

# News from the Divisions

## QUEENSLAND BRANCH

The Queensland Branch will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 6 December, at St Emilion Restaurant, in Toowong, Brisbane. The speaker for the evening is John Hay, Associate Editor of *The Courier-Mail*.

John was Features Editor for a number of years, and has the distinction of winning the Warana Public Speaking Competition in 1977. He will present a light-hearted address to members, on 'Insults and criticism' and it promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

Drinks will be served at 6.30pm; the cost for the evening, including dinner and drinks, is \$20. Those wishing to attend should contact Alex Cutts (07 3921488) or forward their cheque to the Branch Treasurer, Anne Newell, at the QIT Library, George Street, Brisbane.

The Queensland Group of the Library Technicians Section unfortunately had to disband last year, but there is now sufficient interest in starting the group again and members of the Technicians Section have written to the Queensland Branch Council, and to the LAA's General Council for approval of the re-formation of the Group. Interested members may contact the General Councillor, Christine Crocker, or Julie Fullerton, who is working on the re-formation procedures. Julie can be contacted at:

Flat 2/12 Rutland Street,  
Coorparoo, Q. 4151.  
(Ph. 07 2254266)

Christine Crocker  
General Councillor

## NSW ONLINE USERS' GROUP

Nominations are called for the NSW Online Users' Group Committee. The positions vacant are Convenor and Secretary. (These duties can be shared between more than two if necessary.) If you feel that you have something to contribute to the NSW Online community, please contact Pam Johnstone (923 1059), Pamela Leuzinger (692 2222) or myself (543 0111 X 3260) before our November 22 meeting (see Happenings) if possible or by November 30.

Lorraine Manning  
Joint Convenor

## MORE SOURCE

### Old friends, new acquaintances

An embarrassingly large number of old friends are beginning to accumulate on my shelf, alongside a sprinkling of new bibliographic faces. To give each shorter than usual shrift would seem fairer than a lingering, if loving, analysis, so here goes.

Longeval, despite my expectations when I first encountered it, *Something about the author* is now into its 29th volume. It provides *Contemporary authors*-type treatment for authors and illustrators of books for young people, with emphasis on those still living but (from volume 15) with 'significant contributors to children's literature from all time periods'.

There are representatives from outside North America also. Each volume is well-presented, with illustrations from works mentioned, portraits of biographees, brief autobiographical and biographical notes and lists of further reading.

The series is well worth looking at again. *Something about the author*, volume 29, edited by Anne Commire, was published last year by Gale and costs US\$50.00. (ISSN 0276-816X; ISBN 0 8103 0081 8).

Also published by Gale last year, but in the new acquaintance category, is Annie M. Brewer's *Indexes, abstracts and digests*. This is a 'bibliography of publications that identify the contents of books, periodicals or other documents in a systematic and abbreviated form'.

Unfortunately this work is itself too abbreviated, and uses a system which will be less than helpful to most Australian librarians. It consists of reproductions of LC cards arranged by LC Classification. There is no subject index, just a keyword index to LC classes (with one entry only under Australia, referring to one item - Dean Jaensch's *An index to parliamentary candidates in South Australian elections*). There is no title index. There is no author index. Good Australian reference librarians will find good and helpful alternatives to this ill-conceived work.

*Indexes, abstracts and digests*, edited by Annie M. Brewer, was published by Gale in 1982. Its price, purely academically, is US\$150.00. (ISBN 0 8103 1686 2.)

More worthy of consideration is Leland G. Al-

quire's *New periodical title abbreviations 1982* supplementing the third edition of his *Periodical title abbreviations*. Published earlier this year, the latest volume cumulates the 1981 supplement, and is arranged by abbreviation and by full title.

The 541-page work is not cheap at US\$86.00, but in a busy interlibrary loan unit or in a major research collection it is a must (ISSN 0730-546X; ISBN 0 8103 0339 6.)

Eric J. Hunter and K.G.B. Bakewell's *Cataloguing* is an old friend, or foe, depending on your inclination. The first edition was published as one of the better contributions to the Outline of Modern Librarianship series in 1979.

The second edition, revised and indeed much expanded, was published by Bingley earlier this year. Special attention is not unattractively given to automation - in this and other respects it is a good general introduction to this dynamic and stimulating discipline. *Cataloguing*, second edition, is published by Bingley and costs £9.25 hardback (ISBN 0 8515 358 4) and £6.95 paperback (ISBN 0 8515 354 1).

Hunter was also responsible for *The ABC of BASIC*, also published recently by Bingley. This 120-page work is an introduction to programming using BASIC - the most common resident microcomputer programming language. It is directed specifically at library applications.

After the basics, the author presents and explains a number of illustrative library programs. Eric J. Hunter's *The ABC of BASIC* was published in 1982 by Bingley. It costs £7.95. (ISBN 0 85157 355 X.)

From another branch of LA Publishing comes the fifth edition of the useful *Directory of medical and health care libraries in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland*, compiled by W.D. Linton. The title says it all. It was published last year by the Library Association at costs £10.50. (ISBN 0 85365 536 7.)

Rather more compulsive reading is offered by the 17th edition of *Annual review of information science and technology*, published last year. It is not quite 'the year's work in...' (that would be enormous) but provides a good survey of selected key topics. This year it ranges from the value of information to the equally vexed question of national information policy with some more specific topics, such as biomedical communication, also treated.

*Annual review of information science and technology*, volume 17, was published in 1982 by Knowledge Industry Publications. It costs US\$45.00. (ISSN 0066-4200; ISBN 0 86729 003 3.)

### The mighty micro


The growth in the use of microcomputers in education has been paralleled only by the outpouring of relevant literature. Some help in sorting the chaff from the bran may be gained from Katherine Clay's *Microcomputers in education: a handbook of resources*. This is actually less than its title implies: it is a 479-item annotated bibliography, with ten-page appendix listing some relevant organisations, directories, journals, user groups and software sources - all but the entries with US addresses. The references are recent - most of them date between 1979 and 1982, and in fact no citations earlier than 1976 are given - and the annotations are adequate.

*Microcomputers in education*, edited by Katherine Clay, was published in 1982 by Oryx Press and costs US\$18.50. (ISBN 89774 064 5.)

## JCIT request

The AACOBS/LAA Joint Committee on Information Technology (JCIT) is aware of a number of organisations which are preparing and maintaining registers of library applications software available and the equipment on which it will operate. The Committee feels that this effort might be better rationalised and is particularly keen to establish a list of organisations involved in these projects. If you, or your organisation, are preparing a register of library software could you provide the following information to the Executive Director, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007:

- Name of organisation
- Address
- Name of person involved
- Format of register (print/online)
- Intended market for register
- Updates Yes/No
- Specialisations
- Availability/price

 **Footscray Institute of Technology**

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