



Subject Specialisation Scheme/Subject Strengths Programme

Since 1966 when Minterlib (Victoria) was founded by a group of forward thinking and hardworking librarians, the public libraries in Victoria have worked on co-operative ventures, one of which was the Subject Specialisation Scheme. The rationale behind this was to ensure that a library — somewhere — collected by purchase or discard, books and periodicals in a nominated subject or alphabetical sequence.

This scheme provided material in the long term for future research and was a logical solution to the problem of locating material quickly at a time when it was impractical to exchange library catalogues or to maintain a centralised union catalogue of public library holdings.

Since that time, changed technology (e.g. co-operative cataloguing and exchange of microfiche catalogues) has made it much easier for libraries to locate materials. The identification of libraries as specialists in certain subjects became a less useful way to get the right book to the right person quickly. A Review of the Minterlib Subject Specialisation Scheme in 1982 found that only a small percentage of Victorian public libraries were using the Subject Specialisation Scheme to locate inter-library loans.

The 1982 Review also found that many libraries could no longer fulfil their collecting and preserving roles under the scheme. The collection policies of libraries and thus their energies were being directed towards local requirements rather than to a co-operative state-wide collection policy.

Thus, Minterlib (Victoria) made the decision to discontinue the Scheme in its present form;

to encourage those libraries that wished to do so to develop their existing subject strengths; and to take note of these strengths when investigating new schemes.

Future action on these issues particularly ILL and document delivery is at present being investigated by several Minterlib (Victoria) Sub-Committees, and therefore, it would be premature to write about future directions.

For the present — a list is currently being compiled of those libraries in Victoria which are continuing their subject strengths. These latter libraries are among those to whom 'suitable' subjects were allocated and therefore they consider it appropriate to continue collecting, preserving, and promoting their holdings. This is particularly important in the light of making public library collections relevant to local requirements, rather than little used, albeit worthwhile, repositories for the future.

Therefore, Minterlib's (Victoria) decision to change the direction of its co-operative subject collecting scheme should be seen as a positive, not negative, contribution to library service.

J.G. Borrell
Chairman
Minterlib

Job exchange

I am interested in locating someone to exchange jobs with in Australia or New Zealand for one year (preferably a fiscal year beginning on July 1 ending June 31). I am an Equipment Technician at San Jose State University Library, San Jose, California. I have worked at San Jose State University for eight years and I'm looking for an opportunity to expand my work experience by learning how others solve similar problems without having to leave my current job permanently.

San Jose State University is the oldest public institution of higher education in California. The campus is located in the heart of a revitalized downtown San Jose. The city of San Jose, which has a population of over 500,000, is 50 miles south of San Francisco and 30 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The city was California's first capital and is now one of the nation's fastest growing urban areas as well as the hub of Silicon Valley, the foremost high-technology research and development complex in the world. The combination added to the unique climate and quality of life found in the San Francisco Bay Area means outstanding personal, social, professional and recrea-

tional opportunities abound. With an enrolment of over 20,000 students and more than 2,000 faculty, San Jose State University offers a broad spectrum of outstanding programs in the form of 70 undergraduate and 50 graduate major degrees.

As an Equipment Technician, my primary responsibilities involve the maintenance, repair, and overhaul of the equipment used in the Media Services Department of the Clark Library. I also provide technical expertise to the Access Division regarding the repair, maintenance, replacement, and purchase of new equipment for the Circulation, Inter-library Loan, Serials, Reserve Book Room, Chicano Library Resource Center, and the Cataloging Department. The type of equipment I am responsible for includes microforms readers and reader/printers; stereo listening and recording stations; and personal computers and their peripherals. The job also entails working at a public service desk a few hours per week, one night per week, and one weekend per month.

Allied with the job exchange, I would be willing to exchange homes for the year, I live in a small one bedroom mobile home which is in a mobile home park 10 minutes from the campus. If my home proves to be too small, I would be willing to locate alternative housing for the exchange.

Robert D. Hamblen, 527 South 24th #210, San Jose, CA 95116. (408) 287-0524. San Jose State University, Clark Library, 1 Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192. (408) 277-2012.

Library education in the North-West

In 1985, for the first time in many years, a course for library media technicians will be available to Western Australians living outside Perth. First year subjects in the Associate Diploma in Library Media course offered by the Department of Library Studies at the Western Australian College of Advanced Education will be taught under contract at Hedland College in the Pilbara.

Early in 1984, members of the North West Regional Group of the LAA, which is based in Port Hedland, approached Hedland College with a request that library technician training be provided there to meet needs of local libraries for paraprofessional staff training. Negotiations were commenced with the Department of Library Studies at Nedlands Campus in Perth, and by December agreement was reached on course offerings and staffing.

Eight or nine part-time students will be enrolled in the course at Hedland College this semester. Most are mature-age students who already hold positions in libraries, but who have no library training.

The Associate Diploma in Library Media course is a two-year full-time paraprofessional course for people who wish to work in libraries, information agencies, and other organisations using media. The course is also available by part-time study. In addition to studying library resources, systems, procedures, and user needs, students take subjects in media production, office procedures, and computing; the course is recognised by the LAA as a course for library technicians. It was initially developed by the Department of Library Studies more than ten years ago, and has undergone extensive revision to meet changing needs in the workplace.

Hedland College, which commenced operations in 1980, is responsible for post-secondary education in the Eastern Pilbara. The College, still in a developmental stage, moved into its own buildings in 1982. It serves

continued on page 9

QUALITY Subscription Services

from Bennett-EBSCO—part of the worldwide EBSCO organization that . . .

- Is international in scope—16 offices worldwide
- Has a data base containing more than 160,000 titles from 47,000 publishers
- Has the world's largest serials directory
- Has a unique, easy claiming system
- Has competitive prices
- Has EBSCONET, an online serials service system
- Has satisfied customers in 50 countries.

Find out what Bennett-EBSCO's quality subscription services can do for your library. Telephone or write to our experienced staff today.

Ms. Valerie Hemingway
Managing Director
Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services
35 Mitchell Street
North Sydney, NSW 2060
Australia
(02) 922-5600

Ms. Elizabeth Carvosso
Representative
Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services
P.O. Box 86
Albert Park, Victoria 3206
Australia
(03) 699-4460

BENNETT-EBSCO SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

