IU Librarian Travels to Australia, Continues Parliamentary Research

In 1984 Bob Goehlert worked in the Parliamentary Library in the Old Parliament House in Canberra (top), which currently houses a museum. After the elections last November, Goehlert attended the convening of parliament in the new Parliament House (bottom), one of the largest buildings in the southern hemisphere.

Robert Goehlert (Libraries, IUB) traveled to Australia last November to visit the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library in Canberra.

Goehlert was the 1998 recipient of the Herbert S. and Virginia White Professional Development Award and also received a grant from the IU Office of International Programs to assist in his research abroad. Goehlert’s ties to Australia date back to 1984, when he worked there for four months in a number of parliamentary and university libraries.

While working at the Parliamentary Library in 1984, Goehlert began collecting citations for a comprehensive bibliography on the Parliament. After returning to IU, he continued work on the project until 1987, preparing a bibliography in a classified arrangement with author and subject indexes. In 1988 the bibliography was published by the Commonwealth Parliament.

Since 1996, he has been doing a systematic bibliographic search to identify new citations of books and articles published since 1985 to update the bibliography. Last November he went back to Canberra and did research at the Parliamentary Library, the National Library of Australia, the Menzies Library, the New South Wales Parliamentary Library, and the State Library of New South Wales. In 1997, with the assistance of Jian Liu (Libraries, IUB), he put the bibliography on the Web (http://www.indiana.edu/~libresd/bib/australia_parliament/).

The Web version is a greatly expanded version of the original volume, including a search engine and links to other Web sites about Australia. The present database is a work in progress; the number of entries has nearly doubled, with more than 4,500 items.

As the database will serve scholars worldwide and citizens in Australia, it will be an original resource. The Web bibliography is based on material selected for its relevance to the Australian parliamentary system.

Goehlert and his co-author Fenton Martin have published several bibliographies on legislatures and parliaments, including the U.S. Congress and the British Parliament. Their last bibliography, The United States Congress: An Annotated Bibliography 1980-1993, published in 1995 by Congressional Quarterly, was selected by

Goehlert spent time on the beach on the South Coast of Australia, near the town of Broulee.