

# ..... News from the Divisions .....

## VICTORIAN BRANCH

### *Teacher-librarians in primary school libraries*

The President of the Branch, Ross Gibbs, wrote recently to the Minister for Education, Ian Cathie, requesting that consideration be given to the appointment of a full-time teacher-librarian to all Grade B and A primary schools, over and above the preferred staffing establishment and to the provision of teacher-librarians in small schools.

In his reply the Minister states that the Agreement reached between the Ministry and the Teachers' Federation of Victoria sets down the conditions and staffing in primary schools for 1986 and 1987 and that this will not be altered. However, the Minister does assure us that our concerns regarding teacher-librarians in primary schools will be considered as part of future deliberations on the resourcing of schools, so perhaps all is not lost!

The Schools Section is to prepare a pamphlet alerting primary schools to the need to encourage their school councils to appoint teacher-librarians. This will carry on the valuable lobbying which was undertaken with the 'Only 52%' campaign, which referred to the number of Victorian primary schools fortunate enough to have trained teacher-librarians.

### *Recognition of Technicians*

Thanks especially to the Industrial Information and Research Officer, Louise Lansley, library technicians working in Victorian public libraries now have a recognised award. In addition, public librarians and library technicians have been successful in receiving a 6%-10% salary increase.

### *Careers in Libraries Kit*

As reported in *InCite* No. 14, the Victorian Branch is putting together a resource kit to be used by members of the profession when asked to speak about librarianship to service groups or at careers counselling sessions. The Branch feels strongly that an active approach is needed — an approach which markets the profession in an attractive and effective way. A poster is currently being designed, with reduced versions to be used as promotional

handouts. Any members wishing further information should contact the secretary, Bev Kirby on (03) 797 5533.

*Branch Watch* continues to flourish and there are many Section and Branch activities planned for the last part of the year. If you have an activity which you wish to publicise please contact the Editor, Lauri Clarkson, on (03) 699 6429.

### *Funding and the Dollar Crisis*

On 25 July a Branch delegation — comprising the President, Ross Gibbs, the Vice President, Ann Forbes, and the President of the Public Libraries Section, Rod Blacker — visited the Minister for the Arts, Race Mathews to discuss state and public library funding. A prepared submission clearly demonstrated the effect on Victorian libraries of the unprecedented increase in the price of books resulting from the continued devaluing of the Australian dollar.

### *Public Library Funding Review — User Pays?*

When the Labor government was elected to office in 1982 it pledged a restoration of the 50/50 funding arrangement for public libraries, ie 50% to be supplied by local government and 50% by state government. Due to financial constraints this promise has not been met and in order to find out how the situation might be rectified, a consultant, Brian Haratsis, was employed to investigate alternative means of funding public libraries. His report was released earlier this year and the Minister for the Arts established a working group to consider issues related to public library funding.

The group was to consider various issues raised in the Haratsis Report including the special needs faced by local government authorities, eg socio-economic disadvantages, distance etc. Of particular concern is that the report raises the possibility of public library users being charged to supplement library funds. The Working Group sought submissions from interested parties and as a result, the Victorian Public Libraries Section in conjunction with MINTERLIB and the Chief Librarians Council, requested Louise Lansley to

prepare a response to the report.

We are looking forward to reading her response and the recommendations of the Working Party which are due later in the year.

*Angela Bridgman*

## CATALOGUERS SECTION QLD GROUP

At the second general meeting of the Queensland Branch of the Cataloguers Section on 2 June, Margaret Travis of Brisbane College of Advanced Education, spoke on electronic publishing and its implications for cataloguing.

Margaret covered the use of electronic technologies in the production of conventional products such as books and indexes as well as new ways of presenting and manipulating information to extend existing services to users in stock exchange data bases, electronic yellow pages, electronic journals, electronic mail systems, facsimile transfer and gateway systems.

Margaret pointed to factors affecting the direction of electronic publishing, including economic climate, rising production costs, value to the user, acceptance of the technology by the clientele, legal aspects such as copyright and payment to authors, archival function and loss of information.

The implications for libraries and in particular technical services are the merging of selection and acquisitions functions, quality control, evaluation of information, downloading of material for further use, bibliographic control at the publication stage, etc.

In conclusion, Margaret posed a number of questions. Will technical services and user services functions merge? Will there be more generalisation or more specialisation of duties? Parallel systems will exist for some time. Will two separate systems be maintained or will they eventually merge?

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When is a glossary a subject encyclopaedia? Hint! See page 13

## LOCAL STUDIES SECTION

The Local Studies Librarians' Group (North Shore, Sydney) is initiating an application to form a national Local Studies Section of the LAA.

Local history librarians, local studies librarians, reference librarians in charge of genealogy collections, and all members interested in the development and use of local studies resource collections are invited to become signatories to this application.

Signed statements indicating endorsement of the proposal should be sent to Margaret Wyatt at Ku-ring-gai Municipal Library, 265 Pacific Highway, Lindfield, 2070. Statements should include details of name, membership status, full address, current employment, and date.

For further information, intending applicants should contact Linda Graham, Warringah Shire Library (02) 982 0449.

The deadline for receipt of statements is 13 October 1986.

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## Adding insult to injury

I didn't think we would need to comment (again) on another example of advertising that represents the profession and continues to use sexuality as the selling point, and then to give such irresponsible prominence to *InCite*. What appals us the most is the flippant comment given to the advertisement by our own professional journal.

Considering the present efforts by women in confronting the problem of sexual harassment, such a comment and such an advertisement does nothing to lessen existing or further problems.

The Committee has received a number of complaints concerning both the advertisement and the *InCite* editorial comment. We wish to lodge our own dismay given *InCite's* earlier response to a similar advertisement.

*Jinette de Gooijer*

Convener

Status of Women  
in Librarianship SIG

## Moonlighting for firefighting?

I wonder if the students undertaking Library study degree courses at tertiary institutions realise that the piece of paper they are working hard to obtain will be useful for lighting fires, but little else.

I studied part-time for a Bachelor of Applied Science (Library Studies) Degree at WAIT. It took me seven years working in libraries during the day and my 'spare' time was devoted to library studies. My course consisted not only of units aimed at library work directly but also three years study in a specific academic area to allow the student to become a subject specialist; in my case I undertook Economics. The day I received my degree status I was proud and relieved that I had reached the doorway to a professional career in library work.

I now realise I was a fool to believe life was meant to be that easy. The whole thing was a lie. I have now been informed by my employer that I can not be considered for professional employment because I do not have a degree in a subject other than Library Studies. I think undergraduate students of Library Studies should be told to stop wasting their time. They might as well go and sit on the beach for all the good their efforts will do them. They should be told that unless they get a degree in any subject other than Library Studies and then do a post-graduate course in Library Studies they will only be able to reach

Library Assistant level and then perhaps not even that because they will be over qualified but not qualified enough for professional status.

I feel frustrated and angry that I have wasted so much of my time when I find I could have relaxed with a good book in front of a blazing fire and still be as far in my career as I am today.

*Pim McCready*

## Retirement penalties?

It was very distressing to read in *InCite* (Letters 22.8.1986) that a former member of the LAA, Ms Del McGuiness, has been 'expelled' from the ranks of the ALAA and ordered to return her Certificate of Associateship. Surely retirement shouldn't bring a penalty from the fellow librarians administering the Library Association of Australia.

Hoping this directive from administrative narrow-mindedness should prove to be an error or only be misguided enthusiasm of the Association to appear 'professional'.

*Alison N. Starr*  
Member LAA

## NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

Continued from page 4

### NSW UCLS

'Access to library resources for disabled tertiary students' was the subject of the last meeting of UCLS (NSW), held on Monday 15 September. Val Moon, from the State Library of NSW, led a panel of speakers from the Royal Blind Society and DIALOG. The main emphasis of the evening was to alert tertiary library staff to the fact that access entails much more than disabled toilets and ramps. Access must begin with an attitude change, e.g. imagine studying Law via audio cassette, and then include, in addition to architectural design, human (librarian) intervention in addition to the purchase of technology.

While the cost of a Kurzweil machine is about \$75,000, the cost of access to library resources need not be that great. Libraries and librarians should consider actions such as learning the deaf and dumb alphabet; the purchase of large print dictionaries and encyclopaedias; producing directional information in a format for students with disabilities; and the taping (audio and video) of lectures.

It is in the area of access to library materials for disabled users that librarians can regain their true role as gate keepers — by being aware of the agencies involved in work with the disabled; by being aware, and being able to direct users to libraries that have purchased equipment to aid access for people with certain disabilities; and by keeping up with technologies, like micro computers, CD-ROM and Versa Brailles, and by reading the Chronolog column on DIALOG for the disabled user, etc.

The next meeting of UCLS will be a joint meeting with the New England Group, to celebrate the 10th year of the Armidale CAE Library. Mr Ron Parry, Chairman of the NSW Higher Education Board will speak on 'Librarians and Librarianship: the Educational Administrator's view'. The meeting will be on Wednesday, 15 October at the Armidale Ex-Services Memorial Club starting at 7.00 p.m. The cost will be \$11 per head. Phone Vicki Williamson at Armidale CAE for details.

The A/V Reader Education Workshop will be held on November 21-22 at Sydney College of the Arts. Phone (02) 692 0266 for details. The Library Materials Conservation Seminar will be held on 10 December at Sydney University. Phone (02) 692 2990 for details.

## LIBRARIES TO SELL AGPS PUBLICATIONS

Following discussions with the LAA, the Australian Government Publishing Service has agreed to initiate a pilot project to determine the feasibility of some public libraries acting as points of sale for AGPS publications.

Five libraries have been selected to take part in the pilot project which will commence on 1 October 1986 and continue for a 12-month period:

- Geelong Regional Library
- North Central Goldfields Library, Bendigo
- State Reference Library, Darwin
- Upper Murray Regional Library, Albury
- Wollongong City Library

The libraries will stock a limited range of AGPS publications available for purchase and will also supply catalogues and order forms for publications they do not stock.

The LAA and AGPS are both enthusiastic about this project and hope that if it proves to be successful it can be extended to other public libraries.

*Louise Lansley*

Industrial Information & Research Officer

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