— the bottom line

The Executive Committee (Ron Davis, Peter Dawe, Jan Cree, Moira Mackinnon, Mike Andrews, Jenny Adams and your columnist) has just met in Melbourne. The Executive meets six or seven times a year to manage the ongoing business of the Association between General Council meetings, and to keep an eye on the numbers: members, costs and revenue.

The last meeting was different. Instead of focusing on the results of recent management decisions, the Executive considered less tangible matters: members' comments, attitudes and perceptions. Context for the discussion was, predictably, the Corporate Review, but the theme was level of service to members, rather than the Review itself. In other words the Executive wanted to make sure that all members were talking about the *same* LAA before we begin to change it.

There were several reports on the mood of the electorate, and it soom become apparent that perceptions on the role and effectiveness of the Association varied with the vantage point of the observer. It seems we have created for ourselves a corporate climate in which a distinction is made between the role of the 'centre' — Head Office, Executive Committee, General Council, Publications Board, Board of Education, and the role of the 'field' — Sections and State branches. This dichotomy is disturbing.

Head Office exists to support the activities of all members, wherever located. Members join to support the objects. Most of us really want to promote, establish and improve libraries and library services. So does the Association, which provides the infrastructure for shared effort towards this common goal. The aims of the Association are identical with the aims of the members. Without the members there is no Association.

The problem comes when members perceive different objectives for local activities on the one hand, and for central activities on tl other. Such a view takes no account of tl support structure already in place and fund by fees, nor indeed of the importance of sha ing tasks for implementing jointly agreed pr grammes. Worse, it can lead to unstated ar sometimes competing objectives.

I thought we were agreed on the end they're described in the objects. The mea will differ — there are more than 7000 of u and although we usually achieve healthy co sensus, unanimity is practically impossibl That's fine, as long as we share goals.

So I put it to you that we're as good at car ing as we are bad at communicating. Is reasonable for members to complain abo lack of information from Sydney when th latest copy of *InCite* lies unread? Or is reasonable for central staff to expect more d tailed comment from members given insuff cient time to consider referred items?

InCite number six announced 11 steps a proved by Council to lift service to member and Jenny Adams has written to secretarie all divisions, with further details. LAA sta have independently come up with another 1 suggestions for improving communication. Th structure's there, the will is there, the goa are clear — all it needs is you.

Ian McCallu
Presider

NEW FROM ACHLIS

Australian Library and Information Science Abstracts 1984/85 edited by John Gray. $35.00

. . . 900 citations and abstracts recording published and unpublished documents of Australian library and information science. Conference papers, journal articles, reports, monographs.

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Australian Library and Information Science Abstracts 1982 $20
Australian Library and Information Science Abstracts 1983 $25

Order 1982, 1983 and 1984/85 together and pay only $70.00

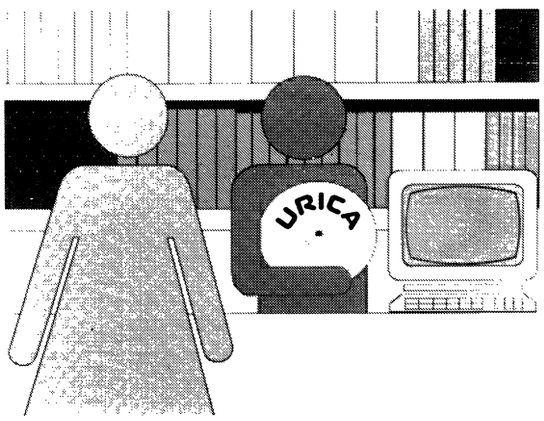
From:
Library Publications
SA College of Advanced Education Library
Holbrooks Road
UNDERDALE SA 5053

GET THE PRESIDENT'S NUMBER!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PHONE NUMBER FOR LAA PRESIDENT IAN McCALLUM IS NOW (03) 541 5666.

URICA.
Simply the best library computer system ever invented.

Libraries have been central to mankind's store of knowledge for thousands of years. But only today, with the advent of the URICA Library System are librarians able to perform their proper function without being bogged down with routine clerical tasks.



URICA, tomorrow's software, available today

The URICA Library System runs on the Reality/Sequel range of Microdata computers.

Being the most sophisticated library system available today, it is ideally suited for use in a wide variety of library applications such as public libraries, regional libraries, major reference libraries, academic libraries, technical and professional libraries.

URICA helps librarians in:

- Enquiry
- Cataloguing
- Circulation
- OPAC (Online public access cataloguing)
- Acquisition
- Serials Control

Software packages available

- URICA86
- Mini-URICA
- Special-URICA

Library management with improved control

Amongst its many uses, URICA reduces the labour component of many clerical tasks, reduces the cost of creating and maintaining bibliographical data, provides information in the form of reports on the library's activities, and so provides library management with improved control over its resources and services.

AWA COMPUTERS

Adelaide	(08) 333 2044	Perth	(09) 321 9334
Brisbane	(07) 369 3577	Sydney	(02) 922 3300
Canberra	(062) 47 7522	Newcastle	(049) 67 5433
Hobart	(003) 34 4532	Auckland	78 9055
Melbourne	(03) 529 4133	Singapore	469 8822