



NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On Friday 16 March the Attorney-General's Dept held a seminar on legal protection of computer software. Several areas of potential relevance to libraries were covered and it is anticipated that we will be required to provide further input to the Department.

The seminar consisted of a series of segments made up of an Industry Group, User Group, possible solutions and a formal discussion led by a panel of experts.

There were over 250 participants representing many areas of the information and communication industries. The general viewpoint of the industry speakers was that protection was needed, that the Copyright Act would provide better coverage than patent law. The point was also raised that perhaps separate legislation would be better than trying to change the Copyright Act.

The Users' group urged the seminar not to make the law so tight that educational institutions, research bodies etc would be severely restricted and mention was made of fair dealing clauses. Also under discussion were copyright materials stored in computer and copyright materials produced by computer, both of particular relevance to libraries.

It is uncertain what the outcome of the seminar will be. The participants were urged to look at the problem in the longer term. It is probable that in the short term the Copyright Act will be amended to cover computer software and that it will include a sunset clause so that further investigation can continue.

A full report of the seminar is available from LAA Head Office.

Attention Students— Baker & Taylor USA Grant

The Baker & Taylor Company is offering an award of \$500 to a Library and Information Science student to attend the Joint LAA/NZLA Conference in Brisbane in August. To qualify, the student must be a member of the LAA and must attend at least two full days of the Conference. The winner will be selected on the basis of professional promise and leadership ability.

Students wishing to nominate for the grant should send nominations with two referees to the Executive Director, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. Nominations should include details of course being studied, a summary of any career details and a short discourse on why the Conference would be of benefit.

The selection committee will be made up of the President, Executive Director and some members of the Board of Education. **Nominations must be received by 18 May 1984.**

IFLA 1984 Conference

The IFLA 50th Council and General Conference program has been received and is available from Head Office. Unfortunately, the dates of the Conference are 19-25 August, that is the week before the LAA/NZLA Conference in Brisbane. IFLA will be held in Nairobi.



1988 Biennial Conference Committee

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are called, from NSW members, for the positions of

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
two members

for the 1988 Biennial Conference committee to be established by NSW Branch Council.

NSW Branch is to host the 1988 Biennial Conference in Sydney, prior to the IFLA Conference.

The Conference Chairman will be the chief administrator of the Conference.

Nominations, including a brief outline (no more than 200 words) of nominee's background and ability to fill such a position, should reach **Secretary (Julie Young) NSW Branch, Library, Newcastle Technical College, Maitland Road, Tighes Hill NSW 2297 by 27 April 1984.** The nominations will be considered at NSW Branch Council meeting on 16 May 1984.

Advertising in InCite gets results — ring (02) 692 9233 NOW!

Staff Movements at RMIT Libraries

Staff Mobility

The staff mobility programme of the RMIT Libraries is now in its second year. Under this scheme staff have the opportunity of spending some time each week in a section other than their own. Currently, some Technical Services staff are working some shifts on the Information Desk, other staff are performing various functions in the Technical College Library, the Audio Visual Section and so on.

Secondments

Don Schauder, Associate Librarian at RMIT, has been seconded to the office of the Assistant Director (Educational Services) for 1984, as a project officer.

This reflects a trend in the RMIT Division of Educational Services towards greater integration of planning and operations among its Branches. The Educational Services Branches at RMIT are: RMIT Libraries, Computer Centre, Communication Services, Education Unit, and External Studies.

Don will be involved in two concurrent projects. The first will be to formulate options for the future development and deployment of educational services at RMIT. In consultation with a wide cross-section of RMIT staff and students, he will develop option papers for consideration by the Assistant Director and his Committee of Branch Heads. It is hoped that this process will contribute to a more integrated approach to information management and services across the Institute.

Don's second project is the establishment of the Australian Microcomputer Industry Clearinghouse (see article in last issue). Although initiated in RMIT Libraries, this project combines interests of all the Educational Services Branches, and is therefore being handled from the Assistant Director's office. Actively co-operating in the project are the Departments of Librarianship (in respect of the software database), of Computing, and of Administrative Studies.

Ann Wilson, Senior Reference Librarian has been seconded to the Hawthorn Institute of Education as Acting Head, Educational Resources Centre. This secondment is for a period of six months while the incumbent, Ms. Anne Turner, is in turn, on secondment to the Department of External Studies, University of Papua and New Guinea.

Exchange with State Library of Victoria

David King from the Orders Section of RMIT Libraries is participating in a staff exchange with the State Library of Victoria for a period of six months. David's secondment will involve two separate projects. The main project, involving 80 per cent of the time, will be to rationalise the *Illustrations Index*, which is situated in the LaTrobe Library. This is an 'in-house' list of sources of illustrations drawn from illustrated newspapers published in Australia c1860-1910. The second project will involve a series of graphic design tasks and display work for the Library Council of Victoria. David's exchange partner is Michael Bertie from the Reference and Research Section of the State Library of Victoria. During his period at RMIT Michael will be appointed to the Reference Section of the Central Library where he will undertake a range of duties associated with reference work.

B. Mitcheson
Institute Librarian

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