

# Report of the Board of Education

THE BOARD of Education has met twice in 1983, continuing its work in a number of areas and taking up new items referred by Council or raised by members of the Board.

## Professional Practice

A major item has been the examination of issues raised by the Deputy Chairman, Margaret Trask, in her paper *Professional Practice: whose responsibility?*

This paper was published in Australian Library Journal and circulated to divisions and other interested bodies for discussion and comment. Response was particularly encouraging, indicating that this is of considerable interest to the profession. The paper looks at the part to be played by library schools, professional bodies, employers, and the profession as a whole in ensuring that suitable and acceptable standards of practice are achieved, and asks whether professional recognition should be based only on completion of an accredited award.

The Board has discussed a number of points arising from the paper, including revalidation of qualifications, the need to motivate people to gain higher and broader levels of expertise, and the general need for the profession to aim for higher standards of professional competence. This can be achieved by a variety of means, such as further qualifications in librarianship, management and other relevant areas; a range of work experiences; exchanges between practitioners and educators; publications; and a variety of continuing education activities.

The Board is to widen its consultations to include bodies such as CAVL, ALCAE and ALIC, major employers and independent practitioners. A plan of action is being prepared which it is hoped will culminate in an open forum at the Brisbane conference.

## Information science education outside library schools

A paper by Moira MacKinnon identified three main types of courses offered outside library schools – those with computer science, business/management information and communication and information dissemination emphases. The paper examined the elements these courses have in common with library and information science

courses, and looked at the Association's aims and objectives in relation to education in these areas. It concluded that the status of librarianship cannot be improved without stepping outside the profession's institutional base, and that librarians face challenges as information transfer professionals.

Schools of librarianship have been asked to comment on the paper, and information is being collected on these types of courses and the institutions in which they are offered. The Board will be monitoring the material gathered by the Library Workforce Standing Committee on job advertisements.

## Recognition of Courses

The Board's course recognition schedule for 1983 includes visits to Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane and Gippsland. The Certificate in Library Practice offered by Perth Technical College, the Library Technicians Certificate Course offered by the Seven Hills and Gold Coast Colleges of TAFE, the Bachelor of Education (School Librarianship) at Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education and the Bachelor of Education and Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship at South Australian College of Advanced Education have all been assessed by panels of the Course Recognition Committee, and recommendations have been made to General Council or will be considered at Council's November meeting. The Graduate Diploma in Librarianship (Generalist stream) offered by Melbourne College of Advanced Education and the Library Technician Certificate Course of the South Australian Department of Further Education are yet to be assessed. A list of courses assessed and recognition granted will be published in InCite later in the year.

## Admission of non-graduates to Associateship

Although the Association introduced its graduate requirement for Associateship in 1976, a number of non-graduates still may be admitted, including holders of the Registration Examination and the Librarianship Certificate from Sydney Technical College. The Board was asked to review this policy. It has reaffirmed acceptance of these special cases, believing that it would be improper

and probably illegal to withdraw status which had already been granted. The number of Associates admitted under these conditions is now small, and non-graduates are encouraged to upgrade their qualifications by undertaking further studies or by professional development or continuing education courses.

## Fellowship Nominations

The Board has been concerned at the limited number of nominations for Fellowships and has been considering ways of making the nomination process more open and positive. A paper by Edward Parr suggested that the Board take steps to publicise the award, and invite members to nominate or be nominated, that a manual be prepared and supplied to nominators, and that specialist referees be consulted where necessary. These suggestions have been adopted by the Board, and the manual will be available shortly from the LAA Office.

## Continuing Education

Two new national courses are being offered this year – *Time Management* and *Financial Management* – and they are attracting interest from a range of divisions and institutions.

*Managing people at work* continues to be popular, with some institutions mounting the course in-house for a second time.

A questionnaire on members' continuing education interests and preferences was distributed through InCite in May, and some 300 responses were received, with comments generally being favourable and helpful. Members who have not returned questionnaires are invited to do so, as analysis of responses will not be completed for some time, and the Continuing Education Officer would welcome further input.

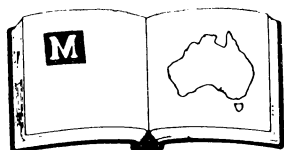
Overseas speakers for the 1984 conference have been invited to take part in continuing education activities in Australia and New Zealand during their visits, and divisions will be asked to indicate their interest in speakers shortly.

A paper prepared by the Continuing Education Officer examined the issues relating to evaluation and accreditation of CE programs. The Association's national CE courses are to have evaluation mechanism built into them, a beginners guide to CE courses is to be prepared and a wider investigation of accreditation of such courses is to be undertaken.

## External Library Education Courses

From time to time it is suggested that courses in library and information science and particularly those at postgraduate diploma level, should be extended.

Doreen Goodman has prepared a paper which examines the various models of library education offered in Australia, the aims of first professional courses, and the status conferred by the courses. She has proposed that professional status (i.e. Associateship) might require more than a basic qualification, an issue which is relevant to the Trask paper on professional practice.



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