

Previewing the UK view

In 1985 a transbinary group was established to consider librarianship and information studies as part of a programme of review of the teaching of particular disciplines in British universities and polytechnics. A brief note on the conclusions and recommendations of the report may be of interest to educators and practitioners in Australia.

In terms of a possible overproduction they conclude that a reduction in the number of LIS professionals being produced is not called for *at present*. They point to the need for expansion if the schools respond to the changing labour market — but if the schools fail to respond then perhaps there should be a significant reduction in numbers. Hence they point to the question of quality of courses. The calibre of recruits should be raised, curricula revised, more extensive understanding and cooperation between employers and educators and the use of expertise from other areas in the institutions in which courses are offered.

The recommendations include a continuation of the *Census of staff in librarianship and information work in the UK*; recruitment policies and publicity materials should be reviewed; all applicants for courses should be interviewed; part-time study be made available; that the funding of courses be resourced as a technological cost centre rather than a social science cost centre; that degrees at the undergraduate level should be available at

the honours level; postgraduates should work for at least a year before taking courses; and that an advisory group be established as an interface between educators and practitioners.

One school should have approval withdrawn and a further examination be made for the need to withdraw approval for another. 'The London Postgraduate Library School' be established as a consortium of the London schools. The needs of the South West of England could be met by relocating the Brighton Polytechnic School. The College of Librarianship Wales should become a constituent part of the University of Wales. The staff of the LIS and other information related courses should be brought together to discuss matters of mutual interest. Taught masters degrees should be developed and a credit transfer scheme established. Continuing education and distance learning should be developed.

The report is interesting but less radical in its approach and argument than had been hoped for; but nevertheless it has some points of relevance to Australian conditions.

Patricia Layzell Ward (Dr)

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SA EDUCATION LIBRARY OPTIONS

Following a lengthy meeting between Mr J R Steine SA Director General of Education, Alan Bundy (SA Branch President), Patricia Bickley (President Schools Section SA) and Edith Heinrich (President Specials Section SA) concerning the threatened disbandment of the Education Library, the LAA will have proposals for the future location/operations of the library referred to it for advice. Alan and Edith as members of SALAC (S.A. Libraries Advisory Committee) will also be representing SALAC's interest in the future of the Education Library under delegation from SALAC's Chairman Ray Olding.

Without the LAA's immediate and direct action over the future of the Education Library the chances of affecting the course of events would have been very low. We have now gained some appreciation that changing part of the State's network of library and information services has implications for the rest of the network, and that decisions about changes to library and information services should not be made lightly.

Alan Bundy

President, SA Branch

CORRECTION.

1986 Elections Brochure

Euan Miller's statement of professional concerns reads 'Libraries in Australia are in a funding crisis not seen since the early 1980s.' It was intended to read 'Libraries in Australia are in a funding crisis not seen since the early 1950s.'

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Angels gets Braille award

John Bryson's account of the Chamberlain case, *Evil Angels*, has won the Braille Book of the Year Award for 1986.

The book was produced in braille and on cassette for the borrowers of the Braille & Talking Book Library, and has been circulating since February. The borrowers voted on six short listed titles for the Award, which was made on Wednesday, October 15th.

Commenting on the unbiased reporting in the book, one reader said she 'couldn't turn her machine off until the end' and hoped there would be a sequel to cover subsequent events.

Now in its 13th year, the Award is designed to present the best of Australian literature to print handicapped readers using the Braille & Talking Book Library's service. A Short List is chosen from printed books published in the last year by the Literary Panel, consisting of Dr Stephen Murray-Smith, Ms Joyce Nicholson and Mr Barrett Reid.

These books are then produced in braille and on cassette and circulated to borrowers, who are invited to vote on the winning title.

Jan Smark Nilsson

DAPL, DAAL and DASL

Copies of the *Directory of Australian Public Libraries* and the *Directory of Australian Academic Libraries* are available from:

AUSLIB Press, PO Box 622, Blackwood SA 5051 (08) 278 4363.

Both of these publications cost \$15.00 including postage. A new edition of DAPL will be available in mid 1987 — and just to really confuse you DASL (*Directory of Australian Special Libraries*) available from the LAA will be out early in 87.

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