

NEW DIALOG TEAM



Jennifer Affleck . . . new DIALOG training co-ordinator

INSEARCH LIMITED, the Australian and New Zealand representative for the DIALOG Information Retrieval Service, is pleased to introduce a new member of the customer services team

Jennifer Affleck will be joining the staff as DIALOG training co-ordinator from the middle of June. Jennifer is currently Senior Librarian-in-Charge of the Brickfield Hill Library, Information Resources Service, The New South Wales Institute of Technology.

She will be a familiar face to many librarians who have graduated from the School of Librarianship at the University of New South Wales where she spent nine years on the teaching staff. Coupled with her lecturing Jennifer has also had extensive reference experience, making her a valuable addition as head of the DIALOG team.



Left to right: Maxine Brodie, Tina Reedman and Pamela Bedwell

Alexandra Sawicki will continue in her role as DIALOG training specialist for Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. However, there will be no Melbourne contact office.

Many DIALOG users will also have spoken to other members of the former Insearch DIAL Services staff in connection with seminar registrations and searching problems. These team members are: Maxine Brodie (help line and training support); Tina Reedman (help line and administrative support), and Pamela Bedwell (Secretary).

Insearch Limited/DIALOG will continue to operate from its present location and telephone numbers and the mailing address will remain the same: Insearch Ltd, DIALOG, PO Box J36, Brickfield Hill, NSW 2000. Telephone (02) 264 6344; toll-free (008) 222 077. Telex 27091; Answerback: INSRCH.

All advertised training except the June courses in Canberra will be conducted as arranged. A new training schedule for the remainder of the year will be available in the near future.

VIEWPOINT

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY was recently host for the Conference of the Australian National Section for IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People). The theme *Able to Enjoy: Books and the Young Disabled*, was of course in keeping with a particular 1981 emphasis of IYDP.

The aim of the Conference was to show that the disabled child has the ability to live a happy and fulfilling life if given the opportunity. Through practical example, exhortation, encouragement and dedication of speakers and participants a magnificent sense of certainty about that aim became apparent. The singleness of purpose and the ready exchange of example and experience shown by those present who had some more obvious disability than the rest of the participants were constant reminders of the essential equality of the human spirit.

If one theme could be detected from the range of presentations it would perhaps be the individuality of people, whether with a discernible handicap or not. This was typified in the paper by the irrepressible Margaret Marshall in addressing the topic 'Each according to his ability'.

It also came through in most other offerings that there is a tendency to superimpose one's own values on the perceived needs of the disabled; the essential task is to assist in providing access to materials they need or feel they need. Thus the theory of library service to the disabled is not at all different to the theory of library service generally.

Some major inadequacies in the Australian scene were clearly identified. Two which I believe are of significance are in the areas of library education and government funding. On the first point, reflection should make it perfectly obvious that our education programs for library personnel take little cognisance of understanding the needs of the disabled. On the second, a comparison with the United States shows an appalling lack of funding here for programs and research aimed at satisfying the needs of the disabled.

Do we let the matter rest there?

A final word. I was proud to represent our Association at such a refreshingly positive conference. The dedication and commitment of all who provided input was inspirational.

Jim Dwyer LAA President

President to attend ALA 100

From 22 June to 24 July the President will be absent from Australia, en route to and attending the ALA 100th Conference in San Francisco followed by some essential R and R 1980 leave! In his absence, urgent matters may be directed to the Vice-President (Judith Baskin) or, of course, to the Acting Executive Director (Sue Phillips).

Don't panic — it only seems that long!

In the previous issue of *Incite* (no 9) it was stated that the LAA General Council meeting would be held in Sydney from 13 July to 1 August. This should have read 31 July to 1 August.

ALARM

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