



**Aboriginal Perspectives – Helpful hints and practical solutions**

Aboriginal perspectives across the curriculum/ ed Janet Hansen. Ultimo, NSW: School Library Section NSW Group, Library Association of Australia, 1985. 42pp. \$6.00 LAA members, \$9.00 non-members. ISBN 0 86804 057 4.

This document contains four selected papers presented at a 1984 seminar intended for teachers and teacher librarians entitled, 'Aboriginal Studies – Resources to Support the Curriculum.' The credibility of the speakers is high because each of them has had lengthy involvement in the development of Aboriginal studies programmes within their schools, regions and/or through departmental committees.

In her analysis, Hobbs discusses the background and content of the revised edition of the bibliography *Resources In Aboriginal Studies* (1984). Of particular interest is her discussion of evaluation criteria for resources which includes such points as: Does the author know the subject and present it faithfully? and Does the material present an Aboriginal side to the issue? Appendix 1, entitled 'Evaluating Materials for Teaching Aboriginal Studies' expands further on appropriate

evaluation criteria.

Shimeld explores approaches to the 1984-85 Higher School Certificate Course Topic Area. 'The Aboriginal Experience.' Stress on the role of the teacher-librarian as a source of information and direction for both students and teachers is a significant point made in her presentation.

Craddock discusses the role of an Aboriginal studies resource file in a primary school. Both the rationals and the process used to develop such a file at a specific school are outlined. Strategies for teacher use of the file also features.

Turrell documents the procedures used to develop a high school library collection in response to the Aboriginal studies curriculum. In addition to outlining helpful approaches, she focuses on fiction and non-fiction reading materials and the development of reading themes.

The first person touch of these papers does much to capture the flavour of the actual seminar itself. One supposes that teachers and teacher librarians who were attempting to respond to the 1982 departmental policy on Aboriginal studies attended this conference for precisely the helpful hints and practical solutions that these papers provide. The reader, however, may experience a vague feeling of disappointment that while the immediate short term questions were discussed, little time was spent on in-depth analysis of underlying principles and issues relating to resource selection and evaluation. Nonetheless, the papers serve as a starting point for discussion and the bibliographies and appendices should provide a useful resource for teachers and teacher-librarians.

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**LIGHT PAPERS PRESERVED**

The personal papers and sketches of Colonel William Light must be regarded as some of South Australia's most valued historical documents. The correspondence, miscellaneous papers, note and sketch books, loose sketches and the maps of Colonel William Light, together with printed matter and books formerly owned by him are undergoing preservation at the State Conservation Centre.

This valuable record group, known as *The Light Papers*, consists of 285 items housed in the Mortlock Library of South Australiana.

This current preservation programme has been made possible by a grant of \$33,250 from the F. D. Somerville Bequest. The State Librarian, Mr Euan Miller, when announcing the bequest stated that the State Library was delighted to receive the funding as he believed the Light Papers to be one of the most important and interesting record groups held in the Mortlock Library.

**PLAC has a say!**

A new committee allowing public librarians to have more say in the decision making processes which affect their individual libraries has been formed.

The Public Libraries Advisory Committee (PLAC) has recently begun in South Australia as a Standing Committee of the Libraries Board of South Australia.

The provision of a new Public Libraries Advisory Committee as a standing committee of the Libraries Board of South Australia is an initiative which will assist with the formulation of strategy to combat many of the problems of public library services in this state. It will provide a necessary pool of expertise on public library matters to assist in the preparation of submissions, to assist public libraries to help themselves, to encourage the achievement of excellence in service, and most importantly, to enhance a cooperative local government/state government voice on public library issues.

Responses to the budget this year indicate that the present level of representation from public librarians and local authorities as part of the decision making process needs to be examined closely.

There has been representation from local authorities, (on the Libraries Board of South Australia and the Finance Committee of the Board) but none from public librarians. On the other hand, the newly formed Public Libraries Advisory Committee seems to fit the bill well, with representation from the Local Government Association, Local Government, and two public librarians, one representing the city and one representing country. This committee will become directly involved with the subsidy budget process. It is expected to provide the answer to the need for greater consultation.

PLAC will act as a representative/consultative committee on the subsidy budget for public librarians.

Greater communication between State and Local Governments will be the major benefit of the Committee.

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