

# SATELLITES AND LIBRARIANSHIP: THE POSSIBILITIES

The launch of Australia's first communications satellites to take place in October of this year has caused considerable comment in various circles, particularly over the last few months. A number of institutions have already conducted or are planning trials, and holding discussions on how best to make use of the satellite once it is in orbit.

In Queensland the Education Department for example is already well advanced with plans to run a trial programme associated with beaming voice and image to isolated children in the vicinity of Mt. Isa.

Roy Lundin, Head of the Department of Librarianship and Teaching Studies and Coordinator of Continuing Education at Brisbane College of Advanced Education, has been involved in the development of plans for the use of satellites as a means of providing both pre service and in service education. Roy is well known for his involvement in teleconferencing over the past couple of years.

How best to employ satellites as a communication device forms the topic of the first activity of the Queensland Branch of the Association for 1985. On March 19, Roy Lundin will be addressing members of the association on 'Satellites and Librarianship: the Possibilities'. At the conclusion a connection via the present ATS-1 (an old NASA) satellite with the following Centres will occur:

- Canberra College of Advanced Education
- Caricornia Institute of Advanced Education
- Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education
- Darwin Institute of Technology
- Footscray Institute of Technology
- Western Australian Institute of Technology

## Satellites and Librarianship: the Possibilities

Members of branches or regional groups in these Centres have been invited to participate in a discussion with the Queensland Branch and Roy on this topic. The intention will be that, after Roy has made some introductory remarks on how he sees the benefits of the satellite to the profession, there will be a series of general discussions and comments between participants at the named locations and members of the Queensland Branch.

The basic points to be raised by Roy during his address will include:

- satellites within the context of telecommunications, including comparisons with terrestrial systems
- earth stations and how they work
- functions and applications relating to libraries in the areas of teaching/learning (including professional development of staff), services, administration and research
- developments in Queensland regarding the Satellite Pilot Network (1985-87) being set up by the State Government

Brian Cook  
President, LAA, Qld Branch

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## Book postage charges

The National Book Council is preparing a case for the introduction of a special book postage rate in Australia.

To achieve maximum effect with this, the NBC has asked for assistance and that anyone with any useful comments which might assist should contact them. In particular they are seeking examples of overseas postal experiences which might be relevant to Australia, and ideas and examples of anomalies and absurdities created by the present book post charges.

The NBC wishes to know the answer to the following questions for a variety of different types of libraries for a 2 week period:

- (1) Total value of parcels weighing less than 5 kilos distributed by post.
- (2) Total value of parcels weighing less than 5 kilos distributed by freight.
- (3) Estimate of total number of parcels under 2 kilos distributed by post.
- (4) Estimate of total number of parcels under 2 kilos distributed by freight.
- (5) Estimate of the number of parcels under 500 grams distributed by post.
- (6) Estimate of the number of parcels under 500 grams distributed by freight.

Please contact Mary Lord, Executive Director, National Book Council, Book House, 199 Cardigan Street, Carlton Vic 3053.

### INSERTS

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