

LAA/NZLA News

Profile on
Joan
Gamble

CO-ORDINATOR of Library Services for the Print Handicapped in Queensland, Joan Gamble, will speak at August's LAA-NZLA Conference in Brisbane on 'Library Services for the Disabled'.

Ms Gamble said that many librarians are not aware of the total range of services and are frequently unaware that *any* such services are available, with the result that all too often disabled people, particularly those who are print handicapped due to a range of disabilities, are turned away. 'Specialist library services can enable disabled people to enrich their range of recreational activities, study with the support of special resources and services, and gain and maintain employment. For these people such support is a life-span necessity,' she said.

Ms Gamble, a librarian with the Queensland State Library, gained a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Queensland where she studied extensively subjects relating to aged and disabled people.

The practical component of the degree included work with profoundly physically handicapped and aged people. She was also involved with the establishment of the Disabled Persons Service — a disability resource centre run by the Department of Welfare Services.

Ms Gamble is an active participant in the co-ordination and provision of library services for the disabled in Queensland. She is on the Board of Management for the Independent Living Centre and the Queensland Tape Service for the Handicapped, and is Secretary for the Queensland Advisory Committee on Library and Information Services for the Handicapped.

Her position as Co-ordinator of Library Services for the Handicapped involves organising library services for a variety of disability groups through public libraries, hospitals, and nursing homes; organising therapy programmes; and liaising with disabled individuals and organisations serving disabled people.

LAA Study Grant
Award

THE LIBRARY Association of Australia will make funds available each year to support practising librarians wishing to undertake a study project. The number of awards in any year will depend upon the funds available and the estimated costs of proposals received.

The Association's intention in offering study grants is to provide an opportunity for librarians to undertake projects they would otherwise be unable to do because of the time and costs involved.

Conditions

- Available to a practising librarian in a supervisory or middle management position, with a minimum of three years' experience in library and information work.
- For the purpose of undertaking a study project on a selected library/information issue or problem of present and future relevance to the development and improvement of library and information services in Australia. The study is to include opportunity for preliminary reading, local or overseas visits/consultations, and is to culminate in a written report, a copy of which is to be provided to the Association within an agreed period after completion of the study project.
- It is expected that the study project will provide an opportunity for self development as well as benefit to the successful applicant's institution and present position.
- The award is not intended to be used to fund research projects.
- Applicants should complete an application form which gives:
 - A brief description of the study project, including aims; benefits to the individual and to the institution; possible outcomes of a project.
 - Identification and justification for visits/consultations involved.
 - Itinerary, timetable, travel/accommodation costs involved.
 - Details of any other funds or facilities being provided for the study project.
 - 2 referees' reports.

Application forms are available from LAA House and applications for an award in 1985 should reach the Assistant Executive Director, LAA House, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 by 31 August 1984.

Earlier completion
date likely for NZ
National Library

WELLINGTON's new National Library building is taking shape.

The original date set for the completion of the building, in Molesworth Street, was 1988, but a proposal is being put to the government to bring the date forward to 1986.

All present Wellington City functions and collections, including the School Library Service Head Office, will be housed in the new building, except for the General Assembly Library and Microfilm Production Unit. The building will also have a full mix of meeting and seminar rooms, auditorium, music suite, display gallery, audiovisual and other common-use facilities.

It is expected that many collections, consistent with expected level of use, will be housed in mobile compact shelving. The entire National Library basement, and the basement and lower ground floors of the adjoining State Services Commission building now under construction, will be fitted with mobile compact shelving. Other floors will have free-standing stacks. The internal layout is planned to accommodate collections and growth up to the year 2000.

Fitting out the building will take account of the latest developments in library furniture and equipment, including light industrial handling devices for the efficient flow of library materials from the vast stack areas to reader service points on the upper floors.

With accelerated expansion of the NZBN, the building will be fully wired to permit maximum flexibility for siting VDUs and other computer-based modern office equipment, including electronic mail as well as flexibility for telephone, electricity and sound transmission networks.

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