

The Library and Victoria University of Wellington jointly organised the *Freedom and Modernity? Early Modern Studies in the Pacific* conference, held at the National Library in August 1994. The main purpose of the conference was to further early modern studies (to ca. 1850) in the Pacific region, and it addressed many aspects of European intellectual culture before 1850. The conference coincided with the opening of "*That Serpent Milton*": *A Radical View of John Milton from the Collection of the Alexander Turnbull Library*, a major exhibition of works by and concerning Milton, focusing on his political radicalism and the (often far from complimentary) reactions of his contemporaries.

The Library is offering support to the New Zealand History of Print Culture Project. An initiative of Te Whāinga Aronui/The New Zealand Academy for the Humanities, the Project is part of an international effort to document the History of the Book. The New Zealand project, which is presently being established, intends to look at all aspects of the printed word — from catalogues to comics, brochures to books — and at the various technologies for reproducing or representing it, from fine printing to the Internet. The Library's collections will be an important research resource for this project.

A review of the Alexander Turnbull Library's and the National Library's acquisitions, cataloguing, and serials check-in functions resulted in the merging of the separate sections in 1994. These functions are now carried out centrally, and meet the bibliographic and conservation requirements of each particular collection of published material. In 1995, work began on updating and completing bibliographic records for the Alexander Turnbull Library's early Māori-language imprints from 1815 to 1900 (see Phil Parkinson's article in this issue for more information).

The project to duplicate the retrospective collections of the Concert FM New Zealand Composer Tape Archive has been completed, with the Library now holding 296 digital audio tapes consisting of well over 2000 works by contemporary composers. The individual works are being input onto TAPUHI, the Library's database for unpublished heritage items.