

For gentlewomen

READERS of this newsletter will remember the comments made by Ifould in 1902 about women in librarianship. (*Incite* no 3.)

The following quotation, on the same subject, has been sent to us by John Cummings, Sydney College of the Arts. He came across it in a copy of *Occupations accessible to women*, Cassell's Household Guide v3, London, 1880?

'The next suggestion is also a valuable one; it is the opening of the situation of librarian to educated gentlewomen, either in public institutions or in private families or rank or wealth. From the reports of the recent Conference of Librarians we learn that the Americans have already set us an example here, and in the Public Library at Boston, US, 70 ladies are employed, a few men only being kept to lift the heaviest books on the high shelves. The ladies appear to have given the utmost satisfaction in this position, to which they appear thoroughly suited.

'The work is such that a lady of good attainments and education could undertake and enjoy. It requires no great physical exertion, no exposure to the weather, and no hardship which the most delicate would shrink from.

'The salaries in this profession are so limited that they are not sufficient for the support of married men with families, nor are they objects of ambition to the single men with any fairer chances in life; but they would nevertheless form a good provision for a single woman, who, upon even this small pittance, might manage, with economy, to keep herself in comfort and as a gentlewoman.'

Service improvement

HAWTHORN CITY LIBRARY, Victoria, has received a special projects grant of \$11,000 from the Public Libraries Division, Library Council of Victoria.

The grant will allow the part-time appointment of an officer who will develop and implement reference techniques to ensure an improved reference service in the area.

Hawthorn Library's application for the grant was made on behalf of the six members of the Reference Librarian's Co-operative Group comprising the public libraries of Hawthorn, Moorabbin, Oakleigh, Nunawading, Heidelberg and Dandenong Valley. The reference librarians from these libraries have met over the last few years to discuss ways of rationalising reference services and stock in order to encourage an overall improvement in the reference services of their libraries.

The group has recently advertised the position and enquiries may be made to Mr A. Barclay, Hawthorn City Library, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, 3122, (03) 819 2444 ext. 241.

THE LAA will move to new premises on 14 April. This is the copy closing date for *Incite* no7 (cover date May 1). If you wish to place any notices, or news of any kind, please send them by 10 April to 35 Clarence St, Sydney.

Our new address will be 473 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills. Telecom has advised that our telephone number will be 698 4100 but please keep calls to a minimum until after the Easter break. We'll be back into full swing on 21 April.

'SCHOLARS' LIBRARY'

AS THE COSTS of labour-intensive book production have risen astronomically over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to produce short print-run scholarly books at a reasonable price. To keep the cost of such reference and scholarly works down as far as possible, University of Queensland Press has begun its 'Scholars' Library'.

All titles in UQP's Scholars' Library will be in the \$26.00 to \$30.00 price range. 'Faced with current inflationary costs on short print runs, these specialist books would under normal costing need to be priced around \$60.00 and sometimes much higher. This understandably cuts out most buyers of scholarly books as libraries and others have limited budgets. And, as markets shrink, so do the print runs. This sets up a spiral which threatens the very existence of scholarly publications,' Mr Frank Thompson, Manager of University of Queensland Press said. 'Rethinking traditional ways of publishing can mean cutting costs in ways which hopefully will not hurt the market, and thus we can continue to publish important research.'

Services to the handicapped — input wanted

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY is planning to publish a new edition of the Directory of Library Services for the Handicapped in Australia. The present edition, entitled *Library Services for the Visually and Physically Handicapped in Australia: a directory*, was published in 1977 and is now out of date.

The new directory will contain current information about organisations providing library services to print handicapped people. The entries will be expanded to include information relating to access, collections for children, foreign language materials, and the types of special services offered by libraries or agencies.

If your library provides a service to handicapped people and you wish to contribute to the new directory, please contact Cliff Law, Chief Librarian, Library Services for the Handicapped, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600, Telephone (062) 621251. A copy of the directory questionnaire will be sent to you.

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