

News from the Divisions

NSW BRANCH

THE TWO BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF AN AUTHOR ARE research and financial backing, according to Gavin Souter, Australian author and journalist.

Mr Souter was addressing a meeting in July of the NSW Branch, in which he gave an historical account of his familiarisation with the former and his increasing success at courting the latter.

Mr Souter singles out the Mitchell Library as being the chief source of material for most of his books, especially 'New Guinea, the last unknown' (1963), 'A peculiar people: the Australians in Paraguay' (1968), and 'Lion and Kangaroo' (1976). For the last mentioned work, which is a study of the ambivalent British/Australian identity problem of early Federation Australians, Mr Souter also made use of the Public Record Office.

The first of Gavin Souter's six books was completed without any financial support and was written while the author was working as a full-time journalist. His most recent work, 'A Company of Heralds' which is a history of the Fairfax Company, is the fruit of two and a half years on full salary, including a year spent on research in Australian and England, and the hiring of a paid research assistant. The books written between these were funded by grants and supplemented by finance from private enterprise.

Readers of 'A Company of Heralds' may be interested to learn that when approached by the Fairfax Co to write its history, Mr Souter had a solicitor draw up an agreement between the author and the company to ensure that the account be a full, fair and objective one. The Fairfax General Manager and Chairman read each chapter of the book as it was completed. Mr Souter believes that the company abided by the terms of the agreement, as does the book. Other companies should undertake similar projects, he said.

Gavin Souter is about to commence research for a new book on the history of the Clunies-Ross family and the Cocos Islands.

Philomena Lapsley

'TECHNOLOGY FOR SMALL LIBRARIES'

A JOINT MEETING OF THE NSW AND VIC BRANCHES of the LAA was hosted by the Riverina Regional Group in Albury on 20 September, on the morning following the Group's conference 'Technology for small libraries'.

The meeting was most successful with lively and thorough exchanges of ideas, resulting in some concrete resolutions. Topics covered included:

- * Library education, especially continuing education activities, education of library technicians and support for the idea of interlibrary staff exchanges;
- * Co-operation between LAA branches--exchange of views, minutes of meetings, ideas for promotional material;
- * Funding, roles and continuing education needs of LAA regional groups;
- * Arrangements for overseas speakers attending LAA22,
- * Role of the LAA in promoting rural library services;
- * IBBY Travelling Book Fair and IBBY International Conference, September 1982;
- * Technical facilities: difficulties of keeping up-to-date with improvements, and of knowing the libraries who have the latest equipment and services;
- * Relative costs involved in information transfer to country areas via DOMSAT, packet-switching facilities, STD, etc, and the need for guidelines in making decisions about which technology to use;
- * The status of support staff in school libraries and the quality of library service in Victorian primary schools.

Anyone wishing further information about the meeting or the topics discussed should contact Helen Brayne, Riverina Group President (069) 62 2515; Philomena Lapsley, NSW Branch Secretary (02) 692 2994, or Ray Price, Vic Branch Secretary (03) 341 6656.

Philomena Lapsley

QLD UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

UCLS Qld arranged a meeting on the topic 'Library services to academic staff' which was held on 9 September. The guest speakers were Karen Zavattaro, representing TAFE colleges, Janice Rickards (QIT) who presented the views from the CAE angle, Mary O'Mara (QU) gave the University's position and Joe Airo-Farulla (NBCAE) gave the academics point of view.

The difficulty in providing library services in TAFE colleges begins with the reluctance of teachers and students to use the library, stemming partly from the fact that many have been operating in trade areas where libraries were seen as unnecessary.

Traditional cataloguing systems are not designed to cope with trade libraries, and TAFE libraries have to expand them to fill the need. For example, it is impractical to have all motor car manuals catalogued to the same number. The interlibrary loan network is restricted to other TAFE colleges, but trade literature, published and unpublished, which is extremely important, is collected from all sources.

From the academic point of view, Joe Airo-Farulla said he would like to see a reference service which is not limited to the resources of the institution's library; good bibliographical service for research and acquisitions; shorter time lapse between the ordering of a book and its availability for use in the library; good reader education for students; good public relations to sell library services to potential users. He also suggested providing heads of department with ammunition to encourage those members of staff who are not model users to avail themselves of the superior service which their library offers.

Diane Costello

The topic for the June General Meeting of the Qld UCLS Section was 'Technological Change and Libraries'.

The opening speaker, Professor Don Lamberton (Professor of Economics at the University of Qld) discussed the diffusion of change, responses to technological change and its effects on organisational design. In concluding, Prof Lamberton asked whether librarians had considered the way in which technological changes might alter not merely organisational regimes but the actual services offered.

Pixie Crook, Principal Librarian at Nth Brisbane CAE, concentrated on what recent technological developments mean for academic libraries and librarians, and the strategies librarians need to devise to cope with new technologies.

Some of the new technologies might, in fact, be seen as competitors in the business of information provision. If libraries do not understand client needs and user patterns and evaluate their own ability and performance in meeting these needs, technological developments may be used by others to meet these needs more effectively.

More importantly, in some areas of information provision, it will be that those who own or control the new technology will control the information to the society.

Librarians should be prepared, and indeed have a responsibility to influence government decisions on such issues as freedom of information, control and use of a domestic satellite, ensuring sufficient variety of ownership of the media and of data bases, and ensuring sufficient allocation of resources to free and independent information services.

Margaret Walters

LAA LITERACY SECTION

LITERACY KIT

NOW AVAILABLE!

The kit contains a helpful collection of materials designed to assist librarians learn more about literacy.

Price: \$2.00 (plus 55¢ postage).

Cheques made payable to the Secretary, LAA Literacy Section, c/o Melbourne City Libraries, PO Box 173, North Melbourne, Vic 3051.

NOW AVAILABLE

LAA ACT BRANCH

Copyright Workshop Proceedings

Speakers at this workshop on the impact of new Copyright amendments included Derek Fielding, Peter Banki, Robin Bell and Dennis Pearce (see *Incite* 3 July 1981, p4).

Price: \$7.90 (\$6.35 LAA members); Sales tax exempt \$7.70 or \$6.20; postage 55¢ extra.

Cheques, made payable to LAA ACT Branch, should be sent to PO Box 679, Canberra City, ACT 2601.

Industrial dispute

OWING TO AN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GET ALL THE COPY TYPESET FOR THIS ISSUE OF *INCITE*. WE'RE SORRY THAT THIS ISSUE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT COME UP TO THE HIGH STANDARD OF PRODUCTION THAT YOU HAVE COME TO EXPECT, BUT AS WE WORK TO DEADLINES THE ONLY WAY TO PRODUCE THIS ISSUE ON TIME WAS BY TYPING THE COPY OURSELVES. BOUQUETS?

BERTA MANSOURIAN has been appointed Ethnic Services Librarian of the State Library of Victoria. Miss Mansourian, who speaks five languages, holds a BA (Hons) from Monash University and a Graduate Diploma in Librarianship from RMIT.

Miss Mansourian said the State Library had increased its holdings in languages other than English considerably over the past two years. She would like to see the collection used more widely by people from different cultural/linguistic backgrounds.

If you would like to find out more about the State Library of Victoria's multilanguage collection or if you want information about multiculturalism, etc ring her on (03) 669 9047.

MARGE BROWARD is joining IDC Research Australia as a senior research consultant specialising in new electronic media such as videotex, teletext and online public database systems.

Until late last year, Marge was Manager for Development with Insearch Information Services.

MARGARET TRASK, Head of the School of Library and Information Studies at Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, is on study leave until August 1982.

She is carrying out a needs assessment survey and examining the existing situation of staff development programs in large Australian libraries. As well as visiting the Australian libraries, she is looking at what is happening in this area in the US and UK by visiting institutions and individuals.

Mairéad Browne is Acting Head of the School of Library and Information Studies while Margaret Trask is away.

New England Group

After a period of inactivity, the New England Regional Group has been reconstituted and is planning a program of activities.

The Group is centred in Armidale, NSW, but is keen to organise professional meetings of interest to all librarians in the rural parts of northern NSW.

At a recent meeting the following office-bearers were elected on an interim basis for the remainder of 1981 and have agreed to be nominated for the 1982 Committee: President: Karl Schmude, University of New England Library; Secretary/Treasurer: Jill Harrington, Memorial Library, Armidale; Committee: Judith Wood, CSIRO Library, Chiswick, Rosemary Brewer, University of New England Library, Mary Ann Lea, Armidale CAE Library.

Additional nominations of LAA members for the 1982 Committee should be sent by 16 October 1981 to the Interim Secretary, Mrs J. Harrington, Memorial Library, Faulkner Street, Armidale, NSW 2350. A meeting will be held as soon as possible after that date, in conjunction with an address to the Regional Group by a guest speaker.

Obituary

MANY MEMBERS of the Association, especially former colleagues from the State Library of NSW and from special libraries, will have been saddened to hear of the death on 3 July 1981, of Mrs Constance McKay.

After graduating from the University of Sydney, Mrs McKay worked at the then Public Library of NSW, mainly under Miss N. Kibble in the Research Department, until her marriage. After a break she returned to librarianship in 1941 as Librarian at Commonwealth Industrial Gases Ltd and remained their librarian until her retirement in 1967. She was a skilled spokeswoman for industrial libraries and published many articles in the industrial press about their services.

Mrs McKay was active in the affairs of the Association all her professional life. She was a member of the first Special Libraries' Committee set up under the chairmanship of Miss Edith Sims in 1942/43 and was chairman of the Special Libraries Committee set up by the NSW Branch in 1944/45. She became the first President of the Special Libraries Section when it was created by the Association in 1953 and served the Section in many offices, including that of General Councillor, over many years.

She was also an active member of the NSW Branch, and was Vice-President in 1948/49 and President in 1949/50.

After her retirement from CIG, she continued her work in librarianship for some years with the Linnaean Society of NSW.

Special librarianship in Australia owes much to Mrs McKay — for her pioneering work in training other special librarians and in publicising the work of industrial special libraries, and for her long and dedicated service to the professional body.

Jean M. Murray

News from Divisions

continued

VIC BRANCH

Restricted publications

A delegation from the Branch and the Library Council of Victoria met with officers of the Attorney-General's Department in July to discuss the Police Offences Act as it relates to the handling of restricted publications in libraries. This is of particular concern to the LAA because certain works which could usefully be displayed in libraries (such as *More Joy of Sex*) are now being made restricted publications.

Branch Council's previous opinion that it would be impracticable to have libraries exempted from the Act completely was reinforced as a result of the meeting. The *present* Board members appear to interpret the guidelines in a fairly liberal manner but the danger is that the guidelines could result in a restriction of almost any publication dealing with material of a sexual nature. Branch Council has agreed to pursue the problems faced by libraries and to request a review of the restrictions on particular publications as appropriate. Any comments on the current guidelines or on particular titles which should be reviewed should be sent to Carmen Han-naker at Moonee Valley Regional Library.

Public Library funding

A Branch delegation met with the Victorian Minister for the Arts concerning funding for public libraries. Present prospects of an increase in funding appear slight. In fact, it looks as if libraries may have to fight to maintain their present level of State Government

HAPPENINGS

continued

National

October 28 Australian Satellite Users Association POLICY DEVELOPMENT FORUM 'Satellite access policy' CANBERRA. See item elsewhere this issue for more information.

October 29-30 Australian Society for Historical Archaeology 'Prospects and aspects' the first ASHA Conference on historical archaeology' NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE, OBSERVATORY HILL, SYDNEY. Fee: \$75. Contact: Hon Secretary, ASHA (02)692 2763.

November LAA CE PROGRAM 'Copyright in perspective'. Recent developments in copyright, operation of Copyright Amendment Act 1980. November 16 ADELAIDE; November 18 SYDNEY; November 23 HOBART; November 24 MELBOURNE. Contact: Marilyn Bryce, CE Officer, LAA Headquarters, 473 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, (02)698 4100.

New South Wales

October 19 Radio University LECTURE COURSE 'Patents - as a protection and technical information source' including 'Review of patent literature and libraries in Australia'. (5 radio lectures, 7pm Tuesdays, repeated 6pm Thursdays and 8pm Fridays, 1 attended evening seminar). Cost: \$14 (incl. notes). Lecturers include: Graham Lesley (Aust Patent Information Service), Robert Shelston Jnr (Whelston & Waters, Patent Attorneys). Contact: Radio University (02)662 2691.

October 29 LAA Special Libraries Section NSW Group VISIT TO PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY (entrance off Hospital Road). 6pm sharp. Contact: Dr Russell Cope (02)230 2380.

November 4 LAA Information Science Section/Special Libraries Section NSW Groups JOINT MEETING 'Library package tour' FULL DAY VISIT to three special libraries to see and evaluate their computer packages in action: CSR (CSRDOC), Unilever (CAIRS), AMSW (AIRS). Transport and lunch provided. Numbers limited. For cost and registration contact: Maxine Brodie (02)218 9825.

November 20-22 Storytelling Guild, NSW Branch WEEKEND CONFERENCE, LITTE COMPANY GUEST HOUSE, LEURA. Guest: Pat Scott. A11 inclusive cost: \$85. Contact: Zoe Withers (02)755 666 or (02) 82 2586 (ah).

Queensland

November 20 LAA Qld Branch Council MEETING, SEMINAR ROOM 5, QIT LIBRARY 5.30pm LAA members are invited to raise matters with the Branch. Contact: Janice Rickards (07)221 2411 ext 492.

December 2 LAA Qld Branch WORKSHOP 'The management of library automation'. Speakers include: Pixie Crook, John Barker, John Rod, Roger Worthington, Simon McMillan, Ann Lawson. Cost: \$45 (\$35 LAA members). Contact: Janice Rickards (07)221 2411 ext 492.

December 3 LAA Qld Branch AGM 6pm UNI OF QUEENSLAND CLUB. 7pm DINNER. Guest speaker: Janine Walker. Cost (incl. pre dinner drinks and wine with meal): \$15. Contact: Janice Rickards (07) 221 2411 ext 492.

South Australia

November 19 LAA Special Libraries Section SA Group AGM 12.30pm MUSEUM LECTURE ROOM (behind main museum building) Wine and cheese. All members are urged to attend. Contact: Michael Strode-Smith (08)259 5498.

Victoria

October 21 Victorian Technical Aids Liaison Group DISPLAY OF TECHNICAL AIDS TO HELP DISABLED PEOPLE 7.30pm 454 GLENFERRIE RD, KOORYONG (opposite Kooryong Tennis Courts). Items on display include Talking World Book Encyclopedia and the Paperless Brailier. Contact: Dr Terry Davidson, Royal Vic Institute for the Blind, 557 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne (03)51 1381.

November 16 VALA 'The electronic library' UNI OF MELBOURNE LARGE BIOCHEMISTRY LECTURE THEATRE 6pm sharp. Speaker: Dr Kenneth Dowlin (Director, Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs US - see his article which appears in 'Library Journal' November 1 1981). Further info from George Eichinski (03) 341 2335.

Western Australia

November 24 Australian Society of Archivists MEETING 5.30pm UNIVERSITY HOUSE, UNI OF WA. Speaker: Christine Shervington (Archivist, Uni of WA).

funding. Branch Council has identified per capita funding for municipal libraries and funds for preservation of State Library materials as priority areas for increased funding.

Branch Constitution

A Branch Constitution has been drawn up by Branch Council and will be tabled for adoption by the members at the 1982 AGM.

Branch Council membership

Bill Cations has resigned from Branch Council because of an overseas study tour. Margaret Broadhead has replaced him for the remainder of 1981.

Charges for ILL

Branch Council agreed that it is opposed to charging by libraries for inter-library loan transactions.

Sales Tax on books and serials

Both Branch Council and the recent Approval Plans Seminar organisers have written to relevant government departments, politicians and the press concerning the recent imposition of a sales tax on books and serials and its implications on freedom of access to information by the public and the administrative overheads in libraries.

D. Parker