

TIP-OFF

News from the Executive Director

ONE OF THE most difficult things to achieve by an organisation whose concerns win few votes, is the attention of politicians and government authorities. Lobbying is high on the list of objectives for 1983 to ensure that the slow progress made in the past in this area is built upon.

The LAA recently achieved good coverage in the *Australasian Computerworld* following our submission to the IAC hearing into the Australian computer industry:

MELBOURNE – Gimme, gimme, gimme was, by and large, the theme of the first 25 submissions to the Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) hearing into the Australian computer industry in Melbourne last week.

There were only two submissions of a slightly more altruistic nature – from the Library Association of Australia and, interestingly, from the Australian Computer Equipment Suppliers' Association (ACESA).

The former made several 'requests' (as they are termed by the IAC) relating to the encouragement of Australian manufacture while requesting that computer-based library systems and audio tapes should be duty free. (1)

A more detailed outline of the submission presented by the LAA received coverage later in the publication.

On Thursday, 16 June the President and Executive Director met with Mr Barry Jones, Minister for Science and Technology, for a sixty-minute discussion on a number of topics.

One of the most important subjects raised was that of national information policy. The Minister is hoping to raise this matter in the Budget session of Parliament. In response to this opportunity to present our views or even optimistically set the stage, the Executive Committee of the LAA has asked the

Past President and General Secretary to prepare a paper for submission to Mr Jones.

National information policy has long been of concern to the Association and earlier this year we met with AACOBS, the Australian Computer Society (ACS) and the Institution of Radio and Electronics Engineers (IREE) to discuss a common course of action to be pursued. If the Minister raises the issue in the Budget session the time will be ripe for the library and information profession's concerns for Australia to have a *national* information policy to come to the fore.

There has been fairly scant attention in the media to an announcement that a National Summit on Technology is to be held. Again, this issue was raised with the Minister and our interest in participating registered. The Summit is to be held 26-28 September and will involve in particular academics, professional associations, and other members of the 'intellectual infrastructure'.

Information Technology Week is included in Mr Jones' portfolio. Of interest to the LAA has been the proposal put forward by Mr Ashley Goldsworthy (President, ACS) for an Information Technology Year. When the proposal was put to the previous government it was hoped that this would be held in 1984. The Minister is considering an Information Technology Month in 1984; an extension of this to an International Technology Year would depend on its success.

While not specifically in the Science and Technology portfolio, a number of other issues were raised with the Minister, including the domestic satellite, cable TV, the sub-

mission being presented to the Prime Minister requesting the formation of an Australian Federal Libraries Council, and the general level of funding to libraries.

The meeting was certainly worthwhile, resulting in a number of initiatives to be pursued by the Association. The President and Executive Director are continuing their round of appointments by meeting with the Ministers for Communications, Education, and Home Affairs in the near future.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

1. *Australasian Computerworld*, v 5 n 42, 22/4/83.

CONFERENCE NEWS



Profile on Patricia Battin



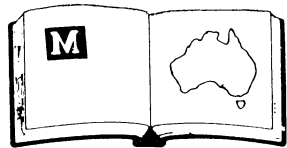
Patricia Battin, one of the six overseas guest speakers at next year's LAA-NZLA Conference in Brisbane, has the distinction of being the first woman to be appointed Vice-President of Columbia University, New York, a position she has held since 1978. She is also University Librarian.

Despite her achievements, Mrs Battin's original ambition was not to become a librarian. After graduating from college, she pursued a course in American Studies at the University of Minnesota until dropping out to be married and start a family. It was not until ten years later that she became involved in library activities and then only by sheer accident. While living in Binghamton, NY, Mrs Battin was offered a job by the Director of Libraries. She enjoyed the work so much that she decided to gain formal qualifications and graduated from Syracuse University in 1967 with a Master's Degree in Library Science.

Since then, Mrs Battin has had rapid advancement in librarianship, holding positions of Associate Librarian, Cataloguer and Assistant Director for Readers Services at Syracuse University before moving to Columbia as Director of the Library Services Group in 1974. She was promoted to Librarian at Columbia in 1980.

Mrs Battin says she is honoured to accept an invitation to participate in next year's joint conference. 'My interests and experience are in research libraries and professional education for the future, so I would particularly like to visit and speak with colleagues who share those obligations and concerns', she said.

At the conference, Mrs Battin is expected to read one major paper and participate in panels, workshops and professional meetings. She also hopes to spend an extra two weeks touring parts of Australia and New Zealand before returning to New York.



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