

C.E. Charivari

1983 Program

At least five courses will be available nationally this year, with three of them being offered for the first time. They are:

Time Management a one-day course designed especially for people working in public sector service industries. As well as becoming familiar with the characteristics of effective time management, participants will be able to analyse their own use of work-time and will gain a working knowledge of techniques for planning and monitoring it more effectively.

Financial Management a program which will be particularly useful for those who have background in accounting but have responsibilities for budgeting and financial administration. Approaches to budgeting and budget construction will be discussed in some detail together with the interpretation and use of financial information as management tools.

Micro computer Applications in Library

and *Information Services* will review developments in their technology, and proven and potential applications for library housekeeping operations. The second day of the program will be devoted to considering software packages for user services, and a range of games both educational and entertaining. With the co-operation of suppliers of 'micros' we hope to arrange systems demonstrations, and 'hands on' opportunities for participants.

Managing People at Work and *Libraries and Industrial Relations* have been revised and updated, and will continue as part of our CE program.

Prospectuses giving more information on workshops and other aspects of the 1983 programs have been sent to Divisional secretaries, and to major institutions. Copies are also available on request from the Association's office at 376 Jones St, Ultimo, NSW 2007.

Availability of workshops. In an attempt to avoid the restrictions of the 'circuit' system, and to allow more flexibility in selecting courses, workshops will be made available on a demand basis to any Division or institution

that can guarantee a market. Divisions wanting to have courses run for them have been asked to notify me by the end of February that a program schedule can be drawn. Any other group or organisation wanting to participate in the program should contact at Head Office.

Visit of Judy McQueen and Richard Boss of Informatics Systems Consultants Inc. Anyone interested in recent developments in automated systems and information technology will be pleased to hear that Judy McQueen and Richard Boss of Informatics Systems Consultants Inc. will be visiting Australia from 21 March-3 April. Though their primary commitment is to the National Library of Australia, they'll also be taking part in seminars and meetings organised by the Queensland and Victorian Branches at their respective offices.

Subjects to be covered include information technology developments, contracting for turn-key automated systems and automation of circulation. For more details wait for *Happenings*.

Marilyn Brown
CE office

New Acquisitions Section formed

AT ITS recent meeting, the General Council of the LAA approved the formation of the Acquisitions Section of the LAA.

1982 saw a number of significant developments in the area of Acquisitions. A Special Session on Selection Policies was held at the LAA Conference in Adelaide, with papers delivered by eight speakers from different types of libraries.

Much lively discussion resulted in resolutions being passed urging other libraries to prepare and publish their selection policies, couched in the same terms as the NLA's Selection Policy documents. It was also strongly recommended that the Acquisitions Section compile a directory of research and collection strengths in Australian libraries. The papers presented at this Special Session are to be published in the near future in the appropriate journals.

The Joint Standing Committee for the Book Trade was established following the Seminar on Libraries and Local Ordering held at the International Booksellers Convention in March 1981. It includes repre-

sentatives of the LAA, (Denis Richardson, University of Melbourne and Pam Trier, La Trobe University), the Australian Booksellers Association and the Australian Book Publishers Association. Its terms of reference, besides spelling out the need for communication among all organizations active in the Australian book world, are to consider matters affecting the publication and/or distribution of books and associated materials within Australia which may be of concern to the constituent bodies.

The Committee has already met four times, and has considered a number of significant issues, including sales tax on books, local ordering by libraries, and the encouragement of more Australian books in Australian libraries. The Committee convened a Workshop on Local Ordering, held in Adelaide on August 27, to discuss the factors limiting ordering by Australian libraries through Australian suppliers, and to investigate how they might be reduced. Twelve librarians, five publishers and five booksellers attended the workshop.

Discussions indicated that if publishers could meet certain specifications, Australian booksellers would be able to provide satisfactory terms and conditions of service to Australian libraries. Recognising that there can be no compulsion over particular terms and conditions of service, the Joint Standing Committee recommends the voluntary acceptance of fundamental specifications of performance by the three constituent organisations. If these are endorsed by the three bodies, they will be publicly promoted. The General Council of the LAA endorsed the specifications at its last meeting; however a reply is awaited from the ABPA and ABA before wider circulation.

Briefly the points at issue are that publishers will be encouraged to supply to the trade on specified terms and conditions enabling Australian booksellers to compete with overseas library suppliers. The Australian book trade would greatly benefit by these procedures, which are designed to improve local availability of stock (wherever printed or published); to provide prompt follow-up and reports if a title is not locally available; to make local prices more competitive with those of overseas suppliers to improve the information made available by local publishers' staff and to provide local records of publishers' lists.

Linked with these suggestions for improved services, the Acquisitions Section is working on a draft of standardised publishers' reports, which will be published at a later date.

The Joint Standing Committee is also concerned about the number of Australian books held in Australian libraries, and is considering means to promote Australian books. To this end Michael Webster, editor of *Australian Bookseller and Publisher* has offered to publish listings of forthcoming Australian titles, in the April and October issues.

The Acquisitions Section (then the ASI) organised a meeting on October 25 to explore the possibility of acquisition information being made available via the Australian Bibliographic Network. Several interesting proposals were discussed by representatives from the National Library and Thorpe publishers, booksellers and librarians, including various means of indicating publishers' stock holding on-line either via ABN, or by means of linking publishers' holding files. This was referred to the Joint Standing Committee which has set up a Sub-Committee to continue these discussions.

The National Committee of the Acquisition Section will be located in Sydney for the next two years, convened by Jennifer Alison (Fisher Library, University of Sydney), and she will obviously have a mountain of exciting tasks before her. Good luck, Jennifer! There will also be two staff groups; an ACT Group, convened by Caroline Cohn (Commonwealth Parliamentary Library) and a Victorian Group convened by Pam Trier (La Trobe University).

Pam Trier



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