

EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to everyone, though the year is already disappearing fast! Thanks to the faithful who sent in contributions, and to others who were dragooned, we have been able to put together a varied issue to start volume 3.

I have never seen an article on law book dust-jackets so I was delighted when Petal Kinder of Monash University Law Library offered a piece on such an original theme. Since reading her article I confess to paying more attention to the art work on book covers. I have appreciated the brighter and more attractive look of recent publications. Clearly publishers are going to a lot of trouble to present an interesting face to their books.

The Committee decided last year that we needed to publish regular articles on different types of libraries. In this issue Shirley Lavers has provided much needed information on the Refugee Review Tribunal.

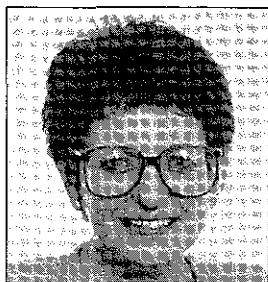
Many of us were alarmed at the changes to occur with the commencement of the *Legislative Instruments Bill*, but Richard Griffiths shows in a follow-up to his August article on the Bill, that there will be no immediate change to the way things work now.

Finally, James Butler has sent in an interesting account of the BIALL and IALL Conferences he attended, the former as winner of the Butterworths BIALL award in 1994.

I regret that, owing to April being a very busy time at the High Court this year with the change of Chief Justice and appointment of a new Justice, I shall not have time to bring out issue number 2. The next issue of *Australian Law Librarian* will therefore be a joint issue of numbers 2 and 3 to be published at the end of June.

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT - EDITOR

NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES



Of connections within the profession and spreading the word externally

Some of you will have gathered together recently at the On-line

Conference which was held in Sydney. Whilst CD-ROM technology appears to be the growth area for legal information, the growth in direct communication between law librarians has come through the use of Internet e-mail. This, more than access to law library catalogues, etc., brings us closer to each other.

I recently received an e-mail note from Roy Jordan at the NLA, letting us know that the subject specialisation approach in the Information Services Section, which was adopted in July 1993, has been of immense value, and that the total number of law inquiries has increased. As well as this, the demand from law libraries for non-legal ancillary publications, which in the NLA are not considered part of the law section (bills, Hansard and government gazettes), has increased greatly. Imagine any of our law libraries existing without some or all of these materials on hand for our lawyers or students!