



I would like to make some comments on the future role of the Association of Local Government Librarians.

Whilst sitting in a Council meeting the other night, I noted from the Business Paper that the Local Government Community Services Association were having a two-day Conference in the near future. This Association comprises community workers, youth workers, arts officers, and other groups in this field. The thought struck me that Local Government librarians are a divided lot, being members of the Library Association, and Public Libraries Section, The Association of Local Government Librarians, or some library association section, such as cataloguers, or children's librarians, or not a member of anything.

In Local Government there are a number of associations, some unions, some not. The Town Clerks' Society (union), the Local Government Engineers' Association (union), Health Surveyors' Association (union), Town Planners' Association (not a union), Community Services Association (not a union).

These associations represent the majority of Local Government employees in these areas (whilst the Association of Local Government Librarians represent a minority) and can argue points for members with considerable clout, either with the Local Government Association, State Government, or the public generally.

Whilst not denigrating the Library Association or the Public Libraries Section or Children's Librarians' Section, it is doubtful whether these are the correct organisations to represent public librarians in this day and age.

By all means be a member of the LAA, but I feel that Local Government Librarians should be represented by the one association which should hold an annual Conference to which appropriate Ministers of the Crown, Local Government Association Officials, Aldermen and Clerks should be invited to attend, and that such a Conference should be a prestige event. (This view also has some interstate implications which I do not propose to touch upon at this point.) The dissipation of talent and leadership in the field of public librarianship, the lack of a unified voice on matters concerning public librarians are of real concern, particularly when attempts are made to downgrade the public librarian's position in Local Government.

L. B. Urane
Chief Librarian
Hurstville

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL LIBRARIES NEWS

ASLN now has a new editor, Ray Walsh and material should be submitted to him at PO Box 176, North Quay 4001.

Advertising and production are being handled through the LAA Head Office. Contact Brenda Pittard (02) 692 9233.

Back issues are also kept at LAA House, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007.

POLITICIANS ONLINE

The Australian Political Register (APOL) which was released on Ausinet in February, is the first directory of local politicians available online in Australia.

Both the database producer (Australian Consolidated Press) and the vendor (ACI computer Services), believes it will meet a big need in Australian libraries.

APOL will provide details of :

- all Federal and State politicians (with short biographies of all Ministers)
- Upper and Lower Houses in the Federal and each State Parliament
- all State and Federal ministries, plus the shadow ministries for the main opposition party in each case
- the officials of any political party which has at least one member elected to an Australian parliament
- the heads of all diplomatic delegations to Australia
- Australian diplomats abroad

With time the Register will grow to include people who have held political office in Australia but who do not currently do so. For instance, when Bill Hartley was expelled from the Victorian ALP in February, he was not similarly booted out of APOL. Just amended. . .

In the coming months APOL will be expanded to include government departments and ministerial staff. Further expansions in other areas are planned.

APOL should be particularly useful to anyone in the political field, in media, in marketing, libraries, researchers, academics and lobbyists, and companies and individuals who ever have need to contact government or politicians.

It is the second database produced by Australian Consolidated Press to be released on AUSINET. The full-text of Australian Business (AUSB) went up in September last year. The full-text of economic and political articles from *The Bulletin* will be ready for release later this year.

APOL is true electronic publishing. It exists only as an electronic database with no printed version. It is AUSINET's 44th database, joining a stable of economic, financial and business-oriented databases. 'APOL further enhances the usefulness of Australia's very own public access database service,' said Mark Wilson, of ACI Computer Services.

To access APOL you need to be an Ausinet subscriber (contact ACI Computer Services in your capital city, or in Melbourne on (03) 544 8433). If you would like to know any more about APOL contact Nicholas Hay at Australian Consolidated Press (02) 268 0666.

A User Clinic will be held in Sydney on Thursday April 30, at 3pm at ACI Computer Services, 1st Floor, 99 Alexander St, Crows Nest. If you're interested in attending ring Amanda Russell on (02) 437 6322, or just turn up.

Sue Wannan (ACP)

INFORMATION ONLINE 86

The seminar Information Online 86 provided an exciting start to the year.

The full Proceedings of this important seminar have been produced and will be available from the end of March.

The price is \$35 to LAA members, \$50 to non-members. Postage is \$3. Send payment with order for speedy processing to LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. (02) 692 9233.

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

TECHNICAL SERVICES/ SYSTEMS LIBRARIAN GRADE 8-12

Applications are invited and will be received by the undersigned up to 4.00 pm on Tuesday 1st of April, 1986 for the position of Technical Services/Systems Librarian.

The position is a senior one responsible for the administration of the Library's Technical Services Section and the implementation, maintenance and development of the Library Computer System. Some cataloguing and reference duties are also involved.

The Technical Services Section has two professional cataloguers, one library technician, three library assistants and casual staff. Penrith City Library is in the final stage of the implementation of a fully integrated, on-line computer system. Special emphasis is being placed on improved subject access through the on-line catalogue.

Applicants must be eligible for professional membership of the Library Association of Australia and possess a recognised degree. Applicants should have several years of relevant experience. Knowledge of on-line catalogues would be an advantage.

The salary payable for this position will be between \$427.80 and \$474.40 depending upon qualifications and experience.

All enquiries should be addressed to the Deputy City Librarian, Mr G. Patingale telephone (047) 32 2279, ext. 314. A duty statement is available.

Applications must be in writing and be accompanied by copies of two recent references. Please quote Position No. 808-37 and address applications to:

B. B. Long Town Clerk,
Administrative Centre,
114-116 Henry Street,
Penrith NSW 2750.

HAPPENINGS: *InCite* has a tight deadline schedule. Make meeting this schedule a little easier by planning ahead — Happenings sent by mail should be posted early or use (008) 22 1481 to telephone your message in. Happenings need to be received by midday on the deadline date.

SALARY SCALES

The 1986 edition of the LAA publication SALARY SCALES is now available. To obtain your copy please complete the form below.

To LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007

Please send copies of Salary Scales 1986

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