

FEEDBACK

NSW BRANCH

The 1987 update of *So You Want to Work in Libraries and Information Science: Courses in Librarianship, Information Science and Archives Administration in NSW and the ACT* is available — single copies from LAA Head Office, and up to five copies from the Editor, Diana Oliver, (02) 521 0353. For people wanting to run off a large number of copies, a master can be requested from Diana.

This booklet which has been widely distributed is a useful and practical listing of courses with comments relating to awards and should be used in conjunction with the LAA's pamphlet 'Library and Information Studies' which is aimed primarily at those responsible for providing career information to secondary students.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION (NATIONAL)

At its Melbourne meeting on Wednesday 23 September, AACOBS Standing Committee approved in principle the appointment of a surveyor to determine the impact of the introduction of interlibrary loan charges on Australian libraries, particularly public libraries, and even more particularly, rural public libraries.

This is grand news and AACOBS is to be heartily congratulated. The Standing Committee had originally (26 May) refused the LAA March offer of a joint survey before imple-

mentation of the ILL charges resolution, and had argued instead that any study be deferred until 12 months after the introduction of the scheme (ie until July 1988).

The turnabout by AACOBS reflects the depth of response engendered in public libraries throughout the country, but most particularly in NSW where Diana Oliver has organised successfully for local exemptions for public libraries.

Unfortunately, in Victoria, at least 2 public libraries have already resigned from AACOBS in protest at the original ILL charging decision.

The new AACOBS survey proposal arose from a joint Working Party on Research and Development and Working Party on User Needs meeting on 18 September, that I as Section President attended to put the case for the review. I have now been invited to participate in a survey sub-committee.

The terms of reference and the form of the survey are yet to be decided, but it will seek to determine who is charging for ILL, and what the affect has been on ILL traffic and on library users; it will also investigate the local exemption schemes that have emerged in each state.

Ross Gibbs
President

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION VICTORIAN GROUP

At a function held at the 'Snail and Bottle', Law Institute of Victoria, on 16 September 1987, Peter Dawe, launched the *Guide to collections in Victorian special libraries*, compiled by the Victorian Committee of the Special Libraries Section.

In her welcoming speech, Jan Wright, President of the Special Libraries Section, Victorian Group, outlined the development of the *Guide*. In 1983, concerned about the growing trend toward charging for interlibrary loans of monographs by some larger libraries, the Victorian Committee investigated the production of a guide to collections in Victorian special libraries, as a means of identifying the resources of special libraries — many of which are not contributors to national union catalogues — with a

view to spreading the flow of interlibrary loan traffic and reducing the burden on the larger libraries.

The Victorian Committee joined forces with the Victorian Committee of the Acquisitions Section of the LAA to produce a common questionnaire as the basis for the *Guide* and the Acquisitions Section's *Directory of collection strengths in Victorian libraries*. The two publications are considered companion volumes — the *Directory* covering all types of libraries and listing the significant features of Victorian libraries, and the *Guide* being broader in scope but limited to Victorian special libraries.

Peter Dawe quoted sources spanning the past 20 years that emphasised the need for librarians to develop networks to obtain access to other resources beyond their normal requirements and restricted budgets. He pointed out that these sentiments ring true today more than ever, with the decline in the value of the Australian dollar, the escalation in publishing costs, the greater demand for accountability, and shrinking financial and human resources. Any service that brings the collective resources of a group of libraries together is welcome.

Peter then outlined the findings of a report to the Commission for the Future entitled *Australian attitudes to science and technology and the future*, which notes that Australians support science, technology and research but appear to be poorly informed or these subjects and their importance to our economic and social well-being. Peter concluded that, as custodians of some of the nation's most important information resources, special libraries have a particularly important role to play in promoting access to and use of this information. And, after thanking those responsible for the publication, Peter formally launched the new publication. The *Guide to collections in Victorian special libraries*, has 414 entries from 140 libraries and will be an essential tool in all types of libraries. Copies may be purchased from the LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007, for \$20 (LAA members) or \$30 (Non-members) plus \$2 postage and handling.



Elaine Alexander, Convenor, Guide Working Party, at the display table.



Guide to Collections in Victorian Special Libraries launch. (left to right) Jan Wright, President Victorian Group; Peter Dawe, LAA President; and Elaine Alexander.

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION (NSW GROUP)

Granville May's travelling show

The Project Manager of the Bicentennial Photographic Archive Project, Granville May, at a meeting on 26 August at Bankstown City Library outlined the history of the project and the development of the technology which has made this exciting conservation project possible.

Of the 40 people who attended the meeting, organised jointly by the Public Libraries Section and the Local Studies Section (NSW Groups), six were from Historical Societies.

Granville demonstrated searching for topics using the Just Imagine software which allows rapid access. The thermal printer supplied excellent copies.

A display on the project will be included on the Small Business Train and next year will be part of the Darling Harbour Exhibition.

Under the direction of indexing consultant Alan Walker, a team of indexers is working on photographs from the Government Printing Offices' own archive and selections of material from the Maritime Service Board and Macleay Museum collections. All this material will be included on the Bicentennial disc.

The sharing of discs for local history collections and for networking are possible developments public librarians and others need to investigate. (*InCite* Vol 8, No 13, 7 August 1987 has a detailed description of the Laser Picture Studio, the technology involved, and ideas for offsetting costs.)

Do public libraries need reader education?

Leonie Blair, Educational Services Librarian, Dixon Library, University of New England and Suzanne McShane, Reader Education Librarian, Sutherland Shire Library and Information Service at a joint meeting with RARA at Canterbury Municipal Library on 8 July discussed the need for, and advantages of, implementing an adequate reader education program.

Leonie gave the major paper — a stimulating and practical approach to reader education which drew on both her experience in public libraries and at the University of New England. The latter in addition to its academic program has sessions designed for special groups, such as aboriginal groups, schools, and for the public.

Objectives and objections to reader education, relevancy, factors in implementing programs such as identification of clientele, organisation of programs, involvement of the community, financing, evaluation, promotion, and the need for long term commitment were discussed against a background familiar to everyone — ie shortage of funds, and the need to create independent self sufficient users.

Leonie provided many examples, from her own experience and from sources such as Lubans and Scrivener, of methods and ideas to make reader education effective and an integral part of library management and promotion.

The Final Countdown — there's only three more *InCite*'s to go for 1987. If you have something important to say before our summer siesta make sure you meet one of the following deadlines — 20 October; 3 November; 17 November. Send editorial items to Kathy Husselbee and 'Happenings' to Tanya Vojsk. Don't delay!

TAFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Over 100 librarians, library technicians, library educators, representatives from library suppliers, and other interested persons attended the very successful First National Conference of the LAA TAFE Section in Brisbane in July. Participants from all states and the ACT welcomed the opportunity to share information, both formally through the conference sessions, and informally over lunch or at the various social functions. This year seemed a most appropriate time to consider the role of library services in technical and further education, being 'Halfway There' between the landmark Kangan Report and the end of this century.

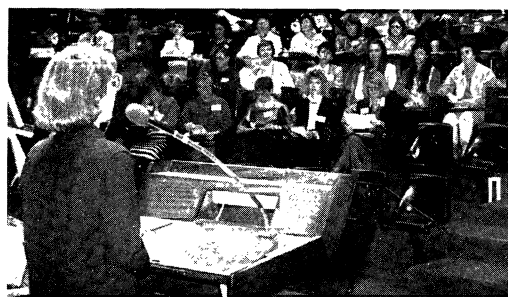
The focus of the conference was on the library and information needs of the stakeholders in TAFE — students, educators, industry and the community. Included in the papers were those from each state and territory TAFE library service, Queensland TAFE Principals and the National Plastics Industry Training Committee. Changes in the work environment due to recent developments in education, automation and communications technology were also discussed.

Workshops aimed at defining the purpose and objectives of TAFE libraries in Australia and identifying the services necessary to support quality technical and further education. These were seen as the first steps toward the development of national standards for TAFE libraries, as well as being vital for our survival in the tough economic times ahead. Subsequent development work will be undertaken by two special-purpose committees.

The first volume of the Proceedings, containing papers submitted in advance to the National Committee, was available at the conference and completely sold out — a tip for future conference organisers! The Supplement, including additional papers, a list of participants, recommendations from the workshops and a summary of the evaluation forms received, will be printed soon.

The conference was organised jointly by the TAFE National Section's Executive Committee and Queensland Group. The home-state Group organised a scenic venue for us at Bardonia and bushland accommodation at the TAFE Halls of Residence at Kelvin Grove. They also arranged social activities for every night of the conference which were well-attended — and well-received, judging by the comments on the evaluation forms.

In all, a packed program and an encouraging beginning — both for future conferences and for the development of standards for TAFE libraries.



Above — Formal communication: President, Bernice Burgess, welcomes participants and informal communication: a chance to share information with colleagues.

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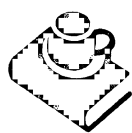
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