

Library Association of
Australia

**NATIONAL
CE PROGRAM**

Advance Notice

**MICROCOMPUTERS
AND THEIR
APPLICATIONS IN
LIBRARIES**

SYDNEY

11-12 NOVEMBER 1983

This program aims to give interested persons a review of recent developments in this field, and to provide an overview of 'micro' applications in library and information services.

It is not a specialised course, nor is it a programming course.

Topics include:

- Recent hardware and software developments
- Microcomputers in library and information services - some applications
- Criteria for evaluating hardware and software

There will also be an opportunity to examine a range of microcomputers.

Cost: \$80 (LAA members) \$110 non members

If interested return the coupon below.

Yes! Send me some information on **Microcomputers and their applications in Libraries.**

Name

Address

.....PC.....

Mail to: Merilyn Bryce, Continuing Education Officer, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. (02) 692 9233.

Changed Entry Requirements for the Teacher Librarianship Course at Sydney Institute of Education

From 1984 entry to the Teacher Librarianship course in the Diploma in Education program will be open only to candidates who have qualified as professional librarians.

The change in admission requirements and consequential changes in the course have been made to ensure that students who successfully complete a Diploma in Education which includes the Teacher Librarianship course will be acceptable for employment as teacher-librarians by the NSW Department of Education.

Sydney Institute of Education is an Institute of Sydney College of Advanced Education.

Further details about specific entry requirements may be obtained by phoning the Institute (660 2855 ext 427) or writing to the Dean, School of Postgraduate and Continuing Education, Sydney Institute of Education, PO Box 63, Camperdown, NSW 2050.

Local ordering by Oz libraries

THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE for the Book Trade was established in 1981, following recommendations at a Seminar on Local Ordering at the 1981 Congress of the International Booksellers Federation. The Committee, comprising representatives of the ABA, the ABPA and the LAA has spent some time considering proposals to encourage local ordering - ie, the purchase in Australia of books published overseas, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Committee held a Workshop on Local Ordering in Adelaide in August 1982, with delegates including publishers, booksellers and librarians examining the reasons librarians order overseas publications in the country of origin. *These can be briefly summed up as price, availability and service.*

All librarians and many booksellers agreed that while the price difference between books purchased in Australia and in the country of origin could be significant, it was not the only reason for ordering overseas. Sophisticated services were offered by overseas library suppliers, such as information on new titles in a format to suit libraries; binding, pocketing and labelling services (particularly attractive to public libraries); and adequate reporting. Although some library suppliers in Australia are now providing similar services there are still aspects of supply which could be improved.

The following statement on local ordering by Australian libraries was drawn up:

It was agreed that the specification of performance by publishers set out below would, if met by Australian publishers, enable Australian booksellers to provide satisfactory terms and conditions of service to Australian libraries placing orders with them. Recognising that neither publishers nor booksellers can be compelled to provide particular terms and conditions of service, nor libraries to place their orders with particular suppliers the Joint Standing Committee therefore recommends the following specification of performance to the three constituent bodies. It is proposed that if the specification receives the endorsement of the three bodies then it can be publicly promoted amongst the respective membership of the three bodies. Publishers will be encouraged to indicate their readiness to supply the trade on terms and conditions which accord with the specification thus enabling booksellers to seek business from Australian libraries on terms and conditions which are competitive with overseas suppliers and libraries would in turn be encouraged to place their orders with Australian suppliers.

Publishers subscribing to this specification have agreed to the following performance criteria:

1. That their stocks will be maintained with the objective of meeting the reasonable expectation of librarians for immediate supply of most items provided on a closed market basis.
2. That where items cannot be stocked economically or are out-of-stock, they will place urgent special orders for out-of-stock titles to ensure delivery within 4 months of receipt of order.
3. That all titles not able to be supplied immediately will be immediately reported on indicating a realistic delivery date, and provide regular updates to such reports in a form acceptable to librarians, attached as Appendix A.
4. That pricing policies will reflect the ability of Australian libraries to purchase from overseas suppliers.
5. That trained staff capable of answering normal bibliographic and delivery queries will be contactable during normal business hours.
6. That current catalogues of the publishers represented by any agent will be made available on request.

This statement, and reports on outstanding orders have been ratified by the three constituent bodies. *It is now up to individual publishers to consider whether they will adopt these recommendations in order to sell more books to Australian libraries, and up to individual libraries to recognize that publishers are listening to criticism and are now prepared to offer the services librarians require.*

It will take time for publishers prepared to subscribe to the performance criteria to change their reporting codes, and to revise their internal procedures; it will take time for libraries to change their purchasing patterns. Not all publishers will meet the criteria; not all libraries are in a position to sever their relationships with overseas suppliers who have served them well in the past, and who will still be needed to supply titles by publishers not represented in Australia.

To sum up: certain Australian publishers and distributors have agreed to support Australian booksellers who serve Australian libraries, by supplying titles at close to overseas price converted to Australian dollars; by holding in stock a high proportion of their titles; and by reporting on outstanding orders in a form acceptable to libraries. As a result of these proposed improvements in service, Australian libraries should seriously consider placing more orders for titles published by these publishers with Australian suppliers.

Details of standard reports on orders are available on request. *Pam Trier* Chairmar
Joint Standing Committee
for the Book Trade

**COMPUTER SYSTEMS
continued from page 8**

Many of the newer software developments are still controversial within the computer profession and the claims of companies that sell the techniques need to be viewed with some scepticism. However librarians should be aware of the range of techniques available to the end-user. The trend towards flexible and low-cost computer systems designed for in-house use and programmable by the user also raises questions of how libraries manage the introduction of those in-house systems and what changes in skills or organisational structures may be required.

Doreen Parke
Member
LAA/AACOBS Joint Committee
on Information Technology

Inserts in this issue
The only insert is for New South Wales readers, from Kurling-gal CAE

Information Management Workshops
26 Oct & 9 Nov. See page 8

LAA-NZLA Conference
Brisbane, 27-31 August 1984

TENDERS
**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Tenders are invited for the purchase of from one to thirty, 36-drawer catalogue card cabinets.
For inspection, contact Mr R. Gilmour, phone 662 3221.
Tenders, closing 31 October 1983, should be submitted in writing to:
The Property Manager
The University of NSW
PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW, 2033.