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The Charleston Conference: Once More, With Feeling

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There is an increasing workload of course but it all seems quite exciting even if my wish for a 48-hour day has become a daily prayer.

On the brighter side is the comfort of knowing we are no longer alone or far away with these problems and challenges.

We are after all now only an email away. The user/news groups have helped and continue to give a great deal of support — gripes, lamentations and stories or trials and tribulations on Colldv-1, Dynix_1, Acqnet and the like I really appreciate.

••••Australia!••••

by **Vicki Nicholson**
(James Bennett Library Services)

Melbourne — 6TH INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST BOOK FAIR — After a shaky start, with resignations, in-fighting and initial disinterest in sponsorship, the IFBF held in Melbourne in July was publicly hailed as a success. The Fair attracted 23,000 paid participants, although including writers, publishers and other non-paying participants, the attendance figures were estimated at closer to 30,000. The Trade Fair was small but very well attended, although publishers reported that the public days were more successful than the trade-only days. Several overseas publishers in attendance have remarked on their success with sales of rights. Judging from the crowds blocking the stairs and doors after sessions, these seem to have been well attended.

Canberra — LIBRARIES TOP THE LIST — *New Librarian* also reports what many librarians have always known. A survey by the Federal Department of Communications and the Arts and the Australian Bureau of Statistics has found that Australia's most popular cultural venue is the library. However, Australia's number one cultural activity is — watching television! The survey's analysis of Australian import and export of culture found that in 1992-3 we imported \$4.7 billion of literature, music, television, film, radio and

performing arts (with a great deal of it coming from the US, I suspect!). In this same period we exported only \$1 billion of the Australian equivalent. The biggest import — and export — was literature. Keep buying those Australian books, guys.

Melbourne — ROMANCE ON THE INTERNET? — *New Librarian*, August 1994 reports that Lori from Seattle recently married Daniel, a student at Melbourne's Monash University, after over 1000 hours correspondence over the Net. Lori was initially attracted to Daniel's online Shakespearean spoofs. Lori flew to Australia for a visit, Daniel proposed, and they now live in a "one computer flat" in suburban Melbourne. This is not doing anything for the "great decent man shortage" that I am told of in Australia. Please leave our men to us!! But send us any spare you have . . .

Fiji — WORK RECOMMENCED ON THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY — I know it isn't Australia, but . . . the *Fiji National Bibliography*, which was affected by the 1980s coups and unrest, is about to become available. No issue has appeared since the 1986 volume. The intention is to produce the 1993 volume before the end of the year, and to work retrospectively to fill missing volumes whilst producing current volumes. The Bibliography can be ordered from the **Library Service of Fiji, P.O. Box 2526, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji.** ☛

The Charleston Conference: Once More, With Feeling

by **Anne Jennings** (Sinkler & Boyd)

This issue of *Against the Grain* is being distributed to attendees of the Fourteenth **Charleston Conference** (November 3-5, 1994). While preparing for the Conference, I decided to see if we could put together a bibliography of published materials from past meetings. Much to my amazement, research revealed over **140 citations** of papers presented since 1984! The papers address a variety of issues by some of our most memorable participants. Here is just a smattering of them.

- Myth and Reality: Using the OCLC/Amigos Collection Analysis CD to Measure Collections Against Peer Collections and Against Institutional Priorities" (**Wanda Dole**, 1993)
- Electronic Book and Serial Acquisitions: The Medium is the Message" (**Norman Desmarais**, 1992)
- Desperately Seeking Status: Acquisitions Librarians in Academic Libraries" (**Christian Boissonnas**, 1990)
- Antitrust Issues in Publishing" (**William M. Hannay**, 1989)
- The Russian Peasant and the Bird: A Moral Keynote" (**Richard M. Dougherty**, 1988)
- Subscription Agents: Are They Worth Their Salt?" (**John Merriman**, 1988)
- What is the Value of Information?" (**Sara Miller McCune**, 1988)
- Publisher Policies and Their Impact on the Market" (**Robert Mastejulia**, 1986).
- Publisher Advertising: A Legitimate Complaint" (**Margaret Maes Axtmann**, 1985).
- Truth in Vending" (Panel Presentation, 1984).

We will have copies of the bibliography available at the conference if you are interested in any of the past issues which have been addressed in Charleston. Or if you want to request a copy, write Your Editor. ☛