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Special dates for your diary

OCTOBER 5-7, 1983 Australia House Exhibition London
OCTOBER 11-13, 1983 Educational Aids Display Port Moresby
OCTOBER 12-17, 1983 Frankfurt Book Fair Frankfurt
OCTOBER 14-21, 1983 Australian Book Week Australia
OCTOBER 24, 1983 United Nations Day Australia
OCTOBER 26, 1983 Universal Childrens Day Australia
OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 1, 1983 2nd Telecommunications Book Fair Geneva
OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 2, 1983 Belgrade Book Fair Belgrade
NOVEMBER 8-13, 1983 Montreal Book Fair Montreal
DECEMBER 5-8, 1983 Middle East Book Fair Bahrain
DECEMBER 9-15, 1983 Educatec Paris
FEBRUARY 4-14, 1984 Sixth World Book Fair New Delhi
MARCH 11-16, 1984 International Publishers Association Congress Mexico City
MARCH 20-24, 1984 Didacta Book Fair Basle
APRIL 5-8, 1984 Bologna Book Fair Bologna
APRIL 5-8, 1984 Australian Booksellers Association Conference Sydney
APRIL 5, 1984 Australian Book Publishers Association AGM Sydney
APRIL 10-13, 1984 London Book Fair London
AUGUST 27-31, 1984 LAA/NZLA Conference Brisbane

This listing of important events such as conferences, festivals, special weeks etc will appear regularly in *InCite*. Notification of appropriate events would be appreciated.

Librarianship . . . a failure . . .

continued from page 1

graphic networking. It is founded on unproven assumptions.

1. There is a standard extensive catalogue record for all librarians.

2. It is more cost effective to get catalogue records from a national file than construct them.

All singing, all dancing systems

In fact most use of catalogues is by cataloguers to add to them. Just how valid is MARC — and AACR 2 for that matter? Decent subject indexing of books has taken second place to detailed bibliographic descriptions. It is useful to approach the question of data bases by considering what records are needed for local housekeeping and access and what files are necessary for location, for bibliographic searching and for subject access. No current national data bases do these things very well and separate files may be desirable. There is no intrinsic virtue in all singing and all dancing systems.

My own alternative answers to the conventional ones are not necessarily the right ones, but my point is that alternatives have not been explored and there has been no thorough analysis of needs and issues. Instead, it's assumed needs and preconceived solutions. It's the same old story — the problem is not identified, alternatives are not explored and relevant information is not collected.

Conservation . . . another buzzword

Another buzzword is conservation, but librarians tend to make the assumption that we should conserve first the bound book, and not ephemera. Which are more fragile and more valuable to historians?

In my title I should also have said that librarians have put themselves and their stock before their users. Not so? What about catalogues designed for cataloguers, classification schemes for whom, library systems so difficult to use that librarians have to educate people to use them? How do we explain huge backlogs due to perfectionist cataloguing standards or the contents of a professional education which stresses knowledge

Nothing to lose but dullness . . .

rather than imagination, analytical ability and the spirit of service? We lack humanity as well as intellect, imagination and initiative.

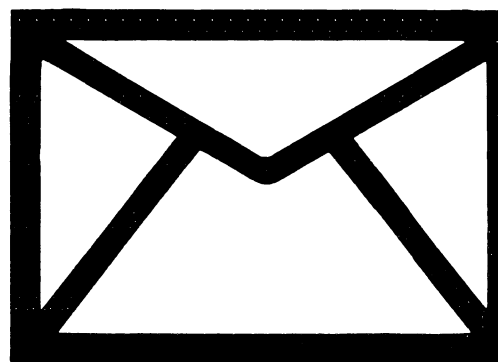
Indeed, is there any such clearly defined job as librarianship? The boundaries seem very fluid with the new developments. Doesn't our area include publishing, book-selling, broadcasting, telecommunications, computer processing and advertising? We must see our future in this broad context and to achieve this we must return to fundamentals. What is the future society, what will individuals need for information and leisure, as well as research.

LAA-NZLA Conference
Brisbane, 27-31 August 1984

The failure of initiative is implicit in this. We wait for problems, then blame someone else. We miss opportunities, our province is diminishing. Yet now we have to face the challenge of the private sector as information becomes more and more a commercial commodity.

Let's get on with the job, recapture the excitement of exploration and confront the future. We have nothing to lose but our mental laziness, our spiritual dullness, our introspection and our inhibitions.

It is emphasised that these are notes taken during the talk and may not necessarily be Maurice Line's actual words.



The needs of external students

It is proposed to hold a conference on open access to all tertiary libraries for external students following the LAA Conference in Brisbane in 1984.

Andrew Winter from Deakin University who recently completed research on the information needs of Australian external students, has agreed to be the principal speaker at this conference. His research explodes many long-held beliefs about the information needs of external students. It is also expected that we will have representatives of federal and state education authorities and organisations representing external students.

The conference planning committee would like to hear about issues which members of the Association might like the Conference to consider. We would also like to hear from anyone who has information which would be of value to the Conference. Interested people should contact the undersigned.

Colin Burk
Armidale CAE Library
Armidale NSW



Library Services in Distance Education

Proceedings of a national workshop.
Sydney: LAA 1982

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