

News from the Divisions

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTIONAL GROUP SA BRANCH

Federal Aid for Public Libraries

As a result of a request from Carmen Hanaker for information on areas in greatest need of funding in South Australian public libraries, a meeting of South Australian public librarians was held on Monday June 4. Consensus was that increased funding is needed and the following five main areas of greatest need were identified:

1. **Research and development**

The group suggested a co-ordinated approach in order to investigate the feasibility and desirability of various special projects, and to lobby for such projects. This would require the establishment of a central body to administer funding and to oversee their implementation. Perhaps this body could link into each of the State's Public Libraries Divisions?

2. **Staff development and training**

It was suggested that more training and developmental programmes should be established. The group was concerned that there are not enough librarians with specialist skills (e.g. in the use of the new technology and in service provision for young adults). For those in isolated areas it would be desirable for such programmes to be organised on a regional basis. It must be emphasised that there is some danger in pushing for financial support for capital projects without firstly ensuring there are sufficient numbers of adequately trained staff.

3. **Preparation for and the implementation of the new technology**

This would require adequate training of librarians and support staff, with priorities to be established for pilot projects such as the establishment of a statewide community information network. The establishment of regional networks would be desirable.

4. **The improvement of services to the geographically disadvantaged**

The group identified a need for 'uniformity' of standards and services throughout Australia (i.e. in terms of housebound services, the use and implementation of computerised services, children's services, multicultural services, reference services, etc.) including services provided by libraries in isolated areas. Regionalisation was suggested to overcome the barriers of distance and to encourage resource sharing and co-operation.

5. **Promotions and publicity drives**

It was suggested that a promotion of libraries be organised on a national scale, like the 'Life. Be In It' campaign.

While those at the meeting were able to suggest a number of different initiatives or target areas, most were concerned about the strategies of the Working Group (which was formed to tackle this issue) and were concerned about the framing of the submission. Some librarians questioned whether we should be so specific in our submissions for fear of weakening our base and tying funds to projects for which there is no proven need or demand.

Others were very concerned about 'band wagon' pushing for funds and suggested that we should draw our strength from a more truly professional concern, which prompted most people to support the research and development programme.

The need for an extremely well organised approach, perhaps along the lines of the School Library Scheme's Funding Campaign of the late 1960s, cannot be over-emphasised. Not only was the LAA involved in the Schools' Campaign, but a variety of pressure groups were encouraged to exert their influence on the Commonwealth Government to obtain funding. To actively encourage lobbying by a variety of individuals and groups, the School Library Scheme's Funding Campaign also sought the advice of an officer in the Prime Minister's Department. The officer answered questions about the timing and substance of the approach to the Federal Government, and the interview provided valuable insight.

The group concluded that a corresponding working party was not the most appropriate means of achieving the desired effect and suggested that a submission for federal aid for public libraries would probably be more successfully drawn up through the efforts of a paid secretariat.

Pamela O'Donnell

President Public Libraries Section

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION (WA GROUP)

The wild and woolly Wednesday evening of July 25 saw 40 'specials' and their colleagues at Alcoa's new Booragoon location where they heard librarian June Caunt's honest account of the trials and tribulations of setting up an 'in house' data base system.

Monday August 27 was our Conference Consolation Prize meeting. Graeme Dudley, Deputy Records Manager at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, represented the Records Management Association of Australia (WA Branch) at this meeting and spoke on 'The Shape of Future Information Provision: Records Management'. Although Graeme's scenario was an office setting, the implications for librarianship from his illustrations of information management and retrieval were obvious. His food for thought was followed by a light tea, where some 35 of us commiserated over our conference absence, and discussed the ramifications of future records management.

Kerry Smith
Publicity Officer

Summer School Language Centre

French I, II, III
German, I, II, III
Italian I, II, III
Spanish I, II, III
Greek I, II, III
Japanese I, II, III
Russian I, II, III
Indonesian I, II
Chinese I, II, III
Vietnamese I, II

Commencing 7 January 1985.
Applications close 7 December 1984.
Enquiries 478 3122, extn 2451, 2417.

La Trobe University

LT296

Inserts can be sent out with all mailings of InCite and the Australian Library Journal. As this is a popular service it is advisable to book early. Ring Jenny Menzies on (02) 692 9233.

SACAE/LAA NATIONAL SEMINAR LEARNING RESOURCES for the HEALTH SCIENCES 30 November 1984

Papers will address the needs of academics, students and practitioners in the health field and include

- A Canadian Librarian's perspective on resource provision
- The Librarian and database searching and research activity
- Library service for regional health workers — the New England model
- Health Networks (GRATISSA)
- Videos, slide-tape programs and other AV software
- The Library in the development of health professionals.

Fee: \$30 (includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch).

Further information and Registration Forms contact:

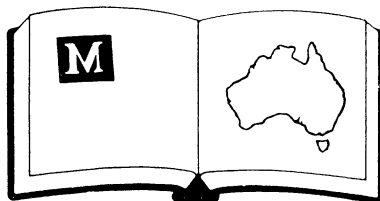
Claire Clark
SACAE Library, Sturt Site, Sturt Road,
Bedford Park, S.A. 5042. (08) 275 5290.
Telex 88420.

— For —

Australian and Overseas Publications

— also a Specialised —

Standing Order Service



MANNINGS

for BOOKS

4/175 Gibbes Street Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Telephones (02) 406 6111

ACI mail: MANNINGS

Toll Free (008) 22 6701

Telex AA73742