



## School librarianship

**SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP** / ed John Cook. Sydney: Pergamon Press. 1981. 260pp. \$22 (hardcover), \$14 (softcover). ISBN 008 024814 4 (hardcover).

*School Librarianship* ambitiously sets out to treat those aspects of librarianship in the educational process which are particularly germane to the Australasian region.

That the volume succeeds so well is a clear rebuff to cynics who charge that Australian art and scholarship are pale, derivative imitations of British or North American models. Both in terms of their substantive and regional concerns, Cook and his collaborators offer an authoritative examination of the approaches and processes which have shaped the Australasian school librarianship experience and which distinguish this experience from that of overseas countries.

The range of topics covered in the dozen articles by nine practitioners and scholars contained in this text easily could have lead to the unevenness common in anthologies. Careful editorial preparation and an evident co-operation amongst the various authors, however, must be acknowledged as *School Librarianship* displays coherence and discipline.

Cook himself contributed chapters on the selection of print and non-print materials and on the school library's role in the community information network. Other topics included are: school library development in Australia and in New Zealand; the educational role of the school library; children's literature, reference work; bibliographic organisation; administration; the school/community library; centralised services; and education for school librarians. It would be rather churlish to suggest after this demonstration of comprehensiveness that some further areas of importance to school libraries could have been included as well.

One substantial advantage of this com-

prehensive scope appears in the attention which is paid both to the broad theoretical issues and to the specific practical details of school librarianship in Australasia.

Joan Brewer's excellent chapter on 'The educational role of the school library' which examines the sources of change affecting the environmental framework within which school libraries operate is illustrative of the effort made to explain the contextual constraints on Australasian school librarianship.

At the more 'practical' end of the spectrum are contributions such as those by Joe Hallein on 'Administrative aspects of school libraries' and Anne Simpson on 'Bibliographic organisation of print and non-print materials for school libraries'. These have direct applicability to the planning and routines of school libraries. Yet, both the theoretical and the practical are important to the practising school librarians and thus it is one of its sources of strength that *School Librarianship* can expose the reader to both sets of issues.

Eleven of the 12 chapters make their appearance for the first time in this volume. Thus it may be slightly unfortunate that the first chapter is a revision of previously published work. Nevertheless, Roy Lundin's overview of school library development in Australia is a very useful survey which deserves its opening position.

All contributions demonstrate through their references that they are based on recent research. However, there is no select bibliography for the whole work although one contributor does provide a bibliography at the end of his chapter.

*School Librarianship* is not a manual for school librarians yet its practical detail and helpful index will make it a useful and practical guide-book in the school library. Even more, it will be an important text filling a void for both lecturers and students in this field within the Australasian region. Students should not balk at the price since the book will serve as a helpful reference work long after they have left the halls of academe. School administrators should take notice of this work even though many feel it treats subjects tangential to their duties.

As the book makes patently clear, school libraries play a central role in the educational process and thus it is incumbent on administrators that they be aware of the problems and needs of school libraries. Hopefully this book will also be purchased by overseas librarians who just might find some valuable comparative perspectives for their own work in this excellent study of Australasian school librarianship.

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## COPYRIGHT INTERPRETATIONS

**COPYRIGHT FOR LIBRARIANS** / L.J. Taylor. Hastings, East Sussex: Tamarisk Books. 1980. 164pp. £7.50. ISBN 0 907221 00 9.

**PHOTOCOPYING: A GUIDE TO THE 1980 AMENDMENTS TO THE COPYRIGHT ACT** / James Lahore. Chatswood: Butterworths. 1980. \$4.95. ISBN 0 409 49034 2.

Our Copyright Act has just been amended and the Prime Minister has said that it will come into force sometime after 1 July 1981.

Two new books on copyright have been published recently: the first by Taylor is one which copyright buffs will wish to see, the second by Lahore is essential reading for all those librarians concerned about copyright or administering a library. One way or another that covers most of us.

Taylor's book should be in those libraries with a clientele interested in the development of copyright legislation. Librarians and others who want to make comparative studies of copyright will find it useful. Inevitably, however it deals mainly with the UK, including quite some detail on the interpretation of their 1956 Act. It includes commentaries of one sort or another interpreting it and suggesting ways in which it should be altered.

There is also a chapter entitled 'The Whitford Committee and its Report' which, unfortunately for students, assumes a knowledge of the discussion in the Report, but, quite usefully for us, spends its space traversing the evidence of the principal stake-holders in the matters involved including the Library Association, ASLIB, and other educational bodies on the one hand, and the British Copyright Council and others of that ilk on the other.

It includes a useful summary of the Whitford Committee's conclusions, which it will be recalled recommended quite sensibly that the realities of reprographic technology would have to be accepted and went on, quite unreasonably in my view, to propose a blanket licensing scheme.

The problem is that there are holes in the blanket and a price tag attached. In this scheme copyright owners would forego their rights to take action in favour of a collecting agency which would give permission to copy

from any work for which the collector acts as an agent, the collector then distributing the fees he collects among the owners. He proposed there should be a fee for all facsimile copying including single copying by scholars and students.

The conclusions from my point of view were therefore not tolerable in that they imposed a charge on scholars and students for what had previously been a fair dealing, and failed to provide a compulsory licensing scheme which cut out all the problems of knowing what to do to obtain the right to copy material.

Apart from UK material we are given a few details of the US, Australian (our old friend Moorhouse), and the EEC scene. There is also a useful discussion of the so-called periodicals debate turning around the question of 'Does copying harm sales?' which I found useful because it occurred in a country with a national lending library. We may see this debate recur as makers and buyers of serials wrestle the problem of serial price increases and blame each other rather than inflation.

The book has a good index and bibliography.

Lahore on the other hand is a must for those librarians who wish to retain the services of a good lawyer to help them through the Copyright Act as amended. And his fees is just under \$5.00. Buy it for your library then read on.

Do not, however, imagine that a book will tell you what you have to do in a library any more than the Act will. This is an interpretation, by a lawyer, of an Act written by lawyers. Design of systems in a library is a matter for librarians, not lawyers. Use Lahore to help you interpret this complicated Act and you will find him helpful for this purpose. Maybe it will help you avoid that \$500.00 fine.

Lahore's book is timely, well written and sensible. It fails for me only in that it has no index, an intolerable defect which should be remedied in its next edition. It is a reference book, not a book to be read, and without an index it is a less effective tool.

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### TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM THE LAA

The combined LAA/NZLA Conference Proceedings *Sharing*. Christchurch 1981. Price \$39.00 (\$34.00 LAA members).

1981 LAA Handbook and membership directory. Price \$10.50 (\$7.50 LAA members).

Available from  
Library Association of Australia  
473 Elizabeth Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010  
Telephone (02) 698 4100

the total supply with the total demand; a delicate and complicated process when applied across the spectrum of industry classifications and relevant training programs. Within an industry or profession, planning is concerned with both the total number of workers and the range of appropriate or necessary skills and educational routes to gain qualifications. Within individual organisations and perhaps more infrequently, is the opportunity to attempt a fine balance of availability and opportunity.

Manpower planning is considered to be a relatively modern technique in its formal sense and is concerned not only with resource allocation but also a mechanism for the reduction of social cost of unemployment and under-employment. It is this latter consideration which should involve unions in the planning process. This aspect is one for which the LAA committee has some sympathy and central to the social concerns of manpower planning activities and within the organisation sets it appropriately as part of this management information process.

In this respect Moore states that manpower planning assists not only in the recruitment process but also planning. He further sounds the caveat that 'manpower planning will never, of itself, provide exact answers to all questions and forecasting can never be precise . . . (but) the manpower planning can at least reduce the area of uncertainty'.

The pamphlet suggests a manpower planning process which can be applied to the level of the individual firm. This is a useful four-stage process which, in general terms, provides a useful guide for the budding manpower planner. Within a small number of pages Moore both outlines the nature of manpower planning and outlines a program for its application.

A small but useful work which, if matched by others in the series, would be a cheap but applicable series of management guides.

*Barrie Mitcheson*

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## **Librarians in residence**

**CHANGES AND EXCHANGES: AUSTRALIAN VIEWPOINTS** / ed Peter White. Sydney: Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, School of Library and Information Studies. 1980. 154pp. \$10.50. ISBN 0 909177 18 x.

In 1978 the School of Library and Information Studies at Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education began its Librarian-in-Residence program. Senior practising librarians are invited to spend two weeks at the School during which they exchange ideas with staff and students and give some lectures, including public lectures.

This volume contains those public lectures given in 1978 and 1979, eight in number, together with one by Professor W. Boyd Rayward, Dean of the Graduate Library School at Chicago, who came to the Kuring-gai School as its first visiting Principal Lecturer in 1979.

The subjects covered are disparate and perhaps their first interest lies in the indication they afford of the subjects which are regarded as currently important in Australia by a cross-section of top librarians. They include: the use and abuse of networks, reactions to financial stringency, the 'right' to information, school/community libraries, a national library and information service for Australia and a fairly detailed account of an exercise in staff participation towards a reassessment of the organisation of Sydney University Library.

It is beyond this writer's competence to review, fairly but critically, in a total of 300 words, so wide a field of professional concern. To highlight one phrase or one idea from each lecture, without the supporting argument, could be quite unfair to the author; particularly, as is often the case in these papers, when the author's deliberate and welcome intention is to challenge accepted assumptions and shibboleths.

The concluding lecture is by Boyd Rayward and its conclusion deals with the need, if librarianship is to advance from its present, to full professional, standing for more and better publication of data, opinion and analysis — to use Rayward's own term: for better and fuller professional discourse. If librarians won't write, at least they should read these lectures.

*Changes and exchanges* is well and pleasantly produced in neat print. Only a few misprints were detected, far fewer than one expects today. If it has a successor volume, and I hope it will have, perhaps the editor could exercise more firmly his prerogative by adding adequate punctuation to those papers which could benefit from it.

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## **Mobile libraries**

**MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR MOBILE LIBRARIES IN VICTORIA.** Melbourne: Library Council of Victoria Working Party on Mobile Libraries and Mobile Library Services. 1980. \$5.00. ISBN 0 909962 30 8.

The publication is very readable and points are clearly stated. The practical experience of the working party is clearly evident — commonsense has prevailed on so many aspects which provides a very useful document not only for newcomers to mobile libraries but also for many 'old timers' in the business. Further discussion will no doubt be generated on specific aspects of these standards particularly in relation to frequency of visits, length of stops, staffing etc.

Mobile library service, like so many other aspects of librarianship, presents its own set of 'special' problems. Librarians and library authorities who have not previously been involved in this area will find this publication extremely useful.

The Library Council of Victoria has been in the forefront in developing attitudes on mobile library services. We recall the successful *Bookmobile Round-Ups* which provided such a valuable exchange of ideas and generated so much enthusiasm amongst existing mobile operators.

This publication relates specifically to the Victorian situation, however the great bulk of the standards should seriously be considered for application to all other states. The Library Council and the Working Party are to be commended for their work in this field which is a very important aspect of public librarianship. If you are in any doubt about the importance, then ask a mobile library user.

All aspects of mobile library service are covered including planning the service, scheduling, siting, stock, staffing, the physical aspects of the vehicle, base library operation etc.

It removes many of what may have been seen as insurmountable problems. The straightforward, practical approach will be appreciated. The publication also places mobile libraries in their rightful place — as an integral part of a library service, not a forgotten or unwanted sideline activity.

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## **Manpower planning**

**MANPOWER PLANNING IN LIBRARIES** / Nick Moore. London: Library Association (Management pamphlet no5). 1980 £2.95. ISBN 0 85365 532 4.

In changing its emphasis from library administration to library management, this series is attempting to show the fundamental shift in style that is reflected in the rate of change in the working library situation.

The introduction to this little pamphlet in itself makes several interesting observations in relation to nature of the change in management, eg that it is the people in touch with the public who first become aware of a change in the situation and that is why it is necessary to try to create a responsiveness to change at every level of the organisation.

The characteristics of a managerial style, therefore, are determined by the need to give freedom to subordinates along with responsibility for their actions. We thus have a succinct statement on the accountability of management with the underlying assumption that higher management cannot nevertheless abdicate ultimate responsibility, to say nothing of the concern of management for resource control and output measurement.

Thus far, comment has been concerned with the aim of the series which perhaps I have spent too much time with, especially in the abstract but which, nevertheless, seem to me an important, if not essential direction for concentration of professional thought for survival in the 80s (the 90s defying definitive description at this stage).

This is a small text which sees the need for manpower planning at three levels: national, professional or industrial and within individual firms or organisations. The national level is concerned with attempting to match

## **School Librarianship**

edited by John Cook

This book provides a manual of practices and procedures for school librarians and librarianship students. It also outlines the educational philosophy of school libraries, and the history of their development in Australia and New Zealand.

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