DAIS Donation

Mr John Dwight, Managing Director of DA Information Services, on 15th June presented the Library with a cheque for $5000 in support of an innovative computer project, "Ariadne’s Thread". This interactive "self-help" program is designed to enable first year students and other users to learn essential Library skills independently and enjoyably. Ariadne’s Thread teaches students a path through the labyrinth of reading list references and computer catalogue searching, enabling them to understand citations and efficient catalogue search methods. The program has been developed jointly by the Library’s Information Services Unit, the Interactive Multimedia Learning Unit and the Faculty of Arts, whose first year students have been among the first to benefit from the program’s introduction.

Better Baillieu Patron
Sarah McKay

Mrs Sarah McKay has accepted the position of Patron of the Better Baillieu Project, a long-term redevelopment of the Baillieu Library to provide more modern, efficient and comfortable facilities for this and following generations of students. Sarah is a great niece of Edward Lloyd Baillieu (known as Prince), who bequeathed the initial funds for the establishment of the Library in memory of his older brother William Lawrence Baillieu, whom he greatly admired. Sarah is married to a publisher and they have three children. Her interests are those involved with the community, particularly health, conservation and the arts, and she is delighted to have this opportunity to contribute to the Library’s development. (Further information on the Baillieu family’s contribution to the Library, and the Better Baillieu Project, are contained in this issue).

Women Artists Exhibition

Professor Joan Kerr from the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, attended the Library in March to open the joint exhibition “Australian Women Printmakers” and “Australian Women Artists and the Illustrated Book”, part of the 1995 National Women’s Art Exhibition program, of which she is the national coordinator. Professor Kerr spoke warmly and at length about the National Program, and the Library’s contributions, describing them as a vital celebration of women’s art in this anniversary year of International Women’s Day.
Library Week 1995

The second annual Library Week, from 7th to 11th August, provided University members and visitors with five days of entertainment, culture, debate, exhibitions, food and food for thought. Cultural highlights of the Week included 'Writers and Writing', three well-known authors - Martin Flanagan, Maurilia Meehan and Morris Lurie - reading and talking about writing; and the exhibitions 'Australians at War', fascinating WWII items from the Archives, and the Print Room's 'Art of War', covering three centuries of works. In other events visitors were treated to romance fiction in the Leigh Scott Room, live music in the foyers, classic cinema in the committee room, a surf party on the Internet and a culinary extravaganza at 'The Great Bake Off'. In keeping with the aim of involving the community, students and visitors were sought not only as audiences but also for active participation in many events, including the student art display in the Baillieu, student judging (and eating) at the Bake Off, the Great Debate about our future, forums about our services and quizzes about our collections. Budding writers were invited to enter our short story competition, and budding line dancers were invited to join in the enthusiastic boot scooting which ended the week with a twang. Library Week 1995 was an undoubted success, due to the ingenuity, energy and sheer hard work of all the staff involved, the generous support of the many local businesses who provided unprecedented sponsorship, and the involvement of our many visitors from throughout the University and the wider community.

New Japanese CD ROMs

On 2nd May, the Library and the Department of Japanese and Chinese launched an exciting new acquisition of Japanese research resources on CD ROM, purchased with the generous assistance of the 1994 World Expo Commemorative Association. The resources comprise three disks which will be invaluable for researchers in Japanese studies: HIASK, providing access to a Japanese national newspaper, Asahi Shimbun; NDL CD-ROM ONLINE, an index of over 3000 current Japanese periodicals; and J-BISC, containing the National Diet Library (Tokyo) catalogue and records of Japan’s National Bibliography.

The Consul General to Japan, Mr Koichi Obata, launched the CD ROMs, following an introduction by Professor W.H. Coaldrake, Foundation Chair of Japanese and Head of the Department of Japanese and Chinese. A number of distinguished visitors attended, including Ms Izumi Koide, Librarian at the International House of Japan in Roppongi, Tokyo.