

News from the Divisions

ACQUISITIONS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The special interest group began with a notice from Carol Mills of the Canberra CAE in *Quidnunc* in 1977. In Carol's own words in a very early informal newsletter, the group was envisaged as 'a self-starting affair with no specific leadership function attached to any one person.' It was seen as a way of ensuring, for example, that any librarian who suspected the financial viability of any subscription agents could warn colleagues informally without risk of libel actions! It was also seen as a mechanism for resolving specific problems such as persuading University Microfilms to ship our orders for theses from Ann Arbor rather than via the United Kingdom.

As with all good ideas, this one has gone beyond its original intentions and the informal group is now an official special interest group of the LAA. The national executive of the group is drawn from a different city every two years and for the 1981-1982 period is based in Melbourne. There is also an active local group in Canberra. Members of the 1981-1982 national committee are:

Convener: Pam Trier, Senior Orders Librarian, La Trobe University. (03) 479.2931.

Secretary: Bill Cations, Deputy Chief Librarian, Melbourne State College, 757 Swanston Street, Carlton, Vic 3053. (03) 341.8567.

Treasurer: Merna Mattson, Acquisitions Librarian, Swinburne Institute of Technology.

Editor of Newsletter: Sylvia Ransom, Collection Development Librarian, Melbourne State College.

Committee Members: John Binnion, Librarian, Eastern Regional Libraries. Elizabeth Carvosso, Ebsco Subscriptions Services Representative. George Eichinski, Systems and Technical Services Librarian, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

The committee endeavours to organise relevant acquisitions sessions at each LAA Biennial Conference and to plan at least one national acquisitions seminar in non-conference years.

In 1981 the committee assisted the Victorian Branch of the LAA with the National Seminar on Approval Plans and Blanket Orders. This year the committee has organised an acquisitions Special Study session on Selection Policies for LAA 22. Representatives of various libraries will describe their selection policies, relating them to the National Library's recently published selection policy.

The objectives of the special interest group are:

1. To provide a forum for LAA members who have an interest in acquisitions and/or collection development work.
2. To liaise with the book trade for our members.
3. To participate in the development of selection policies within a national framework.
4. To assist LAA members in the development of acquisitions systems.

The special interest group is represented on the Joint Standing Committee for the

Book Trade by Pam Trier our convenor. This committee comprises representatives of the LAA, the Australian Book Publishers' Association and the Australian Booksellers' Association and provides a forum for the discussion of matters of common interest to the three associations.

Bill Cations

NSW BRANCH

New South Wales Branch has updated 'So You Want to Work in Libraries: education for Librarianship in NSW and the ACT'. This useful publication, aimed at supplementing the LAA Handbook and career pamphlets, contains brief comments on aspects of the various Awards applying in Public, University, Special and School Libraries in addition to summaries of both recognised and other courses. The 'Roles of Librarians and Library Technicians', the Board of Education's draft statement no3 on 'Education for Library and Information Science' is included in the Appendix.

Copies have been distributed to metropolitan Public, University and CAE Libraries and all LAA groups. Distribution to country Public Libraries will be through the Public Libraries Division within the next six weeks.

Single copies are available from the LAA Head Office or from the Branch Secretary. Up to 20 copies from Diana Oliver, Sutherland Shire Library, Eton Street, Sutherland 2232 while stocks last. For large orders, a master is available from Diana.

NSW Branch Council

At its third meeting for 1982 on Wednesday 14 April, Branch Council discussed various items from the agenda of the General Council meeting including proposals for the 1988 Conference.

The Branch also decided to hold a meeting in Newcastle on 23 October in lieu of the normally scheduled October Branch meeting.

The next Branch Council meeting will be held on 12 May in the Conference Room, Fisher Library at 6.00 pm. Observers are welcome.

INFORMATION SCIENCE SECTION (WA GROUP)

A joint meeting of the On-Line Users' Group and the ISS (WA Group) on 8 March, was treated to some lively discussion of controversial issues at the instigation of members of the Association of Database Producers (ADP) trade mission.

The trade mission, representing some 7 members of the Association, was on the first stop of a whirlwind tour of Australia and New Zealand. Official activities of the group included a half-day forum and training sessions in some of the databases represented by the members. In addition, most of the members attended the joint ISS and OLUG meeting.

Led by Graham Lea, Chairman of ADP, the group introduced such heretical topics as: disbanding libraries and giving the contents to the users; charging for services; increasing the costs of on-line searching by 500 percent; and more. And between times, if you were attentive, you could hear references to: videotex developments; the use of electronic mail for the transmission of ILL and photocopy requests to the British Library; the ADONIS project; and others.

The meeting was fortunate in having a representative from OTC (Sydney) attend at very short notice to describe how Australian users can access databases in Europe and the UK.

Louise Jones

WA BRANCH

Where we're going and what we're doing:

The strength of the WA Branch is in its sections and special interest groups, the most active being School Libraries, Information Science, Cataloguers, and Special Libraries Sections.

Special Libraries Section

A national conference is being organised in September, 1983 by the Special Libraries Section. To be held in Perth, it will concentrate on the theme of effective cooperation among special libraries, including the management considerations of cooperation.

Cataloguers Section

The LAA National Cataloguing Conference held in Perth in August 1981 was attended by approximately 200 people. Reports were published in ROD News and AARL. The Cataloguers Section is at present involved in several activities: an active WA Group on Subject Headings is providing continuous input to FLASH; ABN Cataloguing Standards; Online catalogues; Subject access to collections.

School Libraries Section

This Section is one of the most active in WA. It has become the only body catering for the professional interests of librarians in both government and non-government schools. It should be added that the Section also serves non-professionals in an equally committed manner. Due to the fragmentation of other bodies the Section is involved in more than just 'school libraries'. It also works closely in cooperation with the Childrens and Public Libraries Section.

The Section has been instrumental in the integration of computers into the education system and regularly holds 'School Libraries and computers' seminars.

The President of the Section pointed out that at training institutions for librarians or teacher librarians in WA - there is provision only for training librarians for secondary schools and none for primary schools.

UCLS

After a relatively quiet year in 1981 the UCLS group is organising a program of activities and meetings for 1982, which will include considerations of 'closing catalogues', viz, moving from one medium to another and the current issues of staffing costs and services, and staff motivation.

The challenge of library technology. Mistress/master or servant?

Voice your opinion in Adelaide at LAA - 22.

NEWS FROM MILDURA

People who work in libraries in the greater Mildura area (Sunraysia) have been meeting on an informal basis for the past couple of months as a result of the efforts of Regional Librarian Bruce Turner.

At the meeting in March there were representatives of library staff from schools (both Vic and NSW), TAFE, CSIRO, Public Libraries and Clubs, as well as representatives from the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

A second meeting was held at Mildura Technical School on 15 April, attended by about 35 people.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 24 May at the CSIRO Division of Plant Research at Merbein, near Mildura.

Anyone interested in the Group or who would like to attend meetings should contact Bruce Turner, Leonie Jaensch or Leanne McEwan on (050) 235 011.