

# News from the Divisions

## WA INFORMATION SCIENCE

### Seminar on numeric and knowledge data bases

ABOUT 25 people attended a joint ISS/UCLS/OLUG (On-Line Users' Group) meeting on 19 November to hear Audrey Black (Reid Library) report on her attendance at the Seminar on 'Numeric and Knowledge Data Bases' held in Sydney on 6-7 November. Her attendance was partly funded by ISS and UCLS.

*Megan Sassi*

### Viewdata

Over 20 people attended the ISS meeting on 10 December on viewdata systems. Louise Jones gave a brief illustrated introduction to the terminology and technology of such information systems. The terminology is still unclear, but Telecom Australia appears to be using videotex for what has previously been, and, in some cases, still is, referred to as viewdata.

This was followed by a short videotape introducing the British Post Office's videotex service, Prestel. Anne Keehan, Community Information Officer with the Library Board of WA then reported on her recent visit to some of the libraries in the UK which had been involved in the Library Association/Aslib experiment with Prestel. In this experiment, six public libraries in the London boroughs of Bexley, Hounslow, Sutton and Waltham Forest, and in Birmingham and Norwich were provided with terminals (suitably adapted TV sets) to test the effect of Prestel use on the reference services of public libraries, and to evaluate the potential of Prestel as a vehicle for the dissemination of community information. A report on the experiment is in preparation. However, Anne reported that libraries acknowledged, despite teething problems, that such services have potential for libraries, both as another information tool, and as a vehicle for the dissemination of library information. Lack of funds was the basic reason why some libraries could not continue with the service following the experiment.

*Louise Jones*

## UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

DURING the LAA/NZLA Conference, a new national UCLS Committee will take office, so this seems an appropriate time to review the activities of the 1979/80 Committee.

One of the stated aims of the Committee was to improve the flow of information from the Committee to the state branches and all individual members. To this end, regular contributions were sent to *InCite* to be included on this page. In addition to matters emanating from the Committee, news items contributed by state branches of the section were included for the information of all UCLS members.

In September 1979 the Committee applied for a non-recoupable grant of \$2500 to establish a clearinghouse and newsletter on information related to meeting the information needs of disabled people in the Australian community. In response to this submission, General Council awarded UCLS, in conjunc-

tion with the Victorian Branch of the LAA, an amount of \$800. Don Schauder, convener of the MIND Working Party, was co-ordinating the expenditure of the grant in conjunction with the Victorian Branch of the LAA.

Interlending in the 80s was a highly successful national conference, jointly sponsored by the LAA Queensland Branch and UCLS, held in Brisbane on 27-29 August 1980. Maurice Line, Director-General, British Library, Lending Division, was the keynote speaker while other speakers came from all over Australia. Conference proceedings will be on sale and available from the LAA by the end of January 1981.

At a meeting in Brisbane on 17 September 1980 UCLS members decided to form a Queensland Branch of the Section. Nominations have already been called for positions on the committee, and the section plans to be very active in Queensland in 1981.

During Training for Industry Week, 14-20 September 1980 in Brisbane, members of the UCLS Committee visited a number of Brisbane TAFE College Resource Materials Centres. A subsequent newspaper article and an interview on a radio talk-back program highlighted the lack of professional resources in TAFE Libraries in Brisbane.

In November 1980 the Committee asked all state Branches of the Section to put forward proposals for grants from UCLS continuing education money. A grant of \$200 to the South Australian Branch to subsidise a seminar in 1981 on the topic 'The Librarian and the Law' was approved.

The final activity to be organised by the Committee will be the post LAA/NZLA Conference workshop on 23 January 1981. Speakers from Australia and New Zealand will present papers and lead workshop discussions on the topic 'Good, bad or indifferent? Assessing effectiveness in tertiary libraries'.

The 1979/80 Committee wishes the new Committee a successful and productive period of office.

*Barbara Paton*

## NSW CATALOGUERS

THE position of Dewey Decimal Classification Liaison Committee member of the NSW Cataloguers Section is at present vacant. Any nominations for this position should be sent to Janet Robinson, Office of Library Co-operation, 8th Floor, Caga Building, 8-18 Bent St, Sydney, by 3 March 1981. (Telephone: 240 4530).

## WA CATALOGUERS

### WA Group on Subject Headings

A WEST Australian group to investigate alphabetical subject headings practice was set up on 29 October 1980.

The group will consider such topics as LASH, LCSH, computerised information retrieval and other topics in the field, not the least of which is the program for the 1981 national conference of the Cataloguers' Section to be held in Perth.

Anyone interested is welcome to join. It is an informal group under the auspices of the WA Group of the Cataloguers Section. Contact the convener, Lynn Allen, at University of Western Australia (380 2348) for time of next meeting and any other information.

*Lynn Allen*

## WA SCHOOL LIBRARIES

### Young Readers' Book Award

*My Darling Villain* by Lynne Reid Banks and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume were the winning books in the secondary and primary sections respectively of the WA Young Readers' Book Award.

The Section will be running the Award again in 1981. For more information contact Leila Hoffman, 83 Howes Cres, Dianella, WA 6062.

## NSW SCHOOL LIBRARIES

A NEW publication from the NSW School Libraries Section *Sharing Today's Resources - Meeting Tomorrow's Needs* reveals that there is much local and regional activity in NSW aimed at improving services for teachers and students. This substantial publication brings together the papers, workshop reports and associated material presented at the statewide seminar 'Resource co-ordination and Librarians' Groups: Information Exchange Day' held on July 26 1980.

The papers presented include the findings of a 1979 survey into school and community library co-operation, detailed reports of some regional and local initiatives and three regional educational administrators presenting their views on library co-operation.

Comprehensive situation reports on co-operating groups within each of the 11 educational regions in NSW were prepared prior to the seminar. Over 80 such groups were identified. Information recorded for each group within each region includes group membership, boundaries, contact person, a listing of the group's activities and any publications produced by the group.

*Sharing Today's Resources - Meeting Tomorrow's Needs* was edited by Marianne Broadbent. It is available from the LAA, Science Centre, 35 Clarence Street, Sydney at a cost of \$6.00 for members and \$9.00 for non-members.

## VIC BRANCH

### 1981 Branch Council

President, Carmen Hannaker; Vice-President, Don Schauder; Immediate Past President, Doreen Parker; Treasurer, Michael Hill; Secretary, Ray Price; Branch Councillors, Virginia de Crespigny, Bill Cations, Anne Holmes; General Councillor, Meg Cameron. Still to be elected: Sectional and Regional Group reps, student reps, LAA nominee on LCV, reps from LPCV, ALTA and other bodies. Procedures for formalising communication with VALA have been agreed to.

### FOI

The Branch has written to Senators and has now sent a follow-up letter to the Prime Minister.

### 1981 meetings

It is planned to hold monthly meetings which will be hosted by different sections and interest groups or by the Branch.

### Tapes

Audio tapes of all general Branch meetings held in 1980 and a video tape of the meeting on 'Censorship in Children's Literature' available from Meg Cameron, Deakin University.

### Staffing of school libraries

The Branch has made several submissions to the Education Department concerning the staffing position at schools, particularly as it relates to primary schools. Further information about specific cases is now being collected. Contact Secretary Ray Price for further details.

*Doreen Parker*