

NLA and the TLC ban

We wish to draw the attention of fellow members of the Library Association of Australia to the situation in which we, as staff of the National Library of Australia, now find we are working.

Since 7 July the Trades and Labour Council (TLC) of the ACT has placed a ban on delivery of goods and services to the National Library of Australia. This has been enforced with a picket line stationed at the goods entrance and the front entrance of the National Library on a 24-hour basis. Delivery of mail and supplies on a normal basis has stopped; as supplies dwindle and machines such as copiers require servicing, the services given by the Library will be further affected.

The TLC ban has been instituted and will remain in force 'until the TLC has received a firm date from the Minister for Territories and Local Government, Mr Uren, for the removal of asbestos from the (NLA) building'. (*Canberra Times*, July 13 1983, p.3).

At a meeting of National Library staff on 13 July the following motion was passed: that the organisers of this meeting ask the TLC to remove the picket line from the National Library immediately.

Your readers will be interested to know that two technical reports; *Health Aspects involved in the Occupancy of Buildings Incorporating Sprayed Asbestos - Containing Materials for Fire Protection, Thermal and Acoustical Insulation*, and; *Asbestos as it concerns the occupants of the National Library today*, have been prepared by the Commonwealth Institute of Health. It is believed that the Minister for Territories and Local Government is using these reports in conjunction with the interim report of the Working Party on Asbestos in ACT Buildings (Ben Selinger, Chairman) to make recommendations to Cabinet on the treatment of the material containing sprayed asbestos

in the National Library.

To those of us signing this letter it is a matter of regret that the TLC has not taken more constructive action by not refusing to participate in the Selinger Working Party which is continuing its investigations.

It is also a matter of regret that the ACT Branch Council of the Library Association of Australia passed resolutions concerning asbestos at its Branch meeting of 5 August. Such resolutions appear not to be based on an appreciation of facts. No National Library staff were present at that meeting and no advance warning was given of these motions.

Expert technical opinion is that the staff and users of the National Library are at no risk from asbestos in the building. Total removal of asbestos has not been recommended in the Commonwealth Institute of Health reports. Secondly, no 'dispute' has been notified to relevant arbitration authorities. It is unfortunate that the TLC has not yet taken any action to indicate it is adopting a more negotiatory stance.

As professional members of the Library Association of Australia, working within the National Library, we ask for the understanding of fellow members in contending with the disruptions caused to services by the picket line.

Elizabeth Stone
M.P. Sexton
M. Newman
John Thompson
Bryony Wilcox
D. Carroll
W.S. Cathro
A.J. Green
Philip J. Keane
V. Cohen
H. Phillips
C.A. Edvi-Illes
A. Van Ash

David Toll
Averill M.B. Edwards
Janice Kenny
Judith A.D. Baskin
Jan Fullerton
N. White
Peter Haddad
Richard T. Stone
Priscilla J. Warr
Pauline Haldane
Janice Clark
B. Udris

Public Libraries and Automation: Four Case Studies

By Patricia Willard & Viva Teece
Kensington, N.S.W.: School of Librarianship,
University of New South Wales, 1983.
ISBN 85823 424 6.

Price: \$10 (includes postage within Australia)
Available from Administrative Assistant,
School of Librarianship, University of New
South Wales, P.O. Box 1, Kensington, 2033.

Exchange opportunity

I am one of 8 reference librarians in the Information Services Department of the social sciences and humanities library at Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In addition to Information Desk duties, I supervise the Interlibrary Loan operation (2 clerk typists), select all music material to be added to the collection (music degree not required), give workshops to music students and arrange periodic displays in the library's lobby.

I would like to work in a library in or near Sydney for approximately 10 months (August 1985 - May 1986). I am familiar only with user services in academic libraries; in that area any type of work would be acceptable, though I would particularly like to work in Interlibrary Loan.

An exchange arrangement (including living accommodation) seems the most logical it is a good way to keep expenses down while at the same time providing an opportunity to learn about libraries and people in another country. For income tax and insurance reasons, it would seem preferable to retain one's own salary and payments.

Halifax, founded in 1749, is the capital city of Nova Scotia. With a population of 125,000, it is the largest city in Atlantic Canada. It is an ocean port, a military and naval centre, has lovely trees and parks, restored old buildings as well as modern high-rise towers. Swimming, fishing, sailing, hiking, camping, and skiing opportunities are all nearby. Halifax is the home of 5 universities, Dalhousie being the largest with some 10,000 students. It offers programs leading to undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees.

My pre-teen daughter and I live in a spacious, moderately furnished 2-bedroom apartment in a 4-year-old well-maintained apartment building. It is located just one kilometre from the University, with easy access by bus or car to major shopping areas.

If someone is interested in Halifax, Dalhousie University, and my position in Information Services in the Killam Library please write and ask for more information.

Nell Leideme

902-2060 Quingate Place
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4P

More letters on page 8

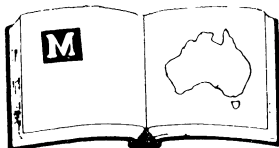
PRESS RELEASE

The following Press Release was issued by the ACT Branch of The Library Association of Australia after the recent Branch Council Meeting:

"The ACT Branch Council of the Library Association of Australia at its first meeting last night supported efforts to have asbestos removed from the National Library, the Branch President, Mr. David Barron, said today.

"Mr. Barron said the meeting passed the following resolutions:

1. The ACT Branch of the Library Association of Australia expresses its grave concern at the risk posed by asbestos to staff and users in the National Library and supports efforts to have asbestos removed from the library.
2. That the Branch supports efforts to locate and identify locations of asbestos in all public buildings in the ACT.
3. That this Branch urges the parties involved in this dispute to reach a swift and satisfactory resolution in order to restore library services to the ACT and nationally."



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LETTERS — contd from page 2

Management and Librarians

Perhaps it is time for a Graduate Diploma in Library Management to be provided in Australia. Already post-graduate studies are available in Educational Administration and Social Administration for professional people to acquire a specific qualification specialising in administration in their chosen field.

The lack of management training for librarians has been voiced with increasing frequency in recent times. Bright young things are often tempted to enrol in MBA courses which could be regarded as an exercise in 'overkill'. I'm not convinced that an MBA will benefit librarians in the same manner it is intended to benefit, *inter alia*, corporate employees in the board-rooms of the nation.

Now I appreciate there are those in our profession who will say 'but we've got to be up there with them' in terms of management techniques and practices, but one could be forgiven in thinking that here is a classic example of 'credentials creep'.

Rather than attempt to rationalise the relevance of alien higher degrees to our rapidly changing profession we could do worse than to survey the existing forms of library management training and come up with a viable alternative of our own making. Such a course should of necessity be available to external students in its entirety to enable students Australia-wide to enrol in it. As with many other external courses a 'residency requirement' could be considered desirable.

What do other librarians feel about this issue?

Roy Stall
East Fremantle, WA

NSW DP Librarians' Group

For some time now, a small group of people working in what can be termed broadly DP Libraries have been meeting irregularly, to share ideas, to assist in problem solving, and to provide an opportunity for general discussion.

The libraries represented come from organisations which make and/or sell hardware and software, or those which have DP departments as part of their structure. Those attending the meetings need not have

professional qualification: the only criterion is to work in a library in a DP environment.

At the group's last meeting, it was decided to broaden horizons by asking more people to join, and also to have regular and more structured meetings.

The next meeting will be held on 16 September at National Advanced Systems Armaron. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Margaret Wildblood on 439 6455.

The group's objectives are:

1. To serve as a forum for the presentation of ideas, information and issues relevant to DP Libraries.
2. To develop relationships with other libraries in NSW for the purpose of Inter-Library Loans and other resource sharing, as appropriate.

Membership is open to all working in DP Libraries.

Meetings will be held at six-weekly intervals at host libraries. The representative of one organisation will act as host and be responsible for that meeting. The representative will act as chairperson for that meeting.

The next host organisation will be selected at the current meeting. The representative of that organisation will be secretary for the current meeting.

Margaret Wildblood
Librarian
National Advanced Systems

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA)

Information Retrieval Service

One-day ESA/IRS training workshops will be conducted by Dr Eveline Onorato of ESA/IRS, Frascati, on the following dates in October, 1983, based on a minimum of ten participants per workshop.

Brisbane 17th
Sydney 18th, 19th
Canberra 20th, 21st
Melbourne 24th, 25th
Adelaide 26th
Perth 28th

The fee per workshop per student is \$100.00. The venue will be advised in due course. Applications should be lodged not later than 5th October with

H.J. ZWILLENBERG ASSOCIATES
Information Consultants
7 Bonwick Place
GARRAN A.C.T. 2605

Forrest collection sought

I am researching the life and works of the Queensland poet/novelist/freelance writer M. Forrest (1872 - 1935) with the intention of compiling an annotated bibliography with biographical note, and incorporating both into a commemorative edition in 1985.

Recently I found an authentic reference to her previously unknown first published collection, which has proved impossible to trace. I have applied to a variety of sources without result, and there is no trace of the work among the large family collection of material. The Fryer Librarian at Queensland University checked the listings in the National Union Catalogue of Monographs without result.

The publication sought is Helena M.C. Mills *Poems* (Brisbane: Gordon & Gotch, 1893). Note: M. Forrest was married twice. Her works appear under three names: Helena M.C. Mills (1882-1893), M. Burkinshaw (1893-1902), M. Forrest (1902-1934).

All correspondence to Gwen Fox, PO Box 14, Yuleba, Q.4427.

Gwen Fox (Mrs)
University of Queensland

Death of library benefactor

MRS MARGERY KEESING who died in Sydney on 15 August at the age of 92 was during her latter years, a generous benefactor of two university libraries.

The libraries of the University of Sydney and Macquarie University were the recipients of Mrs Keesing's many benefactions. Her successive gifts to The University of Sydney began in 1963 with the largest single cash gift to the library to that date since the original library bequest by Thomas Fisher in 1885. The reference collection of Macquarie University Library received its initial impetus from Mr Keesing's gift in 1966. It was followed by successive annual gifts for the support of the reference collection and students' reading needs after teaching began at Macquarie in 1967.

Mrs Keesing is survived by two daughters: Mrs Nancy Hertzberg (Nancy Keesing AM) and Mrs Margaret Oldenburg and their families.

if Institute of Family Studies

The Institute of Family Studies, established in 1980 as an Australian Government statutory authority, conducts research on and disseminates information about families and family life in Australia. The Institute's current publication program includes a **Newsletter**, **Discussion Papers**, **Working Papers**, **Monographs**, and reports on Family Impact Seminars.

IFS Publications are free of charge. To obtain copies of IFS publications, write to the Editor for the 'Publications List' and order form.

766 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: (03) 342 9100

Selected Reading Lists

compiled by the Family Information Centre of the Institute of Family Studies

To date, there have been 13 *Selected Reading Lists* published — introductory guides to literature on specialised topics. Among them are: 'The effects of separation and divorce on children' (no.2); 'The effects of separation and divorce on men and women' (no.3); 'Father parenting' (no.6); 'One parent families' (no.7); 'Stepfamilies' (no.13). Each consists of annotated bibliographies, Australian articles, overseas articles, and books.

New information technology: impacts on families in Australia

by Ruth Beresford

(Occasional Paper no.1), an annotated bibliography, presents a selection of material relating to new information technology which is, or has the potential, to be found in the home: teletext, videotext or viewdata, videocassettes and video recorders, videodiscs, television by cable or satellite, and personal home computers. Annotated entries are listed alphabetically and the publication includes an author and subject index.