

What of the future?



LIBRARIANS: OK now, worse later
Sketch from the *Bulletin*

A RECENT survey of employment prospects for the professions (see the *Bulletin*, 18 Nov 1980) forecasts an 'ever toughening job market' for librarians.

Not being a two handed economic forecaster, I can not critically comment on that assertion but I am concerned lest the basis of the prediction is incorrectly reflected in the sketch that accompanied it.

How typical is that sketch? Why are we still seen as a female putting away books (or taking them out), bespectacled to indicate intellectualism — why not a computer terminal, a bright young lass showing plenty of leg, or a lad bearded and long haired telling stories in a children's library?

It may may well be correct that there will be few vacancies for the type of librarian shown in the *Bulletin* sketch. There is little evidence that professional library staff will be replaced by computers in the near future. Nor was the computer intended to do so.

As far as I can remember, its purpose was to save repetitive clerical work on the one hand, and on the other to enhance the professional content of our work.

The LAA still has a big task before it when it comes to correcting our public image. Unless that task is tackled firmly, thoroughly and promptly, the profession will revert to being typical of the sketch in the *Bulletin*.

D. H. Borchardt.
La Trobe University, Vic

Reference books wanted

THE Library Technician Certificate Course at Sydney Technical College would be grateful for unwanted copies of reference works for their teaching collection.

Titles which are particularly needed for early 1981 are: *Current Australian Serials*; *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*; *Irregular Serials and Annuals*; *Ulrich's Quarterly*; *Serials in Australian Libraries: Social Sciences and Humanities*; *Scientific Serials in Australian Libraries*; *National Union Catalog*; *British Books in Print*; *Books in Print*; *Australian Books in Print*, and *fiche updates as applicable*.

Materials should be sent to Library Technician Certificate Course, Building 51, Cnr Mary Ann Street and Bulwara Road, Ultimo, NSW 2007.

Answers to quiz

1 (c); 2 (a); 3 (e); 4 (b); 5 (c); 6 (b); 7 (a); 8 (d); 9 (c); 10 (e); 11 (e); 12 (c); 13 (e); 14 (b); 15 (c); 16 (c); 17 (a); 18 (e); 19 (c); 20 (b).

Starting date for ABN pilot study announced

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY of Australia has announced the starting date for the long-awaited ABN Pilot Study — 2 February 1981.

Initially, five libraries from New South Wales will participate: the Universities of Sydney, New South Wales, Macquarie, Newcastle and the NSW Institute of Technology.

The purpose of the study will be to test the software bought by the National Library from the Washington Library Network and to see how well it will perform as a shared cataloguing system. Together with the shared cataloguing system the National Library will give access to the WLN database of some 1.5 million titles.

From *About Us* no253, 19 Nov 1980.

Development continues in SA libraries

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN public libraries took another step forward in their eight-year development program with the approval of nine new library services for 1980/81, Euan Miller, Director, SA Public Libraries announced recently. With the establishment of these libraries 85 percent of the population will have direct access to public library services he added.

Subsidy levels were increased also as part of the 20.76 percent increase in funds made available by the State, for local authority libraries, Mr Miller said. For 1980/81, the per capita subsidy level has been increased to \$3.65. In all cases, except for four metropolitan services, the government has been able to maintain a full dollar for dollar subsidy, Mr Miller added.

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