

Reports from recent meetings of AACOBS and NBC

AUSTRALIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SERVICES

Some of the items discussed at the 28th meeting of AACOBS, held in Canberra on 27 and 28 August are as follows:

Co-ordination of conferences

It was stated that little progress had been made towards the co-ordination of conferences and meetings, evidenced by the clash of LAA22 and IFLA. The Director-General was asked whether the National Library could establish a clearinghouse for this purpose. The LAA had previously been asked whether it could establish such a clearinghouse, however no formal actions have been taken. This is being investigated further.

Working Party on Research and Development

An appeal was made by the Convener of this Working Party for people to report any research they had undertaken to the National Library for inclusion in its research register.

Task Force of Library Statistics

This task force was established in 1978, with Mr D. Borchardt as Convener. The statistics presented comprise the first summary statement on Australian library services at the national level. After scrutiny the statistics will be published. Council resolved that a library census be carried out on a triennial basis.

Working Party on User Needs

A motion to abandon the Working Party was defeated. It was noted that because users were the *raison d'être* for libraries, concern with their needs should be of fundamental concern to the library profession. The meeting resolved that Standing Committee reconsider the reconstitution of a Working Party on user needs, and that thought be given to including someone with expertise outside librarianship.

Restructuring of AACOBS

The meeting resolved that in principle AACOBS adopt a new constitution generally in accordance with the proposals set out in the papers. An addition of concern to the LAA under State and Territory Committees was to add as a member 'President of the State or Territory Branch of the LAA *ex officio*'.

ABN

The Director-General of the National Library outlined the status of ABN as a result of the Federal Budget.

AACOBS and ALIC

The creation of ALIC was taking longer than anticipated. The Council resolved that AACOBS welcome the announcement of the creation of ALIC and that AACOBS offers any assistance it can to ALIC.

Copyright in audiovisual materials

It was pointed out that there should be consistency in submissions by librarians to the Attorney-General's Department. To this end the LAA and AACOBS are to exchange submissions.

Interlibrary lending

Discussion took place on the question of charging for interlibrary loans. The Council decided that Standing Committee continue to consider matters raised and bring forward options for solving the problems identified.

Sales tax

A telex of protest was sent to the Treasurer. The Council also resolved that the Chairman of Standing Committee issue a public statement on behalf of AACOBS.

NATIONAL BOOK COUNCIL

The following are some of the major items discussed at the NBC meeting held in Sydney on 8 October 1981:

Date of Book Week

This discussion was initiated by the NSW Committee who opposed Book Week being held in the second week in October. Reasons include it being too close to Library Week, the fact that most publishing is done in the latter half of the year, that it is pre-empted by other awards, and that the awards could cover the calendar year. There was strong opposition to a change from booksellers and book publishers as they claim a change would severely effect their Christmas sales. A motion was passed to the effect that Book Week stay in October but preferably be moved one week away from Library Week.

Awards for Australian literature

The Australian Society of Authors feel that Australian authors living overseas and Australian authors having books published overseas should be allowed to enter for the awards. The present status is that entries may only be received from books published in Australia and written by Australian residents. The meeting decided to maintain the status quo.

NSW Submission

The New South Wales Committee raised a number of points for discussion relating to the organisation of the NBC. Many of the issues follow similar patterns to those of the LAA, particularly relating to communication, relations between head office and state committees, funding, etc. The Governing Council decided it would be helpful if a meeting of state chairmen could be held before Governing Council meetings.

Membership drive

There was much discussion about whether the NBC should launch a membership drive. General feeling was that the NBC had to be more active so that it can illustrate what a member would get for a subscription. It was decided that the constituent bodies could advertise for members through their newsletters. If this was successful a much wider drive would take place.

Book House

One of the most outstanding achievements has been the establishment of Book House, which is the new national headquarters of the NBC. Much of the negotiating was done by the Chairman and through an \$18,000 grant from the Victorian Government. The house is situated at 199 Cardigan Street, Carlton, close to the city and amid the publishing fraternity. There is room for offices for the NBC, a meeting room, storage, exhibition space, space for book launches. They hope to provide an answering service to bodies that don't have a full-time secretariat. This initiated a move that the NSW Committee should make an approach for similar funds to establish a book house in Sydney.

Sales tax campaign

The NBC was responsible for mounting a very large campaign. A Steering Committee was set up to direct action. The total cost to the NBC was approximately \$2000. There was an appeal to the constituent bodies to donate \$350 towards costs. The work of the NBC was very valuable for the LAA and the two offices were constantly in touch.

At the time of the NBC meeting Cabinet was meeting to discuss sales tax. A telex was sent from the meeting to the Prime Minister urging the Government to think again. Another

telex was sent as a result of a letter opposing the sales tax signed by a number of distinguished Australians including Professor Blainey, Sir Louis Mathieson, Alan Marshall and Sir Mark Oliphant. If we do not succeed the NBC aims to begin more visible and vocal protests--close bookshops for an hour, rallies in city squares, etc. In 1982 we would need to campaign to have the tax repealed.

Book post

This was raised again. A letter from the South Australian Committee was tabled. The approach adopted is to write to all branches of the County Women's Association urging them to begin lobbying for the introduction of a book post. A letter is being sent to the Australian Democrats and Senator Harradine. The meeting also voted that this issue should be brought to the attention of ALIC when formed.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

ILL CHANGES

AACOBS Standing Committee has recommended that the following changes be made to the Standard Interlibrary Loan Form:

Heading for section currently marked 'Details required relating to Copyright Act' will become 'Copying details'.

Suggested procedures will vary accordingly, to read:

'1. Requesting library obtains necessary Request and Declaration. Date of declaration may be noted in box labelled 'Copying details'.

These changes are intended to remove the unintentional implication that insertion on the form of date of copying and date of declaration in a requirement under the Copyright Act. The use of this area is optional, for the convenience of libraries only.

Moore Paragon, who have successfully tendered for production of the forms for the next three years, have agreed to make this change to the forms on stock forms and group orders as soon as practicable.

It should be noted as a practical suggestion that the requesting library should stamp with its name and annotate a photocopy acquired through interlibrary loan, rather than the supplying library. The supplying library would otherwise carry a considerable clerical burden and/or range of stamps.

Confusing situations such as those described in previous letters to *Incite* (no 17 2 October) by Ian Douglas and Beth Stone might also arise.

This suggestion does not conflict with Point 36 of the advisory booklet issued by the Attorney-General's Department in August. This booklet uses the term 'supplying library' to refer to a library supplying to its user rather than a library supplying a copy to another library on interlibrary loan.

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Convener, AACOBS Technical Sub-Committee on Interlibrary Loan

STRIKE CONTINUES

TYPESSETTERS AND PRINTERS IN NSW ARE CONTINUING THEIR SERIES OF ROLLING STRIKES. WE WERE UNABLE TO GET COPY TYPESET FOR THIS ISSUE OF INCITE WHICH WAS RECEIVED AT LAA HEADQUARTERS ON COPY DEADLINE DAY AND THE PREVIOUS DAY.