

AUGUST 7 to 13 is Information Technology Week 1983. The week is sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and the Australian Computer Society, and its aim is to make people more aware of the developments in technology which are affecting their daily lives.

Lots of activities are to be held in all states, including displays of new and old technologies, films, seminars, hands-on sessions where people can try out the latest in computers and the huge range of equipment now in use. There will be open-house demonstrations by stock exchanges, captioning centres, suppliers of computer and communications equipment, and libraries.

Special programs are planned for schools — a primary school activities book, and a computer package containing a database with an antarctic theme for secondary schools.

In NSW attention will focus on displays and activities at regional shopping centres, and a major exhibition at the new Powerhouse Museum (to run until 11 September). A personal computer will be awarded to the winner of an ITW crossword competition.

Branches of the Association are supporting ITW and will be arranging special library-oriented activities and distributing leaflets and programs.

Activities are free, and everyone is invited to get with IT!

Special Libraries Conference Sept 26-29

THE THEME of this year's Conference is 'The Management of Resources in Libraries'. This takes up the management aspect of previous Conferences and applies it specifically to the sharing of resources. In present library conditions of shrinking book budgets and diminishing staff numbers, we hope that librarians will derive practical benefits from the discussions.

The programme includes a number of panel sessions (including one on standards which invite general participation, in addition to the usual lecture formats. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr Dennis Lewis, the Director of ASLIB. The Section is also sharing a speaker with the Information Science Section, whose own Conference is from 29-30 September. He is Mr Joseph Becker, of Becker and Hayes, Inc, California, USA.

The Section's Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday afternoon, and the Conference Dinner will be held on Wednesday evening. All meetings and social functions will be held at the Conference venue, the Parmelia Hilton Hotel.

Registration brochures can be obtained from: Ken Rawlings and Associates, 257 Adelaide Tce, Perth, WA 6000. (Tel (09) 325 4427.)

ALIC wants feedback

SINCE the last report on the activities of the Australian Libraries and Information Council (ALIC) appeared in *InCite*, the Council has finalised its working paper on Issues and Objectives to be addressed in the planning of national library and related information services for Australia.

In this paper ALIC first sets out the premises on which its establishment rests. It states what it sees as reasonable objectives and sets down the elements of a plan for the development of library and related information services in Australia. Finally, certain issues seen as basic to the development of such a plan are enumerated and discussed.

The Council is anxious to stimulate discussion that will assist it in carrying out its functions. To this end the working paper has been distributed for comment to major library agencies and groups of librarians, authorities responsible for library services, including departments of education and similar bodies.

In addition, any comments would be welcomed from other bodies or individuals. Copies of the working paper are available free on application to: The Secretary, Australian Libraries and Information Council, Box E12, Queen Victoria Terrace, CANBERRA ACT 2600. Responses would be preferred by 1 October 1983, though every effort will be made to consider comments received after this date.

At the June Conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers with Responsibilities for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, ALIC made its first report to Ministers. While the major item was the work done on the Issues and Objectives paper, attention was also drawn to administrative arrangements, resources available to ALIC, and advice to governments.

Under the heading of Advice to Governments, ALIC noted, as well as the Issues and Objectives paper, the establishment of State advisory committees on library services in South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales and the setting up, in most States, and in the Northern Territory, of advisory committees on library services to the handicapped. ALIC reported that the separate questions of national information policy and library services to ethnic communities had

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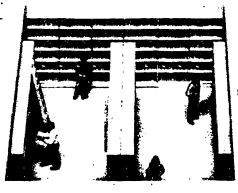
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en referred to it by the Commonwealth government.

The Conference received the report and approved in principle the establishment of a budget for the conduct of ALIC's affairs, to be contributed to on a proportional basis by the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory. The major item in this budget was to cover a survey of conservation needs.

ALIC also presented papers to the Conference on conservation of library and archival materials and on the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). The Conference accepted unanimously the recommendations appended to these papers. Approval was given for ALIC to prepare a detailed proposal on both short and long term requirements for developing a nationally coordinated program for the conservation of library and archival materials. The Conference expressed its support for the continued development of ABN and drew attention to the need for appropriate resources to maintain the momentum of ABN's development and ensure its more rapid availability to libraries of all types.

One Minister referred to the backlog of items for inclusion in the National Union Catalogue of Library Materials for the undecapitated (NUC:H) and urged that the national Library's staff resources in this area be strengthened. The fact that the National Library was still providing the secretariat for ALIC was commented on unfavourably by one Minister and the Commonwealth Minister stated that this problem was being addressed.

Finally, one Minister pointed out that the specific resource need for ABN was for it to be excluded from public service ceiling restraints, since it was required to operate on a basis of seeking full cost recovery. It was reported that the Library had taken up this matter with the Public Service Board.

From the reception afforded to the ALIC presentations to the Conference, it is quite clear not only that ALIC is being treated seriously by both Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments, but also that the library world is regarded as having its part together in a way that has so far escaped the other areas of concern to the Conference.

It is all the more necessary, accordingly, that ALIC's advice to governments be as

soundly based as possible. To this end ALIC is anxious that there be a full and early response to its Issues and Objectives paper.

With a view to making the papers and minutes of ALIC meetings available to those concerned with the provision of library and information services, the Council decided, at its fourth meeting held in Sydney on 9 June, that a depository set of papers should be lodged with the State Libraries and the Northern Territory Library Service. These sets of papers, which will include the papers from the first meeting in August 1982, will contain the agenda, minutes and all papers cleared by the Council for distribution. The papers will be available for consultation from late July.

Harrison Bryan
Chairman, ALIC

Preserving local government records

THE RECORDS created by local government in New South Wales are not preserved in a systematic fashion. Council minutes and similar material must be retained but the rest may be destroyed after six years. Some councils try to keep more, others do not.

A seminar was held on Friday 29 April at the State Archives Office to discuss the reproduction and retention of various kinds of local government records. It was a notable success. More than seventy people attended, most of them well experienced in the handling of local government records. Another thirty-five applications had to be rejected. These will be accommodated, together with some prompt new applicants at a repeat seminar in July.

The seminar was arranged by the Action Committee on Local Government Records, a wide-ranging group brought into being after a seminar in 1981. It has worked closely with the Local Government Office (one of whose officers has been seconded to the committee), and is associated closely with the Library Association of Australia (NSW Branch) and the Australian Society of Archivists (Sydney Branch).

In no sense was the seminar a matter of preaching to the converted – or, indeed, of preaching at all. It proved to be a tough and thorough presentation of the needs of Councils in the retention of material and the attitude of the Local Government office to the

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problems involved. The professional archivists warned of the difficulties of cost and equipment and a legal speaker considered matters of copyright and the reproduction of evidence. A battery of experts discoursed on microfilm techniques – cameras, reproduction, storage and retrieval. The final session of general discussion revealed the depth of interest in the problem and a general consensus that the need was greater than the obstacles.

Ken Cable

Convenor's note

The Archives Authority of NSW made available to participants preliminary editions of *Guidelines on Establishing a Microfiling Programme*, (Technical Paper, No. 3, The Archives Office of New South Wales, 1983) and *Microfilming of Records* (Technical Paper No. 4, The Archives Office of New South Wales, 1983).

Other supporting documents included two papers by Janet Howse, 'The Preservation of local government Records in NSW. Historical and legislative requirements' (presented to the Local Government Chapter, Records Management Association of Australia, 8 September, 1982) and 'Access to local government records: the New South Wales situation' (reprinted with permission from *Archives and Manuscripts*, Vol. 10, No. 2, December, 1982), and, from the same issue, 'Micrographics and the law of evidence' by Leslie Katz.

The association of Local Government Librarians was represented by Chris Henderson, Chief Librarian, Lane Cove Public Library.

It is planned to publish the seminar papers following the repeat seminar in July.

Patricia Ward



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