

Passing of a library pioneer

THE LAA has learned with sadness of the death of Mrs Fairlie Taylor, at the age of 95. Fairlie Taylor was a foundation member of the LAA and Victoria's first full-time school librarian.

Fairlie Taylor worked as a teacher in Victoria for twelve years and was later asked to go to Sydney to learn the basics of librarianship, with John Metcalfe her teacher. When she subsequently introduced visual education through film strips (in 1936), John Metcalfe wrote to her:

The way you are using books, persuading the children to use them and applying visual education puts you in the forefront of children's librarians anywhere.

She worked for ten years with the PLC in Melbourne and then continued her work in libraries at MLC, where her standards were highly praised by the librarian from Sydney Boys Grammar School of the era.

In her retirement she remained active, writing two autobiographical books *Bid Time Return* (1977) and *Time Recalled* (1978) as well as a monograph *Pioneering School Library Service* (1972). In 1976 she was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to education through libraries and went to Melbourne to receive it at Government House shortly before her 89th birthday.



Mrs Fairlie Taylor, at the age of 94, opening the Women and Arts festival in Armidale last year.

Fairlie Taylor's interest in the library world did not diminish; she remained a regular reader of *InCite* and the *Australian Library Journal*, and LAA staff members were privileged to read fascinating glimpses of her early life in the letters she sent from time to time.

Information Scientists and the LAA: the view of the Information Science Section

THE INFORMATION Science Section applauds the LAA's desire to integrate information scientists more closely into the organisation and activities of the Association. It is a realistic move; the Association is recognising the rapid developments occurring in the information industry. Increasingly, politicians and others in positions of power, speak glowingly about the importance and future of the information industry, usually without reference to, or acknowledgement of, libraries. The Association needs to make sure that it is keeping up, and is seen to be keeping up, with the rapid expansion of the industry. It needs to look to its image.

The present discussion was initiated in 1982, by a paper by the General Secretary, Averill Edwards. She pointed out that although many information scientists do not work in libraries as such, they are involved in library associated activities.

A second paper by the General Secretary and the ACT Group of the Futures Committee proposed a number of initiatives to encourage information scientists to join the Association. It recommended the admission to Associateship of those who hold a degree or comparable award and who have three or more years' experience as an information scientist.

Janet Robinson, the NSW General Councillor, has made a case against admission to Associateship. She sees it as a revenue-raising exercise that 'will seriously undermine librarian and library technician qualifications and employment', and outside the current objectives of the LAA. She suggests various ways of integrating the activities and interests of information scientists and librarians without professional recognition by the Association.

The ISS and its NSW Group responded to the Association's proposal last year. Despite its name however, the Section is not necessarily the best qualified to comment, because most of its members are in fact librarians. But it is probably true that we mix with information scientists more than other Sections.

Following on the Association's second paper and that of Janet Robinson, we have discussed the matter again and make the following points, some in repetition of what we, and the NSW Group, have said before:

- Information science is a broad concept which encompasses librarianship, rather than the other way around. Whilst there are various definitions of it, briefly it is concerned with the generation, processing and transfer of information.
- We believe that the demand by information scientists for integration with the Association should be thoroughly surveyed first of all. Members of overseas information science associations should be located, together with graduates of Australian courses at tertiary institutions, and asked if they would want to join the LAA if they were given professional status.
- Like Janet Robinson, we counsel against hasty acceptance of information scientists to Associateship, but at the same time, we think there is a need to investigate further the status of information scientists in Australia. The Association is obviously best placed to do that. Perhaps it is time we had a comprehensive survey of people employed in the information industry in Australia, detailing their designation, qualification, duties, etc.
- We suggest that the LAA should study the structure of the South African Insti-

China Library Study Tour

THERE ARE four vacancies still available on the China Library Study Tour; it is well advanced and has received the backing of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Australia: China Council and the China Society of Library Science.

Any member of the Association interested in joining the study tour should forward their name and address to 'China Tour', LAA Headquarters without delay.

It is anticipated the tour will visit China for three weeks with a short stay in Hong Kong, departing from Sydney about November 27 for return pre-Christmas 1983.

The cost is expected to be around \$2875 which will include air travel to and from and accommodation in Hong Kong; travel to, within and from China as well as meals and accommodation.

The itinerary is planned to include: Canton - Hangzhou - Shanghai - Qufu - Jinan - Tianjin - Beijing - Wuhan - Hong Kong - Nanking.

An active and interesting series of professional visits and discussion is planned. These will be supported by cultural activities; visits to historical sites and opportunities to observe Chinese life and customs.

To be eligible you are required to hold current membership of the LAA or be travelling with such a person.

Eligible applicants are especially requested from the special library sphere and from Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory to ensure national representation. This does not preclude applicants from the eastern states.

If you are interested in joining the group please provide details of qualifications, present and past library or related experience, date of birth, health details etc.

All information provided will be treated strictly confidentially. For further information contact Joan Walker, 699 3226.

Forward applications to Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones Street Ultimo, NSW 2007.

John Barclay
National Convenor
Library Association of Australia
China Library Study Tour

Guidelines for Library Services to External Students

Edited by Christine Crocker

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Postage: 50c.

Obtainable through the LAA or from Mannings or Bennetts.

tute for Librarianship and Information Science to see if there is something we can learn from it.

- We recommend that the LAA should investigate the establishing of an umbrella information industry body with a view to integrating workers in the whole of the industry. It is unlikely however, that such a body could grant professional qualification and recognition.
- We would encourage the Association to pursue the idea of professional recognition of information scientists but it needs a lot more investigation first.

Megan Sassi
President, Information Science Section