

Information collected in 'life history' interviews, and of value to researchers, has too easily in the past been buried in sound recordings, with no indication on the title or subject summary of the collection. Detailed oral history abstracts have until now provided the best type of finding aid to locate such information, but are limited by the lack of an effective indexing system. More sophisticated ways of searching within the finding aids has long been needed. Such a development is the new Oral History Database on Kiwinet. The Manuscripts and Archives Section is putting onto the database all documentation of oral history collections held, including abstracts, and shelf locations of the tapes. This will enable researchers not only within the Library, but those in other parts of the country to search Turnbull oral history holdings. It is hoped that other institutions will add their holdings to the database and create a nationwide treasury of information.

The National Library is reducing its number of staff positions by 15 per cent over the next two years as part of the government's drive to reduce expenditure in the public sector. This is an overall reduction of 78 staff positions. The Turnbull is to reduce its staffing by 15 per cent, a total of 8 staff, by the end of June 1990. This reduction in staff at a time of increased public demand on the Library's services is likely to create delays in the Library's public service areas and an increase in the backlogs of unprocessed materials.

Margaret Calder took up her position as Assistant Chief Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library, on 10 February 1988. Margaret in fact began her career as a librarian in the Turnbull when she was sent in 1965 by the State Services Commission to see Michael Hitchings, then Acting Chief Librarian whom, the Commission said, wanted 'someone with N.Z. History in their degree'. She remained at Turnbull until 1967, working in the Manuscripts Section, the Reference Room, and was acting Acquisitions Officer while Darea Sherratt was on leave.

In Sydney in 1968 she worked briefly in Fisher Library, University of Sydney, before moving to the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, where she worked initially in the Maps Section, then in the Pictures Section, and assisted with public service in the Reading Room, before leaving in 1973 to travel overseas. While in London she was employed as a consultant bibliographer for the Property Services Agency Library in the Department of the Environment, and had her first experience of computerised data banks—European and American as well as British. She returned briefly to Wellington in 1976 during which time she was employed at the General Assembly Library (now the Parliamentary Library) as the Copyright Officer. Returning to Sydney she was again employed at the Mitchell as Pictures Librarian, a position she retained until 1987, except for a period during 1986 when she acted as Mitchell Librarian.

Margaret holds a B.A.(Hons) from Victoria University of Wellington; Diploma in Librarianship from the University of New South Wales; and, pursuing her particular interest in Australian history, completed a Diploma of Social Science from the University of New England.

Returning to Wellington has been an interesting experience; the warmth of the welcome from Turnbull and National Library staff was truly encouraging and almost overcame the shock of the horizontal rain and