

News from the Divisions

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES SECTION

Paperless society seminar

MR MAURICE LINE, Director-General, British Library Lending Division, Boston Spa, will give the opening address and lead the ACT Group's seminar on 'The paperless society' in the Luxley Lecture Theatre, Research School of Physical Sciences, on Monday, 25 August from 2-5.30 pm.

Other speakers will be Mr Henry Clarke of Hank Clarke and Associates, Sydney, who will speak on 'Implications for today's managers of a paperless society', and possibly a representative from the Myers Committee of Inquiry into Technological Change.

The cost for the seminar is \$10 for LAA members and \$18.00 non-members. Booking forms and further details are available from Colin Steele, ANU Library, PO Box 4, Canberra, ACT (49 2003).

Mr Line is, of course, the keynote speaker at the National UCLS seminar on inter-library loans to be held in Brisbane from 27-29 August. Details from Colin Cayliss, c/o QIT Library, Box 2434, Brisbane, 4001.

NSW BRANCH

Local history and the public Library

Copies of *Local History and the Public Library*, NSW Branch and Public Libraries Division, State Library of NSW - proceedings of a workshop held at Willoughby Municipal Library, 12 October 1979 are now available from LAA Head Office. Cost, including postage, is \$3.50 or \$3.00 to LAA members. This seminar examined the organisation and indexing of local history resources in public libraries and access to sources of materials and information.

The paper by John Flint and Anne Franklin 'How can I find it again' provides a summary of a system of organisation being developed at Stanton and Willoughby libraries. Ken Smith's 'But will they let me look at the sources - Local Government' raises problems of access and discusses some of the finding aids used. Other papers include a report of the survey 'Rotting History' organised by NSW Friends of the Library and a report by Peggy Hull on the 'Australian history in school and community program'.

This workshop was third in a series of continuing education activities on local history. The NSW Branch is planning another later this year on conservation of materials.

ADULT LITERACY

DO you have adult non-readers in your library? If not, why not?

There are many adults in our society who cannot read. What is your library doing to help them?

Helen Modra (Australia) and Rosalie Somerville (New Zealand) will be speaking on this question on Thursday, 22 January 1981, followed by a seminar with panel and discussion groups on Friday, 23 January.

Please join us at the LAA-NZLA Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand, January 1981.

NSW SCHOOL LIBRARIES

'FICHE AND CHIPS' was the title of a successful seminar held at the end of May.

Some 60 participants were introduced to the basic concepts of microcomputers and their applications for education and libraries.

Peter Robinson, a member of the NSW Department of Education Task Force on Computers, outlined the department's policy on microcomputers. A lively discussion followed, chaired by Dagmar Schmidmaier, lecturer at Kuring-gai CAE.

The afternoon session on microformats provided participants with an opportunity to look at various library and educational applications namely ERIC, CLANN and ASCIS fiche as well as commercially produced microfilm designed for educational institutions.

An added attraction of the day was luxurious surroundings of the venue, Concord High School, which opened this year.

Janet Hansen

ACT BRANCH

PROFESSOR JACK RICHARDSON, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, was the keynote speaker at a Freedom of Information forum organised by the LAA ACT Branch and the Rupert Public Interest Movement held at the National Library on 5 July.

Professor Richardson provided the meeting with a number of cases where information was not available and where lack of information had led to hardship. He spoke of the reactions of government departments when asked to supply information to the Ombudsman. He said that governments will increasingly be accountable to individuals and

departments will have to adjust to the new and difficult task of providing reasons for their decisions.

Other speakers covered a wide range of aspects of Freedom of Information - social service, defence, journalism, privacy.

One session, chaired by Colin Steel from the ANU Library, was devoted to libraries and freedom of information. John Balnaves pointed out that libraries have always been concerned with freedom of information. Alan Horton in a gently satirical and humorous paper pointed to the self-imposed barriers librarians have developed which hinder access to information. Peter Judge spoke of some of the problems of access to transnational data flows and Des Tellis from the Australian Mineral Foundation raised the issue of user fees and their effect on freedom of information.

In a final plenary session, Denis Richardson, President, LAA, chaired further discussion of issues broached during the day and took questions and comments on further aspects of this topic.

The audience of 140 were lively and informed - comments, questions and discussion were all relevant and flowed freely. The range of occupations represented gave some indication of the ramifications of freedom of information - librarians, information officers, computer experts, journalists, lawyers, educators, academics, consumer advocates and administrators.

One member of the audience, well known in library circles, commented that the information received for \$6.00 was a bargain. *The Canberra Times* on 6 July, had a leading article on page 1 on the Forum.

Averill Edwards

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS

THE 120 delegates who attended the first National Library Technician Conference all agreed that it was an outstanding success. The Conference, held from 10-13 July at Hartley CAE, Adelaide, was attended by Library Technicians, trainee Library Technicians, librarians and library educators.

Deb Warren, SA Library Technician Group President, introduced the Hon C.M. Hill, the Minister responsible for public libraries in SA, who opened the conference.

Talks were given by Sally Crosbie (National Library Technician President) and Gordon Bower (LAA Executive Director).

Interesting and informative lectures were given by many people and covered a wide range of topics, including: aspects of non-discrimination in the library workforce; combining a career and family; organisational change, and integrating print and non-print material.

One of the highlights of the lectures was a recording from Anne Galler, Concordia University, Canada. It presented aspects concerning Library Technicians in Canada and gave delegates an insight into the situation overseas.

The AGM of the LAA Technician Section was held on 13 July when the 1981 Executive was declared: President, Anne Brinson; Vice-President, Vikki Hopwood; Secretary, Deb Warren; Treasurer, Ian Gordon.

Special thanks to the SA committee, national executive and all helpers who worked hard setting up and running the Conference. Also thanks to Warren Horton, Pat Ward and Brian Henderson for their continuing support.

With the confidence and enthusiasm seen at this conference it is hoped that Library Technicians in Australia can look forward to a bright future.

Deb Warren



The SA Committee: Elizabeth Collins, Margaret Rome, Deb Warren (back), Yvonne Armstrong (front), Jenni Jeremy (front), Joan Manners and Liz Phillips.