

## REPORT OF THE THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS CANBERRA 27-30 MARCH 1985

The Third National Conference of Library Technicians was held in Canberra over two and a half days from March 27 to March 30, 1985. Delegates attended from all States and Territories to hear the eighteen papers presented by speakers covering topics on the themes of 'New Directions in Libraries', 'The Work Environment', 'School Libraries' and 'The Industrial Area'. The conference was opened by the National President of the Lib-

technicians are widely used throughout all areas of library work. She urged all delegates to make positive moves to set up a representative group to approach the Australian Public Service Board to correct this exploitation of expertly trained library workers. This theme was well documented by the panel of speakers at the Industrial Session which concluded the conference. Martin Stott, Library Technician, State Library of NSW, chaired a panel of

of a resolution

*That the ACOA, the Australian Public Service Board, the LAA, the National Library and the technician education body (Canberra TAFE) meet to discuss the status of Library Technicians in the Australian Public Service.*

The theme for the first morning of the conference was 'New Directions in Libraries'. The first speaker, John Brudenall, Deputy Parliamentary Librarian, Parliament House, Canberra, covered the area of strategic planning in libraries. He was followed by Lyn Hard, Librarian, Bridges Library, Royal Military College, who spoke on the tailored academic library. As both these speakers are involved with the planning and operation of large, new libraries with the latest in technology, their papers created a lot of interest and got the Conference off to a very stimulating start.

The afternoon session covered 'Public Libraries' with David Barron, Canberra Public Library Service Librarian and Helen Carter, Librarian from the Erindale Centre Library in the ACT, covering the local scene and Cec Churm, the Bankstown City Librarian, provided a colourful and entertaining insight into the promotion of public libraries.

The first session of the second day covered 'Work Environment'. Barrie Mitcheson, Institute Librarian at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, spoke about the development of Library Technicians as active staff members. He was followed by Helen O'Brien, Head of Library Studies at the Canberra TAFE College, whose topic was continuing education for library staff.

Glenn Sanders, Director of Sanders Information Management Services, covered a very topical subject when he presented a paper titled 'Tasks, technicians and tenosynovitis; the impact of technology on job design in libraries'. This session concluded with a paper from Ann Brinson, Library Technician in the NSW Regional Office of the Department of Defence Support, outlining the steps she and Jane Hodges, a Senior Librarian in the Department of Defence Support in Canberra, had taken to set up an automated system within their libraries.

Delegates were offered the opportunity to attend a 'School Library Session' on the Friday afternoon or tour one of four major libraries in the ACT. The libraries available for inspection were the Australian National Gallery, Attorney-General's Department, High Court of Australia and (despite the upheaval of its recent fire) the National Library of Australia. The National Library had to limit numbers and the Australian Defence Force Academy Library was made available for the large number of interested visitors.

Georgina Cane, Executive Director of ASCIS began this session with a paper on the future of ASCIS and school libraries, followed by Sally Fraser from the Library and Resources Branch of the Department of Education in Queensland who spoke on topic networking. The final speaker was Jim Dwyer, Principal Education Officer from the SA Education Department whose paper was titled 'Sharing resources, services and facilities'. In addition to the variety of papers presented during the Conference, delegates were entertained with social activities, mainly a reception on Wednesday evening when delegates registered and a banquet on Friday evening, Ron Davis, President of the LAA was the after dinner speaker.

The Conference wound up with a luncheon at the Tower Restaurant on Black Mountain, giving delegates a bird's-eye view of Canberra as one of their last memories of the National Conference, which offered something for everyone.



**Top left:** Roseanne Eastham (Nepean Kingswood CAE Library) with Maria Merse (Hobart TAFE)  
**Top right:** Jan Vincent (Launceston TAFE Library) with Robyn McKenzie (St Patrick's School Library, Launceston)  
**Bottom left:** Kate Burnham, Christopher Griffiths and Anne Doherty, all from NSW TAFE Library  
**Bottom Right:** Marlene Hill (Supreme Court Library of NSW) with Bran Regulic (NSW Attorney General's Dept. Library)

rary Technicians' Section of the LAA, Margaret Munro.

The Keynote Speaker, Averill Edwards, Chief Librarian, Secretariat of the National Library of Australia, outlined the progress of Library Technicians on the Australian library scene, highlighting the fact that nationally there is not a career structure or salary range clearly defined, while the skills of trained

representatives from the Australian Public Service Board, the ACOA, the National Library of Australia, the NSW Public Service Board and the Industrial Information and Research Officer of the LAA. In addition a nominee from each state sat on the panel to ask questions on behalf of their delegates.

This session produced a quantity of useful information which culminated in the passing

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