On 1 March 1994, the Patrologia Latina database was demonstrated to an interested audience in the Reader Education Room, Baillieu Library. Mr Steven Hall from the database’s publishers, Chadwyck-Healey, demonstrated the main features of the Patrologia Latina, which contains the text of Jean-Paul Migne’s work of the same name (1844-1855 and 1862-1865). The Patrologia has been described as “a bibliographic monument, not just to patristic and medieval thought, but to philological and theological learning during the modern period. It offers not only an incomparable selection of texts from the second through the thirteenth centuries, but also a library of humanistic and ecclesiastical scholarship from the sixteenth century on.”

In 1993, materials from the Middle Eastern Studies Departmental Library were transferred to the University Library, where they were joined with related materials already held to form a new Arabic Collection.

The Library then sought funding to catalogue the items, for which a total of $10,000 was generously donated by the Alumni, through the University Fund (Flexible Support). This enabled the Library to engage Ms Mahboubeh Kamalpour in March 1994 to catalogue the collection.

There have been a number of driving forces behind the setting up of the collection, in particular the Vice Chancellor, who has lent his strong personal support. Ms Daria Federeuwtsch-Dickson and other Library staff have contributed their expertise, and Dr Abdullah Saeed from the Department of Applied Linguistics and Language Studies has provided extensive advice and support to the project. Dr Saeed (pictured) expressed the hope that by making the collection more accessible, this will assist the continued growth of Islamic Studies as a strong research area in the University, and in time provide a valuable resource for the projected Islamic Centre.

On Monday 18th April, Sir Arvi Parbo, Chairman of Directors, Western Mining Corporation, presented Ms Mairi Milne with the inaugural Prize for Archival Research, sponsored by the Corporation. Ms Milne’s winning essay, entitled ‘The Victoria Gold Dredging Company, N.L.: An Investigation’, was described by the judges as outstanding in its “clear structure, lucid exposition and firm grasp of the techniques of archival research”. In her acceptance speech, Ms Milne expressed the hope that she would be able to continue a career in historical research, and is particularly interested in further exploring the subject area of her prize-winning work.
New Director—Management Services

Angela Bridgland has been appointed to the position of Director-Management Services until 31 December, 1994.

Angela was previously employed by the University as a senior lecturer in the Department of Librarianship and Information Management. She is a member of the Board of Education of ALIA which is currently examining competency standards, and she is working on a PhD in the area of training reform.

Angela brings experience of teaching, including two years as Chairperson of the Department, and professional experience working in the National Library of Canada in 1987, and at the State Library of Victoria as Head of the Reader Services Department in 1993.

We welcomed Angela to the Library on 11th April.

New look for Law Library

Pictured at the launch: (l to r) University Librarian Helen Hayes, Director of Information Services Tony Arthur, and Dean of the Law School, Professor Michael Crommelin.

The completion of the recent renovations of the Law Library were celebrated with a launch of the new facilities on Friday 15 April.

These renovations brought to fruition Stage One of the accommodation plan for the library, completed by The JTM Group in 1993. As a result, library users enjoy more space and more recognisable arrangements of books in the reference and reserve rooms and a photocopying room on the same level as bound journals. Growth space has been created for journals. Staff have gained adequate space to work in and a handsome desk with ergonomic features, and the loans and reserve rooms have been made vastly more attractive areas than they were previously.

University of Melbourne Library Week

Monday July 25 to Sunday July 31

Preparations are well underway for this exciting and ambitious library project which will be a celebration of the diversity of our staff, services and collections, as well as an opportunity for students, library staff, academic staff, other library users and friends of the library to meet in a more informal setting. In staging this inaugural event, the Library Week organising committee hopes to increase positive awareness of the library's contribution to university life and encourages maximum staff and student involvement.

A program of activities and events combining the serious, the social and the purely frivolous is being organised. It includes: exhibitions, displays, demonstrations, forums, talks, fun tours, seminars, guest speakers, readings, the Annual Library Lecture, the Friends of the Baillieu Library Annual Dinner, music, films, video, door prizes and giveaways, a laminating and velo-binding service (for posters and essays etc.), parties, fancy dress, sporting events, a short story competition and a Madhatter's Tea Party. In short, a week of celebration, festivity and fun.

The full program, poster and slogan will be announced in the June edition of Ex-Libris. We look forward to your support and participation.

Gardens of the Mind

On 9th March, the Library hosted the launch of the exhibition “Gardens of the Mind”, curated by Rare Books Curator Merete Smith. Well-known authority on garden literature, Mr Victor Crittenden (pictured with Ms Smith), introduced the exhibition to an appreciative audience.