

The facts about SOLV's 'emotional claims'

Over the last few weeks Municipal Councils, librarians, and the general public have been subjected to a range of fatuous statistics by the Minister for the Arts, Race Mathews, over library funding.

The librarians themselves have found it necessary in the interest of an objective and

balanced view of the controversy to continually correct his claims.

As late as 13 February in a letter to all chief librarians of municipal libraries he again presented biased inadequate facts aimed at blurring and confusing the debate.

His claim that \$33.5 million is spent by his Government on libraries, neglects that only half the amount is provided for municipal public libraries, with the other half going to the State Library, the State Archives and the State Film Centre.

The Minister then told state parliament on 24 February that on a per capita basis the Victorian Government spends twice as much as its neighbours in NSW and more than any other mainland state other than Western Australia.

However, a paper prepared by the Library Council of Victoria on 3 June 1986, which compares expenditure by all state governments on municipal libraries in 1984/85 shows how incorrect his statement is:

State	Amount per Capita
NSW	\$1.97
Victoria	\$4.21
Queensland	N/A (\$6.06 million + an unavailable salary subsidy figure)
SA	\$5.13
WA	\$4.55
Tasmania	\$14.92
NT	\$21.04

On this basis there is only one state obviously worse off than Victoria.

It is also a fact that ever since the Cain Government came to power in 1982 many public libraries have been forced to cut back on expenditure. This has, to date, affected mainly the book vote, but with the proposed \$2 million cut for 1987/88 libraries will be forced to cut back many areas of service to save costs.

The impact of the proposed funding cuts on local government authorities will not be a \$2 million loss, but closer to \$3.4 million in 1987/88 and \$4.9 million in 1988/89, assuming an eight percent inflation on \$17.6 million.

If municipalities do not make good this deficit, there will be a job loss for 127 persons or 10 percent of municipal library staff across the state. These are not emotional claims, but the facts.

While libraries and local governments have had to live with 'belt tightening' during the Labor Government's period of office, the Minister neglects to tell the public that Victorian Public Libraries have been extremely efficient in this period and have increased productivity in the 1980-85 period; total loans rose by 13.4 percent from 26.32 to 29.84 million and loans per capita by 6.9 percent from 6.84 to 7.31 loans per head of population.

Once again there is no hysteria in our claims, only the facts.

There is also no hysteria by us in the Government proposal to allocate \$2 million to the needs of the State Library. We welcome Race Mathews' efforts to look after the library's needs. But we claim that local government should not be faced with the hardship of redressing the neglect of the State Library by both the Labor Government and the previous Liberal Governments.

The relevance of the Victorian State Library to the public library system is acknowledged, but even this relevance is being downgraded by the Labor Government's actions with the decision to shut down the large print section of external services.

SOLV can also understand the inquiry into library funding. But the breadth of the Geddes Committee is such that it will do little to serve the interests of all the libraries involved. We also must ask: Can the expense of this new study be justified in view of the unceremonial sacking of the Curry Committee and the work and costs associated with it? Much of the work of the Curry Committee is being duplicated by this new review process.

All the issues SOLV has raised do not amount to hysteria, but a factual account of the current situation and future likelihoods.

Alisdair Wardle
Secretary, SOLV



Above: Librarians and concerned members of the public attracting media coverage while demonstrating against library funding cuts on the steps of the Victorian House of Parliament during SOLV's bookmobile roundup.



LAA LIBRARY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

The Library Association of Australia is pleased to announce the establishment of the LAA Library Manager of the Year Award.

The award is sponsored by AWA Computer Services Pty. Ltd.

Aim

- To recognise and encourage good management practices within Australian libraries and information services.
- To encourage the development of an organisational climate within libraries and information services which promotes innovation and a better working relationship between managers and their staff.

Eligibility

The award of LAA Library Manager of the Year is open to any member of the Library Association of Australia responsible for the management of a library service, an individual library or information service, or a significant organisational unit within a larger library or information service.

The award is for management rather than supervision, and nominees should be able to demonstrate outstanding performance in planning, resource allocation and the organisation of staff. A nominee will be expected normally to be responsible for the direction of staff, including professional staff.

Nominations

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by two members of the staff of, or clients of, the organisation in which the nominee is employed, including at least one person within the library or unit which the nominee is responsible for managing.

Nominations should include:

- Name of nominee.
- Title of position held.
- Name and address of organisation.
- Number of staff whom the nominee is responsible for managing.
- Major achievements of the manager in the previous three years.
- Reasons why the nominee is regarded within his or her organisation as an outstanding manager.

Selection

The award will be administered by a sub-committee, consisting of one member of the LAA Board of Education, one member of General Council, and the Past President of the LAA.

Criteria which will be considered by the sub-committee in making a recommendation for the award include:

1. Demonstrable improvements in service delivered to the library or information services' clientele, as a result of decisions for which the manager is responsible, or through submissions made by the manager to higher funding/decision-making authorities.
2. Demonstrable improvements in working productivity obtained in the library or unit for which the manager is responsible.
3. Implementation of innovative approaches to services delivered, or to the organisation of work.
4. Improvement or establishment of successful relations between the service and its clientele, the manager and his/her staff, or between units in the service.
5. Examples of effective planning and implementation of new services or procedures.
6. Demonstrable improvements in decision-making procedures and/or communication (amongst staff or to/from users), in areas for which the manager is responsible.

Nomination forms are available from the Assistant Executive Director, Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo 2007. Nominations close on **1 June 1987**.

Woolly watchdogs?

I was shocked and amazed to read in the yellow dodger received late last year 'The name of our Association was finally decided on at the November General Council meeting.' Council cannot make such a decision.

Equally out of order have been the advertisements for the position of Director of the Australian Library and Information Association. There is no such body. The present name will apply until the granting of a Supplemental Charter, provided, of course, that the necessary Special Resolution is passed.

The dodger refers to the 'overwhelming majority'. This sounds like politicians mis-making an opinion poll for an election.

General Council should be a model of propriety in all matters, including legal ones. They are, or should be, our watchdogs. Instead, there seems to be no understanding of the significance of a Royal Charter. Is it intended to alter bank accounts, legal agreements, property ownership, industrial agreements and awards, stationery even and perhaps least, before the Supplemental Charter is granted?

I look to Council for appropriate behaviour at this important time, not the soft, woolly, jumping-the-gun performance observed so far. Leadership, please!

Wilma Radford

Note: Council decided in November 1986 to retain the Royal Charter and to seek a Supplemental Charter in order to make the necessary changes to the name, objects and other matters (which appeared in *InCite* Vol 8 No 3, 6 March 1987 p3) which were decided on as a result of the Corporate Plan and Review.

Because it is unclear as to how long it will take for the Supplemental Charter to be granted Council felt that it was necessary to seek ways in which some of the changes might be effected immediately. These included the name, and the Director and the Association's Solicitor have been looking into this.

The name Australian Library and Information Association is being registered as a business name and the Association will be known as the Library Association of Australia trading as Australian Library and Information Association until such time as the Supplemental Charter is granted.

Jenny Adams
Director

ALIA won't fail 'yer

One of my mentors used to say, whilst lecturing, that we need a solid sense of humour to be librarians. Perhaps we may investigate (or, more likely, invigilate?) the change of name for what is now the Library Association of Australia.

The new name is, as every one knows, Australian Library and Information Association. A dear friend and I spoke briefly on the telephone regarding the Association aspects. Are we now to speak of Et ALIA or Inter-ALIA? (perhaps we should not inter the ALIA before it has drawn a reasonable breath!)

To celebrate the new name we should have a fancy dress party in which we could each cavort as an ALIAS? Now we could say, by extending the A for Association, that each of us is ALIA, since the truth is hard to find anywhere in us. The Royal Charter could have a great colophon with bar sinister and other paraphenALIA?

Alfred W. Gaudron

Moonlighting for firelighting again

It is perhaps committing potential professional suicide to pen this letter to you, but it is because of the concept of professionalism that I feel compelled to write.

Late in January 1987, much to the delight of myself and other recent Librarianship graduates, positions of Library Officers were advertised for the University of Tasmania Library. The qualifications required were '... a University degree, or an acceptable qualification in Librarianship (eligible for ALAA or equivalent), or a library technician certificate (or equivalent).' It seemed any one of these three attributes could secure a Library Officer Grade two position, although only two of these attributes required any formal librarianship training, while only one mentioned ALAA eligibility.

While the arguments about professionalism abound, they seem to be but vacuous bleatings if librarians themselves are willing to advertise for, and employ, people who do not possess professional/para-professional qualifications. The organisation that required only a 'University degree' to be employable as a semi-professional had just discharged into the community approximately 30-40 gradu-

ates from the Graduate Diploma in Librarianship course offered by its School of Librarianship.

Much was made of the Government of Tasmania advertising for a State Librarian without mentioning if library qualifications were necessary. Yet what fuss is ever made of the positions lower down the hierarchy — positions which form the base of the hierarchy? If these lower positions which have professional duties attached to them are to be declared fit for those with no professional or para-professional qualifications how can the LAA/ALIA logically argue about professional status, and expect the support of recent graduates to swell its ranks?

Just as the writer from WA with her fresh undergraduate degree bemoans her fate with what she considered a useless piece of paper, so too is at least one graduate diploma student querying what was all the study for?

Margaret Dugon

IFLA '88

Recent correspondence about the cost of sending representatives to IFLA conferences overseas has turned my mind (again) to the cost of the 1988 IFLA conference in Australia.

It is now more than a year (*InCite* 7 March 1986) since the membership was given any information about the 1988 IFLA conference budget, despite a General Council resolution in 1984 to provide the membership with regular reports on the financial implications of the IFLA conference.

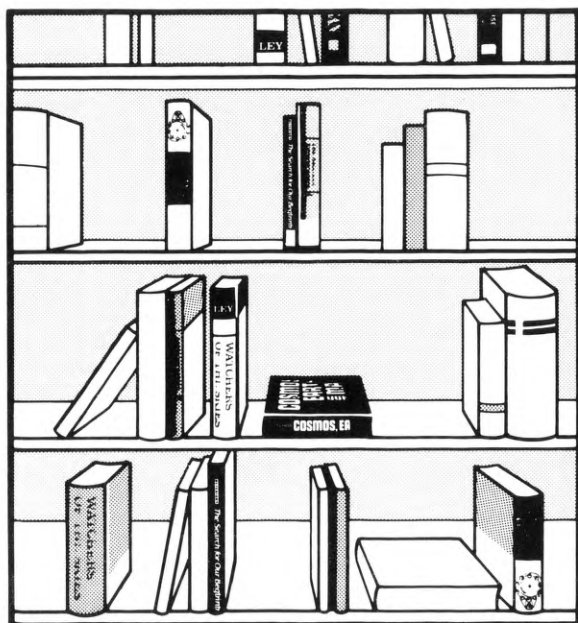
The last budget report showed projected deficits of between \$47,000 and \$118,000 which, it was asserted, could be made up through sponsorship.

What are the most recent budget projections? How are we going with sponsorships? Why do I have to keep writing letters to *InCite* in order to prod the release of information to members?

Neil A. Radford

Note: The latest budget estimate (January 1987) is: Income \$382,000; Expenditure \$401,000; Deficit \$19,000. The Sponsorship Sub-Committee has a number of negotiations underway and sees no problem in raising \$19,000. Watch *InCite* for a regular conference column between now and August 1988!

Jenny Adams
Director



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Alwyn Campbell, Teacher/Librarian.

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