

LAA FEES: to pay...

BY THE TIME THIS ISSUE of *Incite* darkens most desks, the first month of 1982 will have passed. To many in libraries this means quiet times with a chance to catch up on stocktakes, reading, planning and for the lucky ones – a well earned holiday.

The office of the Library Association of Australia presents a remarkable contrast – all staff on deck to implement plans for a prosperous year (hopefully) – preparation of the *Handbook*, lists of office bearers and, of paramount importance, the processing of a flood of canary yellow membership renewal forms.

In fact it is the receipt of these forms accompanied by appropriate payments that assures the future of the LAA. I would very much like to see in excess of 6,500 membership renewal forms pass through the office this year.

We closed 1981 with a financial membership of 6,570, a decline of 444 members from the preceding year. I very much doubt whether the Association can carry a comparable decline in 1982 and survive!

Perhaps that is being a little too pessimistic, however it doesn't overexaggerate the problem. Within seconds of reading this, a nasty four lettered word flashes into most minds – FEES!

I generally promise to myself that I will not mention the word fees as someone else is sure to. However, at this time of the year I believe it is my duty to offer some explanation of the fees you pay and where they go.

There are probably few people who won't agree that LAA fees are high and I am no exception, nor are our General Councillors who ultimately endorse the level of fees payable. The major difference is that those of us who manage LAA dollars and cents are very aware of increases in costs in almost all LAA expenditure items – salaries, printing, stationery, air fares to mention some of the major components.

It is very quickly forgotten that in 1981 all librarians under APS related salaries had increases totalling between 16-20 percent.

The base grade salary for a librarian is

approximately \$14,800. The LAA fee of \$88 is .58 percent of this total salary. Is this too high a price to pay for the future of the profession?

Our problem of membership retention and high fees is not unique – it besets our counterparts in the UK, New Zealand and Canada as well as other professional associations.

I will not dwell here on what the LAA does for you – the fortnightly appearance of *Incite* contains coverage of most activities. Instead a few facts and figures might clarify the picture a little.

In 1980 it cost \$80.92 to service one member of the Association. Allowing for inflation this would be very close to \$90 in 1981. A breakdown of these figures appears in the last column.

Fees of less than \$90 were paid by 4510 members of the LAA (that is, 68.64 percent). When we face reality the only way the LAA continues to exist is that one third of the membership very heavily subsidises the remaining two thirds.

This situation is an absurdity when the benefits of an increased membership would accrue to all, through economies of scale. It would take no more staff to service 7,000 members than 6,500 and if we get more than 7,000 members we can afford more staff!

Without labouring the point, there is one last fact of importance – your LAA subscription is tax deductible. A table has been drawn up as a guide to the level of deduction receivable. This significantly reduces the real cost of LAA fees and in fact creates a few anomalies.

You may well say, 'Lies, damned lies and statistics', however there is a difference between the real world of high fees and the world where people want something for nothing.

There is 'no free lunch' and no free LAA service. We are counting on your support and, better still, beg a friend to join – that is the only chance fees will remain steady.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

Where your LAA fees go

In 1980 the cost of servicing one member of the LAA was \$80.92 distributed as follows:

	\$
Salaries and associated expenses	21.90
Administrative/membership (including printing, stationery, postage, telephone, computer, etc.)	17.33
<i>Australian Library Journal/Incite</i>	15.04
Divisions (including allocations, special grants, travelling, meeting expenses).....	10.59
Continuing education (workshops).....	1.61
Publications	2.78
Meeting expenses (including General Council, Executive, etc.)	8.24
Examiners' fees	0.65
Subscriptions and donations	0.99
Surplus (to purchase capital items).....	1.79
	<u>\$80.92</u>

*1981 figures are not yet final, however allowing for inflation, in 1981 the cost of servicing one member was approximately \$90.00.

The 'REAL' cost of LAA subs.

MANY MEMBERS AND non-members of the LAA do not realise that their membership fees may be claimed as a tax deduction.

The deduction for fees to a professional association is determined in the light of Section 51(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936, which authorises the deduction of expenditure, not of a private, domestic or capital nature, incurred by a taxpayer in gaining or producing his/her assessable income.

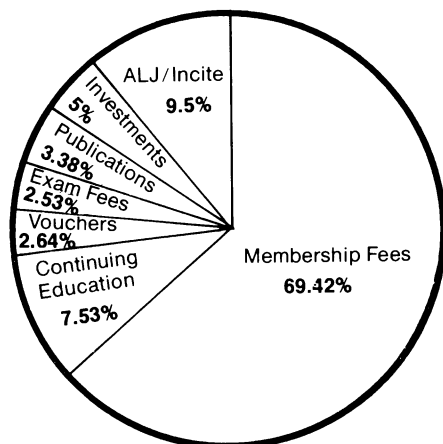
The general requirement for the application of the section is that there should be a positive relationship between the incurring of the expense and the production of assessable income from a profession or employment. However in applying these tests the Commissioner of Taxation pays regard to the particular circumstances of the individual concerned.

In this context it is accepted as a general principle that a taxpayer engaged in a professional or skilled occupation is entitled to an income tax deduction in respect of expenditure which he/she incurs for the purpose of maintaining or increasing his/her knowledge or ability in that particular profession or occupation.

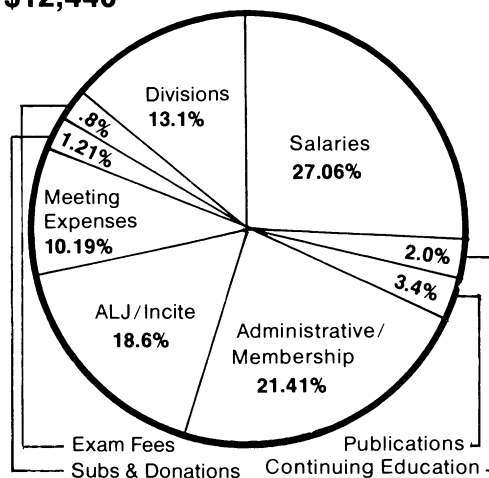
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LAA Income and Expenditure 1980

Income
\$567,610



Expenditure
\$555,170
Surplus
\$12,440



LAA subs — continued from page 2

This also applies to expenses incurred through attending an Association conference.

The Commissioner of Taxation will not confirm that any particular member of the Association who attends a conference will be entitled to a deduction for expenditure incurred. In each case it needs to be established that there is a connection in a real and positive sense, between the occasion for the expenditure and the derivation of the taxpayer's assessable income from his/her particular employment.

In the case of deduction for attendance at

a conference each member should support his/her claim for a deduction with a statement detailing the purpose of participation and setting out under appropriate headings the nature and amount of expenditure incurred.

Members are advised to retain receipts for any relevant expenditure incurred.

The table below outlines the approximate deduction you may receive on a set level of income. Beware though, anyone who has income from other sources must take this into account.

Salary	LAA Fee	Deduction	Real cost
Not more than \$4195 no tax payable			
Members employed	\$43	0	\$43.00
Students	\$23	0	\$23.00
Not employed			
7,500	\$43	\$13.76	\$29.24
10,000	\$54	\$17.28	\$36.72
12,500	\$70	\$22.40	\$47.60
15,000	\$88	\$28.16	\$59.84
17,500	\$105	\$33.60	\$71.40
Tax rate changes at 17,895			
17,895	\$105	\$48.30	\$56.70
20,000	\$123	\$56.58	\$66.42
25,000	\$140	\$64.40	\$75.60
30,000	\$157	\$72.22	\$84.78
Tax rate changes at 35,789			
35,789	\$175	\$105.00	\$70.00
40,000	\$175	\$105.00	\$70.00

continued from page 1

At present the ratio of reference stock ranges from 0.17 per head of total population in the Northern Territory to 0.5 in South Australia. The average of all States is 0.31. (Source: AACOBS).

Western Australia's current figure is 0.34: having risen gradually, but very slowly, from 0.31 in 1969.

In adopting the figure of 0.5 volumes per head of population, the Library Board of Western Australia acknowledged the necessity of a substantial improvement over the nationwide average of 0.31.

Western Australia's remoteness from the other centres of population and therefore from other large libraries means a slow inter-library loan and photocopy service.

In 1980-81 it took an average of 31 days for the State Bibliographical Centre to get books on inter-library loan for State Reference Library readers and an average of 37.8 to get a photocopy of a journal article from other libraries.

Annie Macnab
Library Board of WA

Tasmanian film library saved

TASMANIA IS TO KEEP its State Film Library (see *Incite* no15, 4 Sept. 1982, p2 'Tasmanian film library closes'.)

The Minister in charge of administering library services, Terry Aulich, has persuaded Cabinet to modify a decision made last year on a recommendation of the razor gang committee to close the film library.

'The State Library's collection of films is unique and substantial,' Mr Aulich said.

'We were going to sell some and donate the rest to other state library systems. However, close examination of holdings in the film library has revealed a great cultural heritage, acquired over more than 30 years by the State Library. This should not be lost forever to the State.'

Originally, it was thought that the State Film Library's functions could be absorbed by the Education Department's Media Centre, but this has proved to be impractical,' Mr Aulich said.

Cabinet's modified decision has been made due to anticipated savings in the Hobart Lending Library when computerised borrowing procedures will be introduced in March.

State Librarian, Laurie Brown, welcomed the decision: 'These savings will mean that in retaining the film library it will not cost the taxpayer any more this financial year. While there is simply no money available to buy new films, we will soon acquire over 1000 films, formerly held by the Mount Nelson campus of the College of Advanced Education.'

Mr Aulich said that pensioner groups and other charitable organisations, together with other groups and individuals, can continue to borrow films as they have in the past. 'Pensioner groups and charitable organisations will be entitled to low hiring fees, but more realistic charges will be made to others who can afford it,' Mr Aulich said.

Decisions about revised charges will be announced early in the New Year by the Tasmanian Library Board.

David Hinley
State Library of Tasmania

Publications Board Report

THE PUBLICATIONS BOARD was established as a Board of the General Council of the Association in 1980.

Members elected to the Board were Russell Doust, John Cummings, Neil Radford, Carmel Maguire and Margaret Hamilton. Margaret Hamilton has since resigned and General Council appointed Janet Robinson to fill the vacancy. The President, Executive Director, Editor, *AustLibJ* and Publications Officer are also members.

The Board held its first meeting on 25 February and has met a total of six times.

Russell Doust was elected Chairman for a period of one year and at its last meeting the Board elected Mr Doust as Chairman until the end of 1982.

During the year the Board spent considerable time commissioning new works, and formulating policies for the Association's publications. The present status of future publications is as follows:

1. *Librarians Handbook* Edited/compiled by David Jones. This will be a three volume work with the first two being published in time for the Adelaide Conference. The first volume will consist of standards, statements of policy, ILL codes, recommendations of reports, major library related reports, extracts from submissions. Volume 2: Legislation (Acts reprinted) Volume 3: Directory of organisations, glossary and statistics.

2. *Australian Reference Sources* Miss Wilma Radford is compiling this. Most of the copy has been received and publication is expected in the first half of 1982.
3. *FLASH - First Edition List of Australian Subject Headings* This is a joint Cataloguers Section/Publications Board venture. All copy has been typeset and proof reading done. It is hoped *FLASH* will be published early in 1982.
4. *Coypright Kit* Published in September, the Kit sold well, and is being reprinted.
5. *Academic Librarianship* A monograph has been commissioned with Derek Fielding as editor/compiler. To be published in 1982.
6. *Public Librarianship* A monograph has been commissioned with Gael Fraser as editor/compiler. To be published in 1982.
7. *Reference Librarianship* The Board felt that the publication of such a monograph is desirable. An editor/compiler to be commissioned. All monographs are to be published in series format.
8. *Readings in School Librarianship* Being compiled by John Cook. To be published by May 1982.
9. *Index to Art in Australia* The Board is monitoring the joint publication with the Sydney College of the Arts of an *Index to Art in Australia*. Possible publication early in 1983.

continued on page 5