

General Council Report

THE FIRST MEETING of General Council for 1983 was held in LAA House on the 18 and 19 March, and was excellently chaired by the President, Barrie Mitcheson. All Councillors were well prepared for the meeting with discussion on all items reaching a very high standard. The President welcomed in particular Branch Presidents and the Secretary-General of IFLA, Ms. Margaret Wijnstroom. A number of Sections were also represented.

The major items discussed are summarised below. Any member who requires further information may contact their General Councillor.

Library workforce and manpower study

The national library workforce conference held in November 1982 made a number of recommendations to Council, including proposals that a library workforce standing committee and a short-term committee on the status of women in librarianship be established. The proposal for a library workforce standing committee was supported by a number of divisions, although some felt that its proposed brief covered areas more appropriate to the Board of Education or the Industrial Information Officer.

At its November 1982 meeting, Council established a short-term committee to consider the status of women in librarianship, and asked the committee to examine whether there was a need for a longer term investigation of this and related issues. The committee convened by Barry McIntyre recommended that Council, among other things, establish a standing committee on the status of women in librarianship, and form a special interest group.

Council did not support the establishment of this standing committee, believing that a library workforce committee would consider such issues as the status of women in the profession.

It was resolved that a Library Workforce Standing Committee be established with the following terms of reference:

- (i) regularly monitor the supply and demand for librarians and technicians in Australia;
- (ii) provide advice to General Council

on areas of concern, e.g. particular shortages of professional, or para-professional skills;

- (iii) recommend appropriate action by the LAA as a national body to those institutions responsible for educating and employing library staff;
- (iv) promote the relevance of librarianship skills to the labour market;
- (v) investigate and publicise employment opportunities for librarians in non-institutional environments;
- (vi) report annually to General Council on its activities.

The members of the Committee are Maxine Rochester, Roy Stall, Judith Hill, the President (ex officio), a nominee of the Board of Education, the Executive Director (secretary). [The Executive Committee is meeting on 2 May.] Council requested that the Library Workforce Standing Committee include in its considerations the status of women in librarianship.

Following publication of the Manpower Study (Library and Information Work), Council appointed a working party to make recommendations to Council on possible action in relation to the predicted oversupply of library and information workers. A report containing recommendations on a wide range of issues was discussed at length by Council. It was resolved that the report be referred to the Library Workforce Standing Committee and the Board of Education for consideration.

General Council resolved to approve the formation of a Special Interest Group on the status of women in librarianship.

Objectives for 1983/84

General Council approved a programme of objectives for the LAA in 1983/84. This has been circulated to all divisions for action and information.

Organisational structure of the LAA

It has been suggested from time to time that the organisational structure of the Association should be reviewed. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee.

As a first step the Executive Director has prepared a paper on the stall of Sections and

Sectional Groups, which has been referred for comment to Sections in the first instance, then Sectional Groups and Branches. A further paper on the effectiveness of the present structure of the LAA is being prepared by the Executive Director.

National information policy

A meeting of representatives of the LAA, AACOBS, the Australian Computer Society, and the Institution of Radio and Electronics Engineers was held in November 1982 to discuss the desirability of formulating a national information policy. The meeting agreed that a national information development plan was essential and that a document to influence government, employer and employee groups was needed. A draft document on issues to be considered is being prepared.

By-law relating to the AGM

General Council reaffirmed resolution GC 294/82 relating to the role of the AGM. This appeared in full in *InCite* Vol. 4, No. 1, 28 January 1983.

Legal responsibility of librarians

Council resolved to establish a working party to examine the wider implications relating to the legal responsibility of librarians in the giving of information, with a view to formulating appropriate policies and guidelines. The Continuing Education Officer is to organise technical briefings on the subject.

Information scientists and the LAA

Council has, for some time, been considering ways of encouraging information scientists to become more involved in the Association's activities.

A suggestion has been made that the LAA contemplate admitting information scientists as professional members. Two papers, for and against this proposal, are being prepared for discussion by Council.

Work level standards for librarians and library technicians

General Council has established a working party to draw up work level standards for librarians and library technicians. Members are Ted Flowers (Convener), Ian Miller,

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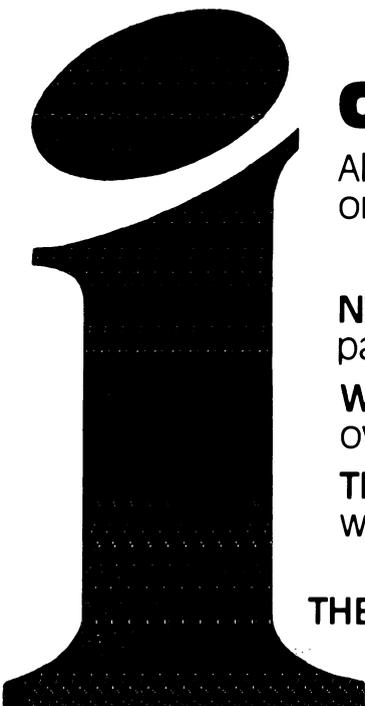
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Anne Brinson, Judith Hill, Frances Thorne and Wesley Young. A report will be made to the November meeting of Council.

Divisions

Council approved the formation of a North West Regional Group to be situated in the north west of Western Australia. Due to lack of support and interest, Council disbanded with regret the Library Technicians Section, Queensland Group.

Committee reports

Brief reports on activities were received from the following committees:

- AACOBS/LAA Committee on Information Technology.
- Standing Committee on By-laws and Regulations.
- Australian Committee on Cataloguing.
- AGPS Liaison Committee.
- Sub-Committee on Systematic Copying.
- Committee on Professional Issues.

LAA/NZLA 1984 Conference

Planning for this conference to be held in Brisbane from the 27-31 August 1984 is going ahead. Council resolved that six overseas speakers be invited to attend the conference.

IFLA 1988

At its last meeting General Council approved funds for a study of the feasibility and costs of the LAA hosting the 1988 Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Ms Margreet Wijnstroom, Secretary-General of IFLA, was present for discussion on this item.

Concern was expressed at the financial implications of such an undertaking. However, many Councillors pointed out that assistance and support would be available from many sectors of the Association and that 1988 was a most suitable time to promote international co-operation and to welcome visitors to Australia. A letter of support for the Conference by the Director-General of the National Library was tabled.

Council resolved to confirm its invitation to IFLA to hold its 1988 Conference in Australia. The LAA Biennial Conference will precede the IFLA Conference.

1983 Annual General Meeting

The 1983 AGM is to be held in Melbourne on Thursday, 15 September. Notices of the meeting, including a call for motions to be considered, will appear in *InCite* No. 9 (27 May). Motions will be published in *InCite* No. 15 (26 August).

The next meeting of General Council is to be held in Melbourne on the 22 and 23 July. This will be preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 21st and a seminar for Branch Treasurers and any other Division Treasurers who are able to attend on the 20 July. The agenda deadline for items for Council is the 20 June.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

BIOSIS campaign

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY and Biosciences Information Service launched a concerted campaign in April to stimulate use of the BIOSIS Previews database on the Library's MEDLINE Network.

The main elements in the campaign are a series of BIOSIS courses and seminars for librarians and biologists which will be held in the major mainland capitals by Edith Crockett of BIOSIS and a royalty-free period during May and June 1983. During this period, the Library will not levy charges for online access and offline processing on the database by the 176 existing organisational members of its MEDLINE Network. Access to the database will also be offered at discounted rates between July and December.

The Library's Director-General, Harrison Bryan said:

The technical excellence of the BIOSIS database is recognised worldwide. At a time when biological research, particularly in biotechnology, is making unprecedented advances, we regard it as a matter of public importance that we maximise the use of this key information resource. The Library, the Department of Health and Biosciences Information Service have together made a substantial investment in the Australian BIOSIS service over many years. We have demonstrated our commitment to the service and it is very much up to the library profession to promote its use.

SPECIAL SERVICE TO MEMBERS

To assist LAA members seeking employment, it is proposed to start a Positions Wanted column in *InCite*.

A special rate has been worked out - for \$15 a notice of 50 words will be carried in two consecutive issues. Additional words may be added at the rate of \$3 for each additional 15 words.

In order to be able to offer this special rate for LAA members, it is essential that these advertisements be pre-paid.

Please address clearly typed or written notices to the Assistant Publications Officer, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007, enclosing payment.

Notices will be placed in the forthcoming two issues of *InCite* unless otherwise specified.

InCite No 9 closing date is May 10, and No 10 closes on May 24. Cards listing closing dates for all 1983 issues are available from this office.

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