

FEEDBACK

UCLS NSW GROUP

On 15 June, the NSW Branch and UCLS held a joint meeting at which Professor Boyd Rayward from the University of NSW spoke on 'The Need for Research in Libraries'. His address concentrated on two aspects:

1. the essence of research and how it should be approached, and
2. what is happening to libraries and why research is so needed in the present situation.

Research was defined as taking a statement or question and setting out to prove or disprove it, asking more questions, exploring different possibilities and substantiating findings with the appropriate data.

The radical changes to libraries' operations, brought about by computer technology, were related to the need for research in the library profession. Libraries have become highly sophisticated mechanisms, innovating successfully and integrating what is new with what is already in existence. Research is needed to formulate how libraries can best fulfil the potential offered by technology and promote the library's role as an integral component of the information industry. All those in attendance were personally challenged to write a paper with the offer of a review from Professor Rayward. The large group in attendance participated in a lively discussion time.

J. Sweeten
Committee Member

VICTORIAN BRANCH

50th Anniversary Celebrations

The Branch will hold a gala evening in the Queen's Hall at the State Library of Victoria on Friday 7 August between 6.30pm and 9.00pm. There will be fine food and music provided by a chamber orchestra. Members of the Victorian Branch who were active in library matters in the early years will be guests. Bruce Davidson, who is the organiser of the evening, would welcome more suggestions for the guest list for the event. More details can be supplied by Bruce on (03) 651 8231.

Branch Council meeting

A joint Victorian/South Australian Branch meeting will be held in Mt. Gambier on the weekend of 16-17 October, in conjunction with the proposed new 'Green Triangle' Regional Group. Planning for the program is underway.

The Branch nominates representatives to many committees, and the Secretary is to draw up a complete list of Victorian Branch representatives on non-LAA committees. The list will be available to any Branch member interested.

The publication *Branch Watch* continues to be used heavily by those who plan the dates of future meetings. It has proved a very successful method of preventing double bookings and clashes. Make sure that your meeting is reported to Branch Secretary, Bev Kirby on (03) 797 5533.

Ray Price

DISTANCE EDUCATION SIG

The July issue of *News About Libraries And Distance Education* contains: Craig Grimson's report on the March Consultation; University of Queensland's explanation of its very generous loans policy; Val Gould on school-community libraries in South Australia; Bob Hoffman on teleconferencing in Western Australia; and Alan Bundy on SACAE and public libraries. Christine Crockier, Edward Reid-Smith and Helen Rowan have also contributed news of publications and conferences.

The Paper Forum device (this time on Library Service to External Students in the Health Sciences) has elicited more responses than it was possible to print in this issue.

The next issue will be devoted mainly to news from the 'Libraries Alone' and ASPESA conferences; also the proceedings of the AGM of the Distance Education SIG.

The computer has now dropped those members who did not choose to renew membership of this SIG. A few back copies of recent issues are available, by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Shirley R. Cohen, Editor, *News About Libraries and Distance Education*, 66 Paterson Street, Numurkah, Vic 3636. Deposit copies are sent regularly to the National Library and the State Library of Victoria.

Shirley R. Cohen

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION NSW GROUP

The theme 'Technicians Towards 2000' drew library technicians, librarians, students and teachers to the Annual General Meeting on 19 June. Guest speakers Alison Crook, Dagmar Schmidmaier, Diana Oliver and Rosemary McLauchlan gave an overview of technological development (current and future) in educational, public, special and research libraries. Some thought-provoking implications for library technicians were raised: the need for specialisation, the opportunity to articulate to the degree course, improved status for library technicians, and post-graduate courses. The importance of the issues raised was indicated by the lively discussion that followed the speeches. It will also be evidenced in the follow-up discussions that will take place at Library Technicians Section Committee meetings. Be there!

Jean Bailey

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

Holiday programming

With the prospect of yet another set of school holidays looming, the Children's Libraries Section (NSW Group) held an evening of 'Holiday Programming — ideas, ways and ends', at the recently opened Canterbury Library, on 9 June. Many public libraries around the Sydney area were represented by either their Children's Librarian or staff involved in children's work.

Sue Parkinson the State Library's Children's Consultant, was the first speaker, with the topic 'Why Programming?' She stressed that with library budgets being tightened, Children's Librarians need to be prepared to

BOOKMOBILE SIG — still 'rollin' along.

Anyone interested in joining the LAA's Bookmobile Libraries Special Interest Group or anyone in need of just making contact should get in touch with Susan Robertson C/- Consultancy and Public Libraries Services, Library Council of Victoria, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne 3000 (03) 669 9936. Also please note that Library Council of Victoria's residential seminar weekend 'Bookmobile Round-up' will be held on 29-30 August.

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justify holiday programs and should always have statistics, anecdotal instances and evaluation of children's responses at hand to use as ammunition. Often the whole library has to work around children's programs so it is important that they run as smoothly as possible.

Julie Hannigan, Children's Librarian at Randwick Municipal Library then spoke to the meeting about 'How to Program'.

Julie has devised a series of forms for holiday programming designed to help get the routine things out of the way. The first form is a long-term planner for an entire year, listing holiday dates, Book Week and Children's Week (incorporating the Koala Awards). The second form is a planner for each individual activity, on which the day and date, the program/activity/display proposed, the objectives, resources needed (including staff and materials), bookings needed, cost, publicity required, and evaluation of these steps and the response to the activity are listed.

Carole Miesel from Fairfield Library spoke about the success her library has had using professional performers for holiday programs. Carole believes professionals should be used in areas where librarians aren't experts. Fairfield Library believes in having a children's outreach program. Such programs stimulate children's imaginative processes, support the arts in Australia and give children the opportunity to appreciate the cultural arts.

Linda Briggs, from the Children's Libraries Film Circuit, spoke about using films in holiday programs. Films can sometimes be a good lead into programs, or can tie-in at the end of a program, finishing the session off on a quiet note and reinforcing the activity. Films can be a program in themselves. When planning a film program, it is important to think ahead and book films early.

The last session of the evening was an extremely helpful exchange of ideas (successes and failures) by everyone present. The evening was a pleasant one and just as importantly, a helpful one with people going away with fresh ideas and hopefully, renewed enthusiasm.

Julie Taylor

Children's Librarians and Schoolies
Don't forget to send in details of events planned for Children's Book Week for In-Cite's special issue. Photos of last year's activities will be appreciated too!

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

Exchanges: the trials and tribulations

On 1 April the New England Regional Group held its first meeting for the year. The meeting was addressed by Ms Sheila Walters on the topic of 'exchanges'. Sheila is Health Sciences Librarian at the Arizona State University and has just completed an exchange with Armidale CAE.

Sheila spoke about many of the problems associated with organising her exchange (and indeed all exchanges), such things as organising visas, travel arrangements, accommodation, and so on. Sheila is due to return to the United States in June and her first commitment when she returns (in fact the day after) is to present a poster session on exchanges to the American Library Association Conference in San Francisco.

Library services to the disabled

On 19 May the Group held its second function for the year. Guest speaker was Val Moon, Community Services Librarian with the State Library of NSW.

Val delivered a lively presentation, covering such topics as the role of the Community Services Librarian, the standard of services in the USA and Canada for the visually and hearing impaired (in 1986 Val was awarded a Churchill Scholarship which took her to the USA and Canada to study library services to the disabled), the role of public libraries in the provision of services to the disabled and community attitudes to the disabled.

Craig Grimison
President

INFORMATION SCIENCE SECTION

Proceedings of Online '87 are now available for sale from the LAA. The papers provide a comprehensive overview of the state-of-the-art of online information retrieval and have applications for a variety of library and information agency settings. Don't miss the opportunity to purchase your copy at the special price of \$25 plus \$3 postage (LAA members) and \$40 plus \$3 postage (non-members).

UCLS SA GROUP

On 11 May, the Section was represented at the National Information Policy Seminar held at CSIRO, Woodville. Colin Taylor, of the SA Institute of Technology Library, among others, addressed the group.

On 14 May, UCLS joined with the SA Branch in an evening meeting on the proposed increase in ILL charges. Speakers were Euan Miller, Julie Hooke, Josie Powditch, Noel Stockdale, and Eric Wainwright.

On 27 May, Jane Price of the University of British Columbia, spoke to a combined Medicals/UCLS meeting of approximately 30 people. Afterwards, a smaller group enjoyed dinner with Jane at the Jasmin Restaurant.

SA BRANCH

Following recent local council elections in South Australia, the SA Branch has written to all councillors congratulating them and drawing attention to the important role of library and information services in local government.

Councillors will also soon be invited to a seminar to be held as a joint venture between the LAA and the Public Libraries Branch to explain the important role of libraries, their special services and the need for continued support at the local level.

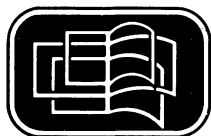
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The particular need now is to demonstrate to local decision-makers that their library does not stand alone, that it is an integral part of the 'national library' and that if it is not supported properly it either fails or becomes parasitic. What is to be made of the fact that in 1986 public libraries borrowed on interlibrary loan 192,566 items but lent only 148,520? Or of the fact that in 1986 one public library system in its attempt to meet user needs borrowed 9,078 items, but lent only 10? We've taken a long time to awaken to the challenge.

Alan Bundy
Vice-President

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