

News from the Divisions

NSW BRANCH COUNCIL

M. Trask's article 'Professional Practice – whose responsibility' in *ALJ*, Feb 1983 was discussed at length at the Branch Council meeting of 16 March. The Branch generally felt that responsibility for continuing professional development lies with the individual through professional associations and library schools. But it wondered whether the voluntary approach was enough. The value of 'brownie points' and the concept of mentoring were also discussed.

At the same meeting, great concern was expressed about the recommendation to hold an IFLA Conference in Sydney in 1988. The Branch was particularly anxious about how such a conference would be financed although it recognised that it would be an exciting occasion for Australian libraries.

This issue was raised again at the AGM of the NSW Branch on the following evening and that meeting overwhelmingly passed a motion requesting that the decision on IFLA in 1988 be delayed until the membership at large could consider the financial and administrative implications. A telegram conveying this motion was sent to the General Council Meeting on 18 March.

After considerable debate by General Council and in the light of the revised budgetary figures and further detailed information provided by Margaret Wijnstroom, the Secretary-General of IFLA, a decision to confirm the invitation to IFLA for 1988 was made.

Frances Lemmes

NSW BRANCH

The Annual General meeting of the New South Wales Branch was held in the Galleries, State Library of New South Wales on March 17, 1982.

Members were delighted to welcome back as guest speaker, a former President of the Branch, Warren Horton, now State Librarian of Victoria.

Warren spoke not as Vice-President and President elect of the LAA, but in his capacity as State Librarian. He spoke of the role of the State Librarian in relationship to Government and the need for this relationship to be an active, consultative one in order to create an arena in which mutual problems can be discussed constructively.

A highly successful management review had been conducted in the Library by the Public Service Board which had resulted in a restructuring of staff.

A new state plan for public libraries is being formulated. The Victorian Government supports ALIC and is moving towards a state information policy. Victoria has a Freedom of Information Act which is in advance of the Federal Act. It is also anticipated that a new State Library Building will actually happen. In Victoria Caval has become a significant forum for discussion among all types of libraries, this can be seen as another body which can assist government in understanding the important aspects of librarians as information managers.

These comments, among others, indicated to us in New South Wales that all was well in Victoria.

Marea Terry

NSW ONLINE-USERS' GROUP

The group's first meeting for 1983 was held at the offices of I.P. Sharp Associates, Sydney. The Data-base Manager, Phil Dolan gave 33 members present a most informative talk, complete with video and on-line demonstration.

This Toronto-based company operates world-wide and, in addition to individually tailoring software programmes for special applications, has more than 90 public data bases which concentrate on the areas of aviation, economics, energy, finance and actuarial data. Some of these are international in scope (eg. OECD data base), others relate to one country (eg. COMERT 1 – Australian Financial Data Base). Most contain historical, numeric data in time series form. This means that it is possible to examine a set of observations in relation to a particular time interval. Some series date back to 1914, most begin in the 1960s and 1970s.

Material may be accessed via MAGIC, and APL based language which employs English-like commands. I.P. Sharp data bases are available 7 days per week, almost 24 hours per day. Charges are made on a time-sharing basis, ie. there are no subscription fees and connect time charges are negligible. Instead, charges are based on the number of characters of information sent and received, (70c per 1,000 characters) plus amount of processing used (45c per CPU unit).

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION TASMANIA

The Tasmanian Association for Library Technicians (TALT) will be hosting the 2nd National Library Technician Conference in Hobart, on August 19 and 20. The venue will be Wrest Point Federal Casino – Conference Complex. Accommodation has been provided at special rates, so bring your husband, family, friends, etc.

Speakers who have so far agreed to attend the conference include Pat Scott (on children's literature); Ian Barton (on computers and technicians); Pat Durrant (on technicians in special libraries and W.L. Brown, State Librarian for Tasmania. The Tasmanian Minister for Education and the Arts, Max Bingham will be opening the conference. Check Happenings for further details about speakers and topics.

A brochure on the conference is now available, so please see your local representatives for details, or contact: Mrs Maxine Edmonds PO Box 1075L Hobart, Tasmania 7001.

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Information Science in Victoria?

It is over two years since the Information Science section operated effectively in Victoria. A small group of members believe that there is an unmet need and have formed an interim committee to gauge the demand and to plan a modest programme of activities for 1983 if there is some interest.

Comments and suggestions, positive or negative, are required to guide the committee – all those Victorian branch members who have said that they are interested in the Information Science section on the LAA membership form –176 of you in 1982) here is your chance to get better value out of your professional association.

Ring or write to Ray Price, Engineering Branch Library, University of Melbourne, Phone (03) 341 6656.

UCLS NATIONAL GROUP

The committee is encouraged by the response received from preliminary advertising for the Collection Development mini-conference. The topics will encompass formulation of collection development policies, de-deletion, collection adequacy and evaluation.

Plans for the mini-conference are in progress but the original dates are no longer possible.

It is anticipated that the mini-conference will be held in November 1983. Keep watching Happenings for further details and keep early November free in your diaries.

The Library Workforce: Proceedings of a National Conference held in Melbourne 22-24 NOVEMBER, 1982

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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Nominations for Fellowships

The General Council of the Library Association of Australia may confer the distinction of Fellowship of the Association on a professional member who has made a distinguished contribution to the theory or practice of librarianship.

Nominations for Fellowship may be submitted to the Board of Examiners at any time by professional members or Divisions of the Association. They should be supported by details of qualifications such as higher degrees in librarianship or archives, authorship of publications, conduct of research or responsibility for developments in any fields of librarianship or archives.

Nomination forms and model nominations are available from the LAA office, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. Members should note that any recommendations for Fellowships must be made in confidence.