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International Dateline

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International Dateline

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Conferences and Vendors

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From Auckland to Charleston

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Alison Grant the Head of Acquisitions, **University of Auckland**, was probably the first librarian from New Zealand to have had the opportunity to attend the Charleston Conference in the U.S. at the beginning of November. Her brief comment to me as soon as she returned was that it was very well organized, relevant, and well focused. I asked her for more information and she described her impressions and experiences of Charleston as follows:

"I was told that the Charleston Conference was the best in the world, and everything I heard was true! It was so well organized, the speakers were excellent, and the sessions so interesting that I frequently wished I could be in several places at once. As well, everyone was really friendly and welcoming, and I made many new friends and useful contacts. Living as I do in a small country with few large libraries, it was wonderful to join in with a large group of people with common interests and concerns. It was great to know that the issues we face are the same the world over, and someone else just might have the answers we need."

Alison explained that of the sessions she attended, the one by **Tony Ferguson** on "The Future of Acquisitions and Collection Development" stood out, possibly because it was interestingly relevant to her job. She confessed she has never before been to a conference that was directly relevant to what she did. **Michael Gorman's** presentation, "Dreams, Madness & Reality," based on the book he co-authored with **Walt Crawford**, was highly entertaining. In addition, the sessions on copyright, **OCLC PromptCat** and **PromptSelect**, to name a few were very interesting. It was apparent that Alison found it hard to list the highlights as there were many more of them which she said made the general standard of the conference most impressive.

Alison undoubtedly got much more out of the conference — the added bonus she explained was Charleston itself, "such a beautiful place, the buildings, food and the weather all wonderful." However, she was rather bemused in the 80 degrees plus temperature to

find the hotel swimming pool closed because it was "winter." Even though Charleston is a very long way from New Zealand, she certainly felt that it was well worth all those long hours of travel. Her concluding words were, "Thank you Judy, Barbara, Heather, and Katina. And thank you, Charleston. I hope I can return some day." We hope more librarians from New Zealand will have the opportunity to experience Charleston in the future!

The History of the Book

Auckland University hosted a conference on the "History of the Book" which was well attended by people from the academic and publishing worlds. The presence of the keynote speaker **Dr. David McKitterich**, Librarian at **Trinity College, Cambridge** was assisted by sponsorship of the **British Council**. Included in the thirty-three papers presented in three days were studies of nineteenth century Maori reactions to writing and print, publishing economics, typography, book collecting, and the ornamental display types used by nineteenth century printers.

Maori Resources

Two important reference sources to Maori resources and treasures were published recently. First was the **National Archives of New Zealand** publication entitled, "He Pukaki Maori: A Guide to Maori Sources at National Archives." The second, compiled by **Jenifer Curnow**, is entitled "Nga Pou Arahi" and is a tribal inventory of manuscripts relating to Maori held in the **Auckland Institute and Museum**.

From Library Automation to Information Strategies

There has also been continuing effort into the examination of the developments in information technology and how libraries will be affected by it. At the end of November **RMG/CAVAL/AIMA** presented a seminar entitled, "From Library Automation to Information Strategies" and was attended mostly by university librarians and some from Public Libraries. According to one participant, one of the presenters was almost evangelical in his message to urge librarians to plan for future developments in a digital world. Interestingly, several libraries were already committed to

addressing issues such as coordinated bibliographic and Internet instruction programs, and electronic resources selection and distribution policies and an exchange of ideas and experiences has improved.

Managing the Electronic library: A Standards Framework

A full day seminar entitled "Managing the Electronic library: A Standards Framework" sponsored by **Standards New Zealand** was held in Wellington in late November. The presentations given by the speakers who were from Australia included **Geoff Payne** representing **CAVAL** speaking on technical standards associated with electronic information, **Nell McLean** from **Macquarie University** on electronic publishing, and **Jack Smith** from **Sanderson Computers** outlining the purpose of the **Z39.50** standard which will enable interoperability between systems. In addition, **Kery Blinco** from **Griffith University** outlined the progress on the **JEDDS (Joint Electronic Document Delivery Software)** project, and **Warwick Cathro** from the **National Library of Australia** discussed standards issues relating to the **NDIS** project.

Chadwyck-Healey

The last quarter of the year is always more rushed than any other time with Librarians trying to make the best of the annual materials budget before year ends. Most libraries had visits from vendor representatives from overseas anxious to draw our attention to what new services they had to offer. **Mark Bush** from **Chadwyck-Healey** was here from the U.K. to inform us of what new products they had to offer. The revised edition of the **English Poetry Fulltext** database has just arrived. Some of the University libraries have examined the new database of **The Editions and adaptations of Shakespeare** and have taken advantage of the prepublication offer on the **Bible in English**.