

News from the Divisions

RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

At a meeting of Rare Books librarians in Brisbane on 31 August 1984 (the second such meeting) it was resolved that the group seek sponsorship by the Library Association of Australia as a Special Interest Group. Such groups are informal bodies which are not part of the formal divisional structure of the Association, and are sponsored either by one of the Association's divisions or by the Association's headquarters on behalf of General Council. Since the Rare Books group involves participants Australia-wide, and as far afield as New Zealand, it seemed logical to seek sponsorship from the General Council of the LAA.

General Council approved the formation of the Rare Books and Special Collections Special Interest Group at its meeting in December 1984, and the Group is now affiliated with the Head Office of the Association, as a national group.

A statement of aims has been adopted by the Rare Books and Special Collections Group and is as follows:

1. to promote the interests of rare books, special collections, manuscripts and archives;
2. to promote wider understanding of their value to research, and cultural growth;
3. to improve their care and encourage their use and recognition;
4. to provide for discussion of problems relating to these areas;
5. to promote professional education and training in these areas.

Since the Group is a Special Interest Group of the LAA, membership is an option open to any member of the LAA without additional levy. Non-members of the LAA may also join this Group for which there is a membership fee.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION QLD GROUP

This Committee has been actively encouraging non-members — as well as member non-attenders — to attend our meetings. Our monthly newsletter has had considerable success and the Editor Gwenda Vayro, has had a tremendous response from members and non-members alike. Several enquiries have been received from potential members.

This Committee firmly believes that the only way to increase membership — and participation — is for the LAA to contribute in a very positive way on the local scene. We are actively seeking those employed in isolated areas — especially those in part-time employment in private enterprise — and encouraging them to participate in Special Libraries Section activities.

A further development is that this year we have a corresponding committee member — Jean Dartnall of the GBRMPA Library. Jean represents the interests of all geographically isolated members and contributes to much improved communication with isolated members. It is hoped that this concept will continue in the future so that the Association can be seen to be more actively interested in and concerned with the needs of members — and potential members in isolated areas.

Carol M Church
Hon. Secretary

MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION QLD GROUP

The next meeting of this group will be a panel discussion on library services — 'The users talk back'. This will involve a selection of library users representing clinicians, researchers, academic staff and students. It will be chaired by Dr Bill Egerton, director of Post Graduate Medical Education at Royal Brisbane Hospital. This meeting was previously advertised for 18 September but this has been changed to Tuesday 24 September, 1985, 5.30 p.m. for 6.00 p.m. The venue is the Edwin Tooth Lecture Theatre, Royal Brisbane Hospital, and contact person is Denise Bird (07) 354 2166 ext 250. This meeting should be a stimulating one and of interest to librarians and to all users of medical libraries.

Denise Bird
Secretary

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION SA BRANCH

The Public Libraries Section Committee (SA Branch) plans to release in 1986 a *National Directory of Automated Public Library Systems*. It will include the following information about each participating automated public library:

- the library name and address
- the name of the Systems Librarian or other contact person
- details of the population served by the library, and loan and stock figures
- the name of the system and the name and address of the software supplier
- the type and size of the hardware
- the functions (eg acquisitions, circulation, etc.) performed by the automated system
- the date(s) that the automated system(s) became operational

It is hoped that the directory will prove useful to public librarians planning either to automate manual library systems or to extend existing automated systems.

Questionnaires have been sent to all public libraries which have automated or are in the process of automating. Should you not have received a copy and feel your library should be included please contact:

Gavin Pearce
C/- Payneham Public Library
196 O G Road
Felixstow, SA 5070
Telephone: (08) 336 1288

or

Pam O'Donnell
C/- Public Libraries Division
121 The Parade
Norwood, SA 5067
Telephone: (08) 332 8266

Pam O'Donnell

QUESTION: Which Australian Journal carries the largest number of reviews in all areas of librarianship?

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