

LAA AND ASLA — COMING CLOSER

At its November meeting, the Association's General Council considered a paper by Anne Hazell and Doug Down, President of the Australian School Library Association, which suggests a mechanism for formalising relations between the LAA and ASLA, and for fostering closer communication between the two bodies.

Council resolved that the paper should be sent to the School Libraries Section and its sectional groups for comment. It also invited members and other interested parties to comment. The paper is printed below.

Comments will be considered by a sub-committee appointed by General Council, consisting of Anne Hazell, Martha Heeren (General Councillor-at-large), and the incoming ASLA President, Wes Young (or his nominee), and recommendations will be made for Council to consider at its meeting in September 1987. *The closing date for comments is Thursday 30 April 1987. They should be forwarded to the Director, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 and not to members of the sub-committee.*

CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN LAA AND ASLA

Background

The Library Association of Australia was formed in 1937 with the following objectives:

- to promote, establish and improve libraries and library services
- to improve the standard of librarianship and the status of the library profession
- to promote the association of the foregoing objects of persons engaged in or interested in libraries or library services.

The School Libraries Section is the division of the Association to which members interested in school libraries may belong. There are Sectional Groups of the School Libraries Section in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

The Australian School Library Association was founded in 1969. It is a federation of State and Territory associations, some of its objectives being:

- to establish national standards for school libraries
- to promote a public understanding of the aims, needs and importance of school libraries.
- to promote research in the field of school libraries and librarianship
- to keep Federal and State Government bodies aware of the needs and importance of school libraries and advise governments on all matters concerning school libraries and librarianship.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee of the LAA, in June 1986 the General Council of

the Association invited Anne Hazell in her capacities as a member of the CPRC and of the School Libraries Section to begin negotiations with the President of ASLA to explore 'the principle of affiliate membership with ASLA...'

As a result of these discussions, the following recommendations have been made to the General Council of the LAA and the Council of ASLA. The recommendations are intended to provide a formal means of enabling matters relevant to school libraries and teacher-librarians to be communicated between the two associations at state and national levels, and for opportunities for co-operative action to result. The underlying philosophy is one of co-operative co-ordination, and as such, there is no intention to determine a particular future for the associations embraced by these recommendations.

Objectives

1. To enhance the potential for improvement of school library services, programs and facilities at state and national levels.
2. To ensure that the needs and interests of teacher-librarians are represented by one body at state and national levels.

Structure

State Level

In each state there will be a State Committee of Teacher-Librarians (SCOTL).

In South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria where both ASLA and the School Libraries Section exist, this Committee will consist of members of the associations in equal numbers. In addition, the Committee may include members of any other groups with demonstrable interest in school librarianship.

In Queensland, the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory where ASLA exists but the School Libraries Section does not, the local ASLA Executive Committee becomes the SCOTL for the state or territory.

In Western Australia where the School Libraries Section exists but ASLA does not, the local School Libraries Section Executive Committee becomes the SCOTL in that state.

National Level

At the national level, a national COTL (NCOTL) be established with representatives from all state committees. In addition, the President of ASLA and the President of the national School Libraries Section will be members of NCOTL.

State Committees of Teacher-Librarians

State committees will have an elected President and Secretary, initially for a two year period.

Funding will be on a mutually agreeable basis from the two associations where both exist or from the committee which exists in that state. Profits from any jointly organised activities will be shared equally.

In New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, a School Libraries Section member from the SCOTL will attend Branch Council as a participating observer with full access to all communications and business papers. This is in accordance with the previous LAA instruction that state chapters of ASLA be invited to send observers to Branch Council. In addition, this person will also be responsible for communication with the national School Libraries Section. (This person may or may not be the School Libraries Section representative on Branch Council. In the former situation, he/she will of course have full voting rights).

In these states, ASLA Federal Council will communicate with the SCOTL as well as with the local ASLA member association.

In Queensland, the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, where the Executive of the local ASLA member association is, by default, the local SCOTL, they will elect a person to attend LAA Branch Council as a participating observer with the status and duties outlined above.

In Western Australia, where the LAA School Libraries Section Executive is, by default, the local SCOTL, in addition to participating on Branch Council with full voting rights, one member of the Executive will also be responsible for communication with the ASLA Council.

Education for Teacher-Librarians

SCOTLs should actively promote representation by appropriate members of the profession of teacher-librarianship on course advisory committees in teacher-librarianship and of either teacher-librarians or school library technicians on library technician course advisory committees.

Awards

SCOTLs are encouraged to nominate appropriate persons within the field of teacher-librarianship for awards offered by the LAA and ASLA.

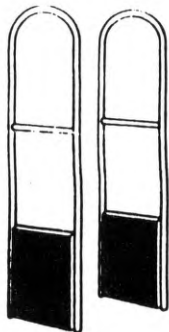
Conferences

SCOTLs are encouraged to mount joint LAA/ASLA conferences at the state level.

Through representation on the local Branch Council, SCOTLs should attempt to ensure that Branch activities recognise the professional development needs of teacher-librarians.

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