

A WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



ANOTHER YEAR with another President, Executive and General Council – a situation mirrored throughout the Association at the divisional level. Although councils and committees change, new groups bring further expertise to the formal structure of the Association.

The service and dedication of not only the headquarters staff but the Association's honorary officers at all levels, especially when combined with multiple term and progressive appointments, such as Vice-President, President, Past President, ensure an awareness of the Association and its operations.

Whilst it is imperative for the continued development of the LAA that its honorary officers change, thus ensuring the input of new ideas, opinions and philosophies, it is equally important that there be expansion rather than erosion of the achievements of the Association. General Council receives much of its energy and direction from its divisions. This year's Executive and General Council will continue to build on the work of their predecessors.

At a time when membership levels are showing healthy signs, we are starting to be faced by a complex range of sociological and technological problems. In addressing these, the Association must be dynamic and have the support of the profession. However, it is not only the continuing mobility of the Association we should be concerned with; the Association is only a manifestation of a healthy profession and the Association is the sum of its membership. We are therefore concerned with the continued development of our profession and our members; many of the subjects for discussion by General Council in 1983 will be concerned with such matters.

Barrie Mitcheson
President



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ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

by Judith Hill, Industrial Officer

Salaries

Following the average 6.5 percent increases in the Commonwealth Public Service late last year, similar increases were awarded to the non-academic related library classifications in the following library services.

Victorian Colleges of Advanced Education
Victorian Universities
University of Tasmania
University of Adelaide
Flinders University
Australian National University
Canberra College of Advanced Education.

It is obvious from the above list how many library services will be affected by the twelve months' wages freeze in the Commonwealth Public Service.

On December 17, Commissioner Sweeney awarded non-academic related library staff

in NSW Universities a salary increase of percent, to be backdated to the first period in November. The Universities are objecting to the date of operation. This increase follows similar awards to NSW public servants.

Librarians and Library Technicians – Draft Statements for comment

In November 1981 the Executive Committee of the General Council of the LAA asked me to produce a clear statement on the differences between librarians and library technicians.

Currently we have a statement on professional appointments but none on technician appointments although the LAA supports the education of library technicians.

Employers, employees and unions look to the LAA for a clear and concise definition of a librarian and a library technician. Judging from the many similar enquiries I have received, it would appear that our current statement needs revision and that there should be a statement relating to technician appointments.

I have therefore drafted the following statements for consideration by the membership and ask for comments by 18/3/83. These draft statements are based on our existing statements, including that of the Board of Education on the roles of librarians and library technicians, but I have attempted to restrict the description of activities to those which are seen to be the province *solely* of librarians or library technicians. That is, in the case of librarians I have omitted managerial activities and with technicians I have omitted clerical tasks, though they may be called upon to perform such duties. These statements are *not* meant to replace the statement of the roles of the librarian and library technician within the education statements.

DRAFT

STATEMENT ON LIBRARIAN APPOINTMENTS

A librarian is a person who is a professional member of the Library Association of Australia or who has qualifications sufficient for her/him to be admitted as a professional member.

Librarians select, describe and organise books and other forms of recorded material so as to form a systematic collection. They also facilitate the use of such collections.

Depending on the size and the scope of the library, a librarian may be involved in all or only some of the activities listed below:

- Analysing the needs of the community in terms of the provision of library services and advising on the most appropriate means to satisfy those needs.
- Selecting appropriate recorded material for the library collection.
- Describing and organising recorded material.
- Compiling bibliographies and indexes of recorded material.
- Assisting the reader in using the collection and retrieving information from it.
- Reviewing, evaluating and modifying library services and systems.

In all situations involving these activities librarians should be employed to perform them.

A person who is not a librarian should not be called a librarian and should not be appointed to the position of a librarian.

DRAFT

STATEMENT ON LIBRARY TECHNICIAN APPOINTMENTS

A library technician is a person who is a technician member of the Library Association of Australia or who has qualifications sufficient for him/her to be admitted as a technician member.

Library technicians perform library specific tasks in support of librarians.

Depending upon the size and scope of the library, a library technician may be involved in all or only some of the activities listed below:

- Searching and verifying bibliographical data.
- Revising and editing cataloguing copy.
- Cataloguing fiction.
- Cataloguing and classifying certain other materials as specified by a librarian.
- Filing catalogue entries.
- Maintaining loans and circulation systems.
- Preparing library displays and exhibits.
- Maintaining and assisting in the use and selection of audio-visual equipment and supplies.

In all situations involving the above activities, library technicians should be employed to perform them.

A person who is not a library technician should not be called a library technician and should not be appointed to the position of a library technician.