

TIP OFF: Executive Director's News

THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR GENERALLY indicates that a notice of the Association's Annual General Meeting will suddenly appear in Incite. This notice is accompanied by calls for motions for discussion from our 6500 individual members or on behalf of one of our 75 divisions. The 1981 AGM was recently held in Adelaide with an attendance of about 40 people.

While most people sigh with boredom at the mere thought of an AGM largely due to the formal nature of the business and because it is a 'toothless tiger'--an opportunity does exist for members of the Association to bring forward issues of concern.

What issues are of concern in 1981? It appears that at the moment the Association's operations are so finely tuned that there is no room for improvement or cause for complaint. Not one written complaint came from our members--the people who are the Association!

Since part of my role is to react to and implement suggestions from the membership I believe that I should be able to read something into this lack of interest in the 1981 AGM. Either the Association is fulfil-

ling all needs for all members, or, such apathy exists that no one cares what the Association does. Unfortunately, few things in life are black or white and we probably have a mix of the two shades--dull grey.

Where do we go from here? The night of the 15th October was not lost. Thanks to the SA Branch we avoided a record 20-minute meeting. Two motions were presented for discussion and passed.

The first, 'That the LAA adopt the McGraw Hill publishing guidelines for eliminating sexism in future LAA publications and revisions of publications including regulations', and the second 'That members be given the opportunity to join either two sections or one section and one special interest group as part of their membership fee'.

Both of these need to be ratified by General Council before being implemented. Many of you will remember the rather lively AGM at the Canberra Conference, let us hope that many voices will be heard in Adelaide in August 1982 and that 1981 is the exception rather than the rule.

Susan Accutt
Executive Director

NEW LIBRARY FOR WA BY 1984'

THE PREMIER OF WA, SIR CHARLES COURT, officially opened Australian Library Week in WA at a dinner to celebrate the event on 21 September 1981.

The ALPC Branch Committee who organised the function, comprised: Cecil Florey (Chairman), David Pike (Secretary) and Patrick Moore (Treasurer).

The highlight of Sir Charles' opening speech was his confirmation that construction of the Alexander Library Building would continue as scheduled and would be completed no later than 1984.

The Alexander Library Building, the new headquarters of The Library Board of WA, will occupy a site in James Street Perth, within the city's cultural centre. The building which will be the biggest in the precinct, was described by Sir Charles as the most important development since the foundation of the Board.

The new building will enable the Board to expand its services to the community. Provisions for a general lending library and special ethnic service have been made. In addition, the building will be accessible to the disabled.

Sir Charles, who is also State Treasurer, stressed the need to make good use of library funds. He commended the Education Department's central buying and processing agency and the Library Board's parallel service to public libraries.

Another example of extracting full value from the dollars available was the proposed Lesmurdie Community School Library, the first joint-use library in WA.

Planning for this library, which will be housed in a high school, is being undertaken by the Library Board, the Education Department and the Kalamunda Shire Council. It will be stocked by both the Education Department and the Library Board and will be used both as a library for the school students and as a public library by the residents of Lesmurdie.

A similar proposal is being developed in Karratha, in the North-West of the State. The existing regional public library will be replaced by a much larger collection of books in a joint-use library at the Karratha College.

Rationalising Serials

MARINA GARLICK'S REPORT 'EVALUATION OF Sydney Subject Specialisation Scheme and Joint Fiction Reserve', 1979, drew attention to the need to examine policies on serials which were included in the Sydney Subject Specialisation Scheme but to which inadequate attention had been given with regard to permanent preservation.

A Serials Working Party was formed late in 1980 and in March 1981 preparation of a 'Union List of Periodicals' using the cards supplied to the file at Waverley Municipal Library was commenced. The resultant list has many inconsistencies due to the problems of differing forms of entry etc, but is a useful working tool for the project.

Area Groups of nine to 14 representatives from North, West, South and Central libraries have been formed and to date three meetings of each group have been held. Conveners are members of the Serials Working Party, and the Convener of the latter is co-ordinator of area groups. It is hoped continuity can be maintained by these links.

The general feeling from Conveners is that the project has commenced satisfactorily with co-operation and enthusiasm from most representatives. There have been quite a few comments that the project was encouraging some services to review policies. Statements of policy have been supplied by libraries--hopefully some of these will change as there does not appear to be much appreciation of the value of serials from a few of the participants. Others have already arranged to receive serials discarded by others, have organised exchanges to fill gaps etc, and are making good use of the National Library Clearing House lists and other duplicate lists.

All serials to be relocated are listed for confirmation by the Metropolitan Chief Librarians' Committee.

The 'Pinpointer Popular Journals on Microfiche' project will help to alleviate the problem of storage--a serious situation for many and one of the major reasons given for not preserving subject specialisation serials. It is hoped current investigations for co-operative storage will result in an acceptable plan.

While the approach to rationalisation is on an 'area' basis as a matter of convenience and to get workable arrangements, the total serial resources of the Metropolitan area will be taken into account, particularly those of the State Library of NSW, special libraries, etc.

It is too early to evaluate the project--there has been a healthy start to what could be a valuable co-operative effort.

Serials Working Party members are: Bernard Sargeant, Chris Henderson, Laurie Urane, June Cunningham, Marilyn Beamish and Diana Oliver (Convener).

'Objectives of the Serials Rationalisation Project' and further information are available from Diana Oliver, Sutherland Shire Library, Eton Street, Sutherland (02) 521 0353.



The WA Library Week organising committee: from left to right: David Pike (Secretary), Cecil Florey (Chairman) and Patrick Moore (Treasurer).

Small miscellaneous advertisements are accepted at the rate of \$5 per line, \$15 minimum.

For disposal 'Catalog of Books represented by Library of Congress Printed Cards' Issued to 31 July 1941. 167 volumes. Pageant Books: 1958. Library of Congress and National Union Catalog Author Lists, 1942-1962: A Master Cumulation. 152 volumes. Gale Research Co: 1969. Contact: Smith W. Richardson, University Librarian, Uni of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351, phone (067) 72 2911 ext 2165.

For sale 3M '500' Reader/Printer complete with lenses and coin attachment. For further particulars phone (051) 22 0271.