

AVERILL GETS THE NUMBERS



Averill Edwards has been elected LAA Vice-President 1988/President-Elect 1989. Averill, the Acting Principal Librarian, Policy Secretariat, of the National Library of Australia, was General Secretary of the Association from 1982 — 1985, and President of the ACT Branch. She has been a member of the Association since 1961.

Consolidation

Averill sees the next few years as a period of consolidation for the Association, following the changes that have taken place recently as a result of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee Report. She believes it is important for the Association to formulate information policies and for Federal and State Governments to be aware of the need for co-ordination of policies in this area. She will also be seeking to raise the profile of librarians with bureaucrats, politicians, the business sector and the wider community.

In the ballot Averill received 487 votes, followed by Naida Tattersall with 175 votes and John Cohen with 84 votes.

Board of Education

Sixteen candidates contested three seats on the Board of Education. Anne Hazell, David Jones and Christine Hendersen were elected. Anne is Education Officer in Charge of the Library, Resource Development Unit, Education Department of South Australia. David is Building Project Co-ordinator at the State Library of NSW, and Christine is Manager of the Public Libraries Branch, Department of Local Government, South Australia.

There were 752 valid votes counted in the poll, 5.6 percent more than in 1986.

Sue Phillips
Acting Director

This is the last *InCite* for 1987 — the deadline for the first issue of 1988 is 19 January! Keep the *InCite* card in this issue handy as it gives all deadline and mailing dates for 88.

Correction

In 'Land prices vs literature', *InCite* No 18's cover story, when referring to the travelling exhibition featuring works by May Gibbs and Peg Maltby, a typographical error produced 'Meg' Maltby. Andrew MacKenzie would like *InCite* readers to know that he has been involved with exhibition over the last few years.

NT School Library Services News

Developments in automated services

One of the most exciting developments in school libraries in the Northern Territory has been the introduction of the Dobis/Libis Automated Library System. Dobis was introduced early in 1983, with Dripstone High School and Sanderson High School in Darwin being the first libraries to load records. The system was made available to the schools through the Territory government's mainframe network. Now, four years later, there are 12 high schools, three education centres and School Library Services either fully on the system or in the process of retrospective conversion. The total number of school holdings on the database is 167,000 to date.

Apart from the obvious advantages of a shared bibliographic database, the circulation function has greatly reduced the day-to-day tedium of a manual system with daily overdue printouts, rapid charge-out/check-in procedures and the like. Subject, author and title catalogues are available in hard-copy format with Online Public Access Catalogues (OPAC) in the near future. An even more recent development has been access to the ABN by high schools. This facility has aided retrospective conversions still occurring, as these records are downloaded on to the Dobis database.

For some time, all primary schools have been able to access ASCIS online at School Library Services or through microfiche subscription. Three primary schools are ordering cataloguing in MARC format and more are expected to follow shortly. All card orders have been placed via a dedicated line to ASCIS. This line is currently being transferred to the government mainframe computer, to which all secondary schools and education centres, as Dobis users, are connected. ASCIS, ACIN (Australian Curriculum Information Network), Ausinet and the Northern Territory Film Library will not only be available to secondary schools, but also to their feeder primary schools.

Video Magazine

Ed Boyd, an advisory teacher-librarian based at the Alice Springs Education Centre, is involved in producing the Look Show. This is an innovative approach to the use of video skills and television. Video portapack equipment is lent to Aboriginal schools in the Southern Directorate for periods of about six weeks. After initial training, the students film items of interest in their local environment. When the equipment goes to the next school, used videotapes are returned to the Educa-

tion Centre for editing. In this way, a high interest video magazine is produced. This 'magazine' is sent to all participating schools. So far it has been very well received. With the addition of a series of book reviews, the Look Show may serve as a selection tool in the future for teachers in charge of libraries in small schools throughout the Northern Territory.

New Accommodation

A move to a newly-constructed six storey building in the Darwin Central Business District brings together the User Services Sections of School Library Services, Public Library Services and the NT Film Library Technical Services Section, Systems and Library Branch Administration. The new accommodation is only a few minutes walk from the State Reference Library and the Northern Australian Collection.

Conservation On the Move — looking back

As 1987 draws to a close I can look back over my past year's activities, made possible by a NSW Bicentennial grant, all aimed at taking conservation out into the community.

In association with the University of NSW, which provides my base and facilities, nearly one hundred graduate students in librarianship and archives administration have received a basic introduction to the conservation of library and archives materials. Thirteen 'at home' conservation workshops have taken place in the School of Librarianship for professionals already in the work situation, all fully subscribed.

Eleven country centres have organised conservation seminar/workshops for me. One country and two metropolitan libraries have hosted 'conservator in residence' sessions.

Both public and private libraries have called on me as a consultant. Several small museums have invited me to survey and advise on the care of their historical records. A telephone advisory service to members of the public has not been too overwhelming. Conservation materials in small quantities have been supplied on request.

Planning for next year has reached an advanced stage. Activities will include: an 'at home' workshop series introducing new topics; publication of conservation teaching notes in a handbook form by the LAA; further seminar/workshops in country centres; extension of the 'conservator in residence' service. For further details contact Helen Price, LAA Bicentennial Conservator, School of Librarianship, University of NSW, Box 1, Kensington, 2033 (02) 697 3477.

Helen Price

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