

DIRECTORY OF COLLECTION STRENGTHS



Arranged in Dewey order containing some 400 entries covering 97 libraries throughout Victoria. The major state, academic, public and special libraries are represented.

An annotated list of related directories, information on published selection policies, a list of names and addresses of contributing libraries, subject and institutional indexes we included.

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Directory of Collection Strengths in Victorian Libraries — Edited by John Thawley and Philip Kent.

ISBN 0 86804 144 0

in Victorian Libraries

Library Association of Australia
376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007

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BOOK REVIEW

The secondary school library : dukedom large enough? by Patricia Smart. Wellington: New Zealand Council for Educational Research. 1985. 79 pp. ISBN 0 908567 40 5.

Doubts about the quality of school library collections, the adequacy of staffing, the effectiveness of skills instruction and the ability of teachers to utilise library facilities and services are familiar to Australian teacher librarians. It is gratifying that similar concerns have resulted in this very readable report by New Zealand librarian Patricia Smart on the use made of secondary school libraries in her country.

Smart's aim was to 'try to build up a picture of activities' in nine representative libraries in the Canterbury region, so that information would be available for any future investigation into the role of the school library and librarian. Data was obtained through observation and from responses to questionnaires administered to students who came to the library in class groups, at lunchtime or in study periods, and to teachers accompanying classes. Profiles of the libraries were then constructed.

The limited scale of the study and its preliminary nature are acknowledged by the author. This notwithstanding, it should be noted that we are told nothing about the teacher questionnaire (the student instrument, with an

analysis of responses, is provided as Appendix 2) except that it 'sought information about the reasons for visiting the library and their view about some of its features'. More positively, the profiles and the recommendations offer the Australian reader the opportunity to think critically about our own progress over recent years. While hoping that the course in Teacher Librarianship at Wellington Teachers College signals the beginning of relief for the beleaguered library assistants who have borne the brunt of New Zealand school library work since 1960, we should resist the temptation to feel complacent about Australian advances in education for Teacher Librarianship, in implementing the library resource centre concept and in developing an information skills curriculum. It is clear from Smart's recommendations that children will not gain maximum benefit from their library 'dukedom' until trained teacher librarians are joined by teachers who are themselves confident and competent library users and who are able to encourage and assist their students in library use. In this area, like the New Zealanders, we still have far to go.

This concise, practical and attractively presented monograph will be an asset in the library of any institution with a School of Librarianship or a School of Teacher Education. It also has much to offer teacher librarians.

Marian Henry
Lecturer, Teacher Librarianship
Sydney Institute of Education

More Happenings

ACT

- **SEPTEMBER 24** LAA ACT Branch **Lunch in honour of Gay Watt**.
- **SEPTEMBER 24** Cataloguing Section. **Seminar: MARC formats**. Burgmann College. Time: 9.30am-12.30pm.
- **SEPTEMBER 27-28** Children's Book Council (ACT Branch) 22nd Annual Writing and Illustrating for Children Seminar. Junior School Hall, Canberra Grammar School, Alexander St, Red Hill ACT. Cost: \$20; \$15 CBC members; \$10 students; \$5 single session. Brochures and further information from: Dr Belle Alderman, School of Liberal Studies, CCAE, P.O. Box 1 Belconnen ACT 2616 (062) 52 2062 or Margaret Stone (062) 52 2312.
- **SEPTEMBER 30** Insearch Ltd DIALOG Biosciences Seminar Canberra. Contact (02) 218 9790.
- **OCTOBER 1** Insearch Ltd DIALOG Patents Seminar Canberra. Contact (02) 218 9790.
- **OCTOBER 1** Cataloguers' Section. **Meeting**, 12.30, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, 6th Floor, 1 Farrell Place, Canberra City. Contact: Diana Dack (062) 62 1428.
- **OCTOBER 2** LAA ACT Branch **Spring Dinner**. LAA President, Ian McCallum, to visit the Branch.
- **OCTOBER 2** Insearch Ltd DIALOG Library Applications Seminar Canberra. Contact (02) 218 9790.
- **OCTOBER 2** Insearch Ltd DIALOG Chemical Information Seminar Canberra. Contact (02) 218 9790.

- **OCTOBER 2** LAA Special Libraries Section. **Lunchtime meeting**, 12.15 pm for 12.30. Conference Room, Department of Sport, Recreation & Tourism. Contact: Deanne Dorn (062) 49 9200.
- **OCTOBER 9** LAA ACT Branch Council **Meeting**. Open members welcome. Time: 5.15 for 5.30pm.
- **OCTOBER 15** LAA ACT Specials **Meeting: Financial Management of Libraries**. Burgmann College. Time: 9.30am - 5.00pm.
- **OCTOBER 15** LAA Acquisitions Section **Meeting: Fran Thompson (Director, Publishing, AGPS) 'Developments AGPS'**. Seminar Room, Menzies Bdg, ANU Libraries. Time: 12.30pm. Bring your lunch!
- **OCTOBER 21** LAA ACT Branch. **Visit to National Film and Sound Archive**. Contact: Kay Winter: (062) 49 5770 (V) (062) 97 8125 (H).
- **OCTOBER 31** Canberra TAFE, Reid ACT. **Seminar/Workshop: Education for Library Staff — continuing, continuous, contentious**. J Theatre Canberra TAFE, Reid ACT. For further details contact: Pam Dunlop PO Box 917 Woden ACT 2606 (062) 62 1230.

TAS

- **SEPTEMBER 16** Tas Branch **Council Meeting**. University Club, University of Tasmania. Speaker: James Thompson 'The Librarian as Politician'. Time: 7.30pm. Contact: Peter Cohen (002) 20 2063.
- **OCTOBER 8** Campaign for Commonwealth Funding for Multicultural Public Library Services — the Tasmanian Situation Public Meeting. Southern Teachers Centre, 2 Edward St Glebe. Time: 7.30pm. Contact: Jill Adamski (002) 20 1407.

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