

Information personnel wanted!

A NEWLY FORMED Information Management and Consulting Group is looking for more members. Formed six months ago, the Information Management and Consulting Group meets for the fifth time in June. Membership is national with meetings usually held in Melbourne. The next meeting of IMCG is 14 June 1983. AIM (Australian Institute of Management) will be participating.

Original impetus for the Information and Consulting Group sprang from independent information or library personnel within librarianship. Application to become an LAA Special Interest Group is under way. The Information Management and Consulting Group sees its main objective as bringing together skilled professionals involved in information work on consulting or contract terms.

The founders of the group, Helen Campbell and Sue Hill, say that the freelancers, consultants and information brokers already in the group value it as a vehicle for strengthening and marketing their skills; there is no doubt this is the sunrise industry for entrepreneurs with such information skills.

A directory of professionals available for information management/consultancy, broking, freelancing or contract information projects will be published in 1983. Directory entries will be accepted until July 1983. Target audience for the directory of information professionals will be private and public sector, industry, schools, or any organisation with a vacant or unmet information-handling need.

If managing, consulting, freelancing or broking is your style of information work, then the Information Management and Consulting Group will interest you. Of course, you will also want to be included in their directory. For further information, contact the Information Management and Consulting Group, GPO Box 5138AA, Melbourne, 3001., or Helen Campbell (03) 211 1671 and Sue Hill (03) 615 1551.

News from the Divisions

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION WA GROUP

Formal and informal approaches were offered as examples at our SDI and Current Awareness Services meeting held on May 3 1983.

Nerida Lombardy and Bernadette Waugh, librarians for consultant engineers and architects respectively, gave the forty people present valuable insight into the information demands of their users, and how they as librarians were best able to meet these demands in a busy and short working schedule.

Jill Maughan, Librarian at the Department of Agriculture, impressed us with a more formal approach to SDI and many of those present took cues from her Library's developed manual system.

Carol Goad described the State Reference Library's current awareness service SAS; its aims, hopes and methodologies.

Each speaker was confronted with various questions from the floor — a good indication of the interest that they had aroused. We thank them sincerely for their time and efforts and valuable contribution to a successful meeting.

Kerry Smith
Publicity Officer

NATIONAL INTERLENDING CONFERENCE

Because of the delayed mailing of the National Interlending Conference registration forms, the date of registration has been extended until July 22.

UCLS QLD. GROUP

'Computer-Assisted Learning: Implications for Libraries' was the topic of the group's second meeting for 1983.

Marjorie Roe, Library Audio-Visual Officer at the University of Queensland, spoke from her experience and understanding of Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) Programs and their role in libraries.

Programs are particularly oriented to the classroom and in many cases the teaching department is the depository for these resources. Claims of departments are more persuasive and many librarians are not adequately informed about CAL to decide on its value in libraries.

The location of these resources in libraries would allow wider access and offer students the opportunity of using materials beyond class hours. Location in libraries would encourage students to seek alternate library information resources to supplement CAL. There are no bibliographic tools or selection aids for CAL programs, and the arrangement of previews is often unlikely to include foreign programs. The choice of purchases should be a curriculum rather than a library decision.

Special requirements are involved in providing CAL programs in libraries. Hardware requires air conditioned premises, the provision of special rooms, staff ability to assist in troubleshooting, and the necessity to monitor use.

Further insight into the topic was provided by Geoff Foster from the University of Queensland's Tertiary Education Institute (TEI). The computer has certain capabilities appropriate to teaching and learning; it is a patient teacher, available at any hour and able to work out complex rules quickly and reliably.

CAL programs afford the opportunity of simulation which allows the student to practice in safety. This capacity was reinforced by the demonstration of an agricultural economics simulation program.

Computer-aided instruction and its place in libraries should not be overlooked by librarians. Its current use is on a small scale but if librarians capitalise on these resources, the future of the library is also ensured.

Philip Kent

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