and implement retrospective conversion of the
Alexander Turnbull Collection of pre-1801 im­
prints (approximately 9,500 titles) for the National
Library of New Zealand, Wellington. His appoint­
ment ends in September 1990.

Dorothy C. Woodson, social sciences subject
specialist at the State University of New York at
Buffalo, will work with the special collections de­
partment at the University of Swaziland Library to
identify and collect materials on Swaziland held in
U.S. libraries. She will also help develop the
Swaziana collection by advising on acquisition
procedures. The appointment runs from October
1989 to August 1990.

Faye Powell, social science librarian at Portland
State University, will advise on collection analysis
and development at the American Studies Re­
search Center in Hyderabad, India. Her appoint­
ment runs until January 1990.

Katherine Van de Vate, Arabic cataloger at Prin­
ceton University Library, will train 12 library
employees in cataloging at the Asad National Li­
brary in Damascus, Syria, from April to September
1990.

Library/Book Fellow positions available for
1990-1991 will be announced in late December
1989.

The 2nd Pacific Conference on New Information
Technology

By Augurio Collantes
Catalog Librarian
Hostos Community College Library/CUNY

The 2nd Pacific Conference on New Informa­
tion Technology, a non-profit forum for library and
information professionals, educational media spe­
cialists, and technologists, was held on May 29–31,
1989, at the Glass Hotel in Singapore. It was de­
dsigned to give librarians and information specialists
from Asia and the Pacific region an opportunity to
see for themselves some of the many information
systems and products available in other parts of the
world, to make them aware of the trends in infor­
mation technology and their application to librar­
ies, to enable them to talk about their accomplish­
ments in the field, and to discuss their needs,
interests, problems, and requirements with other
knowledgeable colleagues.

More than 200 participants from the Asia/Pacific
region and the United States were present. Due to
logistical problems the location had to be changed
from Bangkok to Singapore. The Library Associa­
tion of Singapore and the Singapore Convention
Bureau were kind and generous to co-sponsor the
forum.

Ching-Chih Chen, chief organizer, opened the
conference by looking back at the success of the
First Pacific Conference held in Bangkok in 1987.
The three official program days featured about 24
meetings where at least 74 papers were presented.
Most of these were lectures or forums, contributed
papers on topics ranging from CD-ROM, informa­
tion retrieval, microcomputer applications, net­
works, databases to hypermedia, hypertext, and
product reviews. Specific topics included Project
ZEN (Zoom Encyclopedic Navigator) and ZCJJK
(Chinese Computer Science and Technology Docu­
mentation Database System) were discussed.

Exhibitors conducted informal talks to partici­
pants and they showed systems in operation.
Companies based in Singapore had optical prod­
ucts, hypermedia applications, equipment, and
software on display.

Especially for developing countries, funding to
attend such regional conferences as this is a luxury
unless you happen to live here. As an incentive the
organizers offered free registration to paper pre­
senters from the region and partial fellowships to
some participants.

It is gratifying to learn of the efforts that librar­i­
ants and information professionals in developing
countries (particularly in Asia and the Pacific) have
made in applying information technology in their
respective organizations. Professional librarians in
this area have the skills and knowledge; given the
proper resources they could produce as much and
bring out results that are at least comparable to
those from the more developed countries.

A 480-page volume containing the conference
papers was made available on opening day. Edited
by Ching-chih Chen and David I. Raitt, the volume
may be ordered for $57.50 from MicroUse Infor­
mation, 1400 Commonwealth Ave., West Newton,
MA 02165. ISBN 0-931555-06-X.
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