinement. The conferees urged the NCSC to include library applications software in its Court Technology Laboratory and information about software employed in court libraries in its Court Technology Database.

Both Chief Justice Stephens and Chief Justice Thomas J Moyer of Ohio, the keynote speaker, encouraged the participants to work with the Conference of Chief Justices and other national justice organisations to ensure broad support in the judicial community for the advancement of law libraries. Several projects have begun to take shape already, including preparation of an article about the organisation of county law library systems in several north eastern states. These statewide law library systems are administered by librarians who serve in the state court administrative offices. These library systems may prove to be models for other states. A set of measures of court library performance are also under development in co-operation with the National Center's Trial Court Performance Standards Project. Additional activities with various national judicial organisations including the Institute for Court Management and the ABA are already underway in an effort to continue the goals of the conference.

In this spirit of co-operation, the SCCLL section of the AALL has invited the conference participants to meet next summer in Boston at the annual meeting of AALL to review the work of the conference in Columbus. A conference steering committee has been formed to oversee the development of new projects and activities spawned by the conference and to present a status report and development plan at the AALL meeting.

The conference also adopted a consensus statement as the basis for specific resolutions and recommendations: "Law libraries are integral to the administration of justice". The law library community, governing bodies, and participants in the judicial process must communicate effectively and work jointly to implement strategies that ensure access to legal information and excellent law library service for all.

If there was a common thread throughout the conference, it was "access to justice through access to legal information". In remarks prepared for delivery at the conference, Chief Justice Robert F Stephens of the Supreme Court of Kentucky urged the members of the conference, as judges, court administrators, and librarians, to share a commitment to make legal information the common currency of a fair and effective justice system. The Chief Justice remarked that "Access to justice is a fundamental right of citizens of every state and territory of the United States of America. An essential element of access to the powers of the courts is access to the recorded sources of the law. The supreme court or court of last resort of every state bears a public trust to ensure that legal information is placed at the disposal of all members of the public. In our complex society, and in the midst of the information age, access to justice cannot be separated from access to legal information".

New Zealand Law Librarians' Inaugural Conference

Lorraine Weinman

Lionel Murphy Library, Attorney-General's Department

This Conference was held in Wellington from 4 - 6 March, 1993. The New Zealand law librarians had previously had a half-day conference following their main Library

Association Conference. Last year they decided this was not enough, and agreed to take a risk and convene a whole conference themselves.



*Helga Arlington,
Convenor, New Zealand
Law Librarians' Group*

It was a risk that paid off handsomely. Helga Arlington, Pat Northey, Janet Copsey, Gail Dallimore and many others worked tirelessly to ensure everything worked perfectly. There was an attendance of approximately 140 delegates. Marie Wallace of O'Melveny & Myers, Los Angeles, was the keynote speaker. It was an interesting, stimulating conference, and I was lucky and privileged to be able to attend. Jacqueline Elliott of the High Court was the only other librarian from Australia.

I enjoyed Marie Wallace's sessions, which spanned the whole of the first day. The morning was given to discussion of legal research training for library staff as well as law students. Marie's exuberance took us from Bob Berring's "Terminator" style videos, through storyboards and pathfinders, to the use of aroma to trigger recollections and associations. She emphasised the importance of using colourful graphics - "turn words into pictures, maps and signs," she said.

Here are a few points from her absorbing afternoon session on how to market our libraries, our services and ourselves:

- Be positive, write and speak in the active form rather than the passive. For example, don't say "All these books have been catalogued". Instead you should say: "I have catalogued all these books so you can retrieve them easily".
- Align your requests to the organisation's direction, you should be seen to be helping, problem solving. Tell them how your proposal will benefit them.

- Put covers on any work you send out, use a consistent colour, logo, typeface etc. Get professional, have a recognisable product.
- Put your name on your work. This gives credibility and accountability.

On the second day we talked about access to and availability of New Zealand government information. Margaret Greville gave an overview, followed by David McGee, Clerk of the House of Representatives, and Sir Kenneth Keith, President of the Law Commission.

These sessions were an eye-opener for me. The discussions centred mainly round the librarians' perspective of the problems flowing from privatisation of the New Zealand Government Printer in 1985. I outline a few:

- No single authoritative publisher - some government material is duplicated by competing publishers, some not published at all.
- No index to Gazettes.
- Much of the material presented to Parliament is not ordered to be printed, so there is little or no access to government reports, annual reports, Parliamentary committee reports.
- The entitlements of the compulsory deposit system are insufficiently understood by librarians, and the responsibilities and requirements of the scheme are often not adhered to by deposit libraries and publishers.
- There is no central point from which to obtain government material - it is necessary to go to each individual agency.
- Unauthorised "pirated" information can be published, some of it is wrong.
- Annual Acts are only bound to 1989 - three years behind.
- New Zealand has no statutory interpretation act, so extrinsic material is not deemed as

important, though it actually is. It is thus harder to get hold of.

There are many lessons here for Australia, with the imminent ending of the AGPS monopoly, and possible privatisation.

We had a wonderful Conference dinner that night at Cafe Laffite, looking out over the harbour on Oriental Bay.

The third day was taken up with interesting demonstrations and presentations by database producers, legal publishers and host networks, from New Zealand as well as Australia.

It rained, and bitter gusty winds blew all the three days of the Conference, but I still think Wellington is a beautiful city. I enjoyed the Conference, and made many new friends. My thanks to all the New Zealand librarians for the very warm welcome they gave me. I know the bonds between our two Law Librarians' Groups have grown much closer and stronger.

CCH Manager to Oversee Operations in Europe

Many readers will be interested to learn that Arthur Currie, currently General Manager Customer Division at CCH Australia, has been appointed as Regional Manager European Operations with effect from July 1993.

After 24 years, during which time he worked closely with librarians and information specialists across Australia, Arthur will assume responsibility for the development of CCH products and services in continental Europe and the United Kingdom.

Arthur's many friends will join with CCH in wishing him every success in this new appointment.

Retirement of Heather Toebes

Heather Toebes, Law Librarian at Victoria University of Wellington, retired from her position on 31 March 1993. Heather has been in the VUW Law Library for many years, during which time she has supervised computerisation and the introduction of the Dynix Library System to the Law Library, moved the library to another site, and planned a further move, soon to take place, to a site in downtown Wellington.

Heather hopes to do a variety of free-lance library work, including research for barristers, in between minding her grandchildren and gardening. Australian university law librarians will miss her cheerful co-operation and expert knowledge. We wish Heather well in her new pursuits.



Heather Toebes and Jacqui Elliott at the NZLLG Conference dinner

Globe Overseas Travel Award 1992

Congratulations to Elizabeth Naumczyk, Law Librarian, Griffith University, who has just been awarded Globe Subscription Agency's Overseas Travel Award for 1992. Each year a representative selection committee considers applicants for the award which is given to a special librarian or librarian of one of Globe's client libraries. Elizabeth hopes to take up the grant at the end of 1993.

ALLG Publications

Please note that ALLG publications are available from Sydney at the following address:

ALLG
GPO BOX 50
St Paul's
Sydney NSW 2001

Publications available include the Wilson and Glasson *Survey of Australian Law Libraries*, and Colin Fong's *Australian and New Zealand Legal Abbreviations*. Joanna Longley, Publications Officer/Treasurer of the NSW Branch of the ALLG and Librarian at the Australian Law Reform Commission, is the contact (ph. 02 231 1733) for ALLG publications.

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