

That was 1986

This has been one of the most interesting and rewarding years for *InCite*.

The volume of both news and advertising has continued to grow, so that 20 pages is almost the standard size for an issue.

This growth of course has not been without problems. Obviously it takes longer to create a twenty page issue than to produce sixteen or twelve pages. And we are still working within the same time frame as back in 1982 when *InCite* was a fledgling of eight pages.

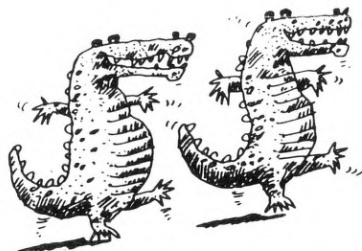
We have always tried to get *InCite* mailed on time and frequent miracles have been worked by our wonderful printers Craft Printing, whose cooperation and expertise have done so much to help *InCite* go on getting better and better!

It has been a lively year with lots of issues sparking off correspondence, including Australian books for Australian libraries, job worthiness of qualifications, the possibly hypothetical question of supplying information to South Africa and the librarians' moral dilemma. Inevitably creationism reappeared and there are still letters on file, notably one from Susan Robertson, on this subject which have not been able to appear through lack of space. *InCite's* 'rest period' in December and January may allow time to follow up these points of view in one article.

Roy Stall's article 'Stating the Bleeding Obvious' has received strong support and I hope his positive approach to the profession of librarianship will become much more widespread in 1987. A journalist I was speaking to recently said that perceptions of librarianship had changed and that these days no-one saw them in the 'bun and glasses' mode any longer. Unfortunately, this is not the case as has been clearly shown in the items reprinted in *InCite* columns this year (contact lenses!) This generated some angry response, but it cannot be ignored as one of the many reasons for adopting the kind of assertive role that Roy Stall was talking about.

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year to all readers and special thanks to the many enthusiastic contributors, to John Dessanti at Craft Printing, to Kathy Husselbee for being such an enthusiastic and innovative assistant and to Gordon Bain for his cartoons and artwork.

Brenda Pittard
Editor



TAX ON READING IS UNTHINKABLE

VICTORIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES are gearing up for a full blooded fight in defence of free library service. Not because an isolated country or suburban Council or sectional interest group is demanding the introduction of charges, but because the State Government has now included the introduction of cost recovery charges in the terms of reference for its Working Party on Public Library Funding.



It seems incongruous that business and enterprises that rely on accurate, up-to-date, and relevant information upon which crucial commercial decisions may have to be made are able and willing to dispense with the services of information professionals.

SA STATE BUDGET AND LIBRARIES

Disaster befell two special libraries in South Australia's State budget. The Education Department Library, the largest library of its type in Australia and the Lands Department Library were axed as a cost saving measure. Both Departments argued that these services were becoming less relevant and stressed that organisational change would maintain such services in a different way.



Isolation

Six months ago I abandoned the smoke and stress of the big city (well, the outer suburbs at least) to take up a new post at Orange, a provincial centre 250 kilometres from my state capital. In that six months I have come to realise how easily my colleagues in the bush can feel isolated — nay, even neglected.

... Occasionally, event-organisers seem to take a deep breath and actually cross the Blue Mountains to stage events in this area.

John E. C. Daley

FIRST WOMAN STATE LIBRARIAN

Jane La Scala is the new State Librarian of Victoria. Her appointment was officially announced on February 24 by Race Mathews, Victorian Minister for the Arts.

The appointment is a history-making one as it is the first time a woman has received a permanent appointment as State Librarian.

LIBRARY VICTORY!

Agreement has been reached between the Municipal Officers Association (MOA) and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) in the long-running campaign to achieve improved salaries for librarians and a new classification for Library Technicians working in Victorian Municipal Libraries.

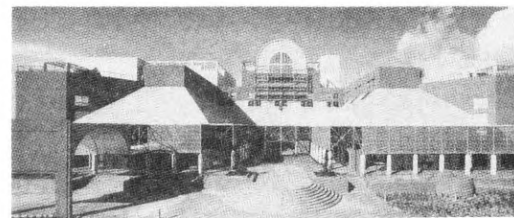
the bottom line

I've found another skeleton, and I'd like some help to grind the bones to fertiliser. The problem is that while technicians are usually considered 'more professional' than plain 'ordinary' members, some librarian members consider themselves 'more professional' than technician members. Shades of John Cleese.

One way in which the tyranny of distance can be overcome, at least as far as professional activities are concerned, is by the formation of regional groups of the LAA.



It's at the Beaufort



LOOK BACK

THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

By now you've probably read the book and can't wait for the movie, but what's it all about, this report of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee?

I think it means more than a name change, a different fee structure and a revised organisation chart. I think it's about the purpose of our Association.

Maybe the Professional Member category is misnamed and those people possessing qualifications' should be called Degree Member or Associate Member. Professional seems to be the contentious word and smacks of educational snobbery... Marlene Knowles

The prospect of disaster visiting a library — most often in the form of fire or flood — is no longer felt to be remote as reports of calamities have become increasingly common.

For Australian librarians, however, the most telling sign of the vulnerability of their collections was probably the near-disastrous fire at the National Library in March 1985. This event highlighted the urgent need for libraries to make comprehensive arrangements for disaster control, in particular the preparation of a contingency plan.



No laughing matter

Not only does the advertisement use a librarian stereotype, it also uses a sexist and exploitative view of an 'attractive' woman to promote a product which bears no relation to either of these misconceived images.

Pamela M. Jenkins

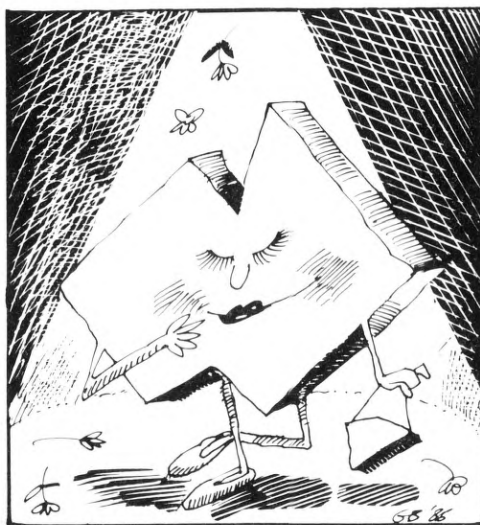
Moonlighting for firelighting?

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.

Pim McCready

Librarianship is a career that never ceases to amaze or fail to leave one with a feeling of satisfaction. Finding initial employment is hard, and there are many others in the same hotly fought employment queue, but you have to realise that you cannot sit back and wait for a job where you want it.

Carol Pagett



Australia gets the honours!

Australia has made history by winning both categories of the Hans Christian Andersen Award. This is the first time both sections of the Award have gone to one country — and the first time Australia has entered.

South African Sanctions?

I would like to suggest to fellow librarians that they look at their loans trade with South Africa or its embassies and consider if they should take restrictive action. In particular, in the area of weapons research. You may be in favour of a free flow of information, but what if the direct consequence is facilitating death in the townships of South Africa or its neighbour countries? The rapid growth of SA's arms industry depends to a significant extent on use of international research literature.

If this is a one-class airline I want to get off.



WEAKER DOLLAR SLASHES BOOK PURCHASES

Now to look at a couple of points of interest regarding 'Australian books'. How many of the so-called 'Australian books' are actually produced in Australia? If we delete the work done in Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong and to a smaller extent Japan, just how many totally Australian books are there? Just check your title pages and the story is self evident.

What about all the great 'Aussie' books which are exactly the same as overseas publications with 'Australian' added to the title. Just how Australian are they?

Forgetting ownership and profits, if a supplier has some local organisation in Australia, uses local people, goods and services, then some part of book funds will remain in Australia and make a contribution to our economy. Bill Kelly

Australia's that way, cobbers!

Imagine the scene. Two koalas 3000 metres up Mt. Ararat, barely able to walk, with no food, no sense of direction and 600-year-old Noah saying 'Righto cobbers, Australia's that way. Don't stop till you get there.'

Joe Goozeff

The priority for our Association in the years ahead is to develop that comprehensive membership and strong financial base without which our chances of making any real impact on the direction of Australian society and serving the overall interests of members are minimal.

Alan Bundy

