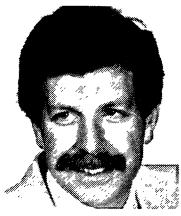


FRONTLINE



I thank the National President Alan Bundy for the opportunity to write *Frontline* for this issue. I believe it to be both an editorial and news column and also a place to raise an issue or ride a hobby-horse. Recently,

there has been much discussion within the Association about assets, particularly the building at Ultimo and the future asset, the building to be built in Canberra. While it is most important for our future that the Association has a sound financial base which enables us to pursue our objectives we should not forget that the Association's most important asset is the membership. Not the institutional members or the 'voucher only' members who, of course, are important but the real members, the Personal Members, Associates and Fellows.

Presidents of the Association, of Branches, of Sections and of Regional Groups, along with a whole range of other office bearers, have applied themselves with varying levels of success to the task of increasing the membership. It remains vitally important that we keep trying to develop our most important asset.

But what of managing and utilising the asset itself — what does the Library Association of Australia do to get the best out of its membership? My experience is that there is often a

reluctance to hold office and that many office bearers are goaded into the task. We are often looking for yard sticks to measure the health and success of our association. If we examine the way we go about selecting our leaders we will find it difficult to view our Association as being robust or vital. In any election what proportion of the eligible membership participates in the process by nominating or voting? You may be surprised to find that it is a mere 10% to 12%. General Council have addressed this problem and moves are afoot to improve the situation. However, this tackles the symptoms and not the problem. The real problem is participation of the membership in all facets of the Association's activities.

More of our efforts aimed at increasing the number of members are directed at recruiting and we do this very well, however, we don't follow through by encouraging new members to participate. Each year many members quietly slip away asking what can the Library Association of Australia do for them when the question really should be what can they do for the Association?

The Association has an ideal structure to encourage participation with forums at the national, state, state section and regional level. While this arrangement encourages participation and involvement, we can and must do better. We all know members who do not participate and as an Association we should apply more effort to this problem. What about PARTICIPATE IN 88, PARTICIPATE IN 89, PARTICIPATE . . . ?

One way of improving participation and involvement is to make the Association more accessible to the membership and to potential members. In Victoria as in Western Australia, this is being done through the establishment of local presence offices. The Victorian

Branch office at Technilib, 123 Dover Street, Richmond, gives the Association a local focus of a permanent office, telephone number and fax, attended during office hours by personnel who are able to provide authoritative answers to questions about the Association. The local presence arrangement makes available meeting rooms and secretarial and copying facilities. It is evidence of the Association's coming of age when it no longer expects office bearers to manage secretarial work and copying in their own or their institution's time — often at the expense of the institution.

The Victorian Branch office will be officially opened by Alan Bundy on 22 June 1988, albeit belatedly, as it will have operated successfully for almost six months by then. (See Happenings for details)

Two major items have occupied the Victorian Branch and the membership over much of last year and this year. These items are the Government's plans for redeveloping the building for the State Library of Victoria and the proposed Libraries Bill.

The Libraries Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly in April and at this stage will probably lie over until the Spring session of Parliament. The Bill proposes two new bodies, the Council of the State Library of Victoria to administer the State Library and a Libraries Board of Victoria to provide advice and information about the provision of library and information about the provision of library State.

It is proposed the profession will be represented on both bodies by a representative from the Victorian Branch of the LAA. While the Bill is not all we would have wished for, it is timely that the two major functions

Cont'd page 3

“Three chairs, no waiting”

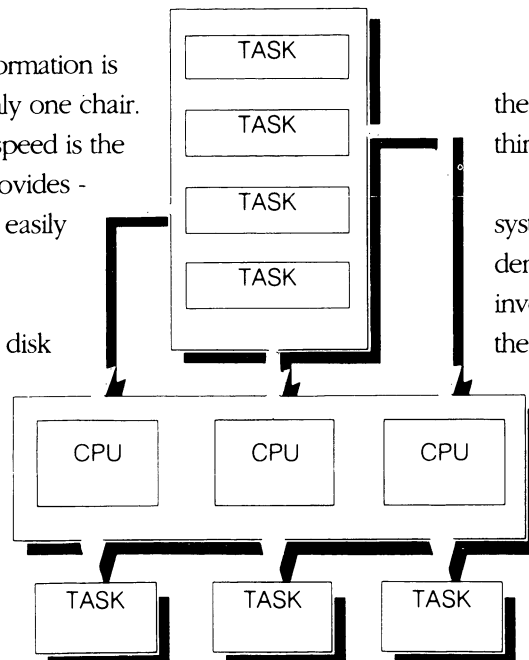
Waiting in a queue to process vital information is as outdated as a busy barber shop with only one chair.

In today's modern library, processing speed is the key. And that's what Parallel Processing provides - a quick, cost-effective system which copes easily with high-traffic demands.

What is Parallel Processing?

Using shared high-speed memory and disk storage, independent parallel CPUs simultaneously process multiple tasks - in the same time required by conventional computers for individual tasks.

With three CPUs in parallel, three different tasks can be executed simultaneously, or one complex task shared across three parallel CPUs, to achieve the end result in one third of the normal time.



And if three processors are not enough for the volume of your work, then thirteen or even thirty can be placed in parallel.

Which means that you can expand your system in easy and inexpensive stages as demand grows. No longer do you have to invest in a costly high-powered system at the outset.

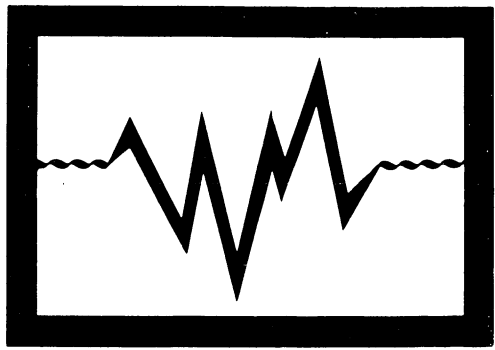
And if this is not enough, Parallel Processing computers are more reliable than expensive single processor systems. Because if one CPU fails, there's always another in parallel to take over.

Talk to CLSI about Parallel Processing.

But be warned. Once the word gets around, there might be a bit of a queue.



SUPERIOR DEDICATION



IN THE NEWS

Music to the ears

'The importance of library resources cannot be overestimated. Librarians invariably respond more quickly to the needs of their serious patrons than any other public servants, all over the world, in my experience'. This praise was broadcast to ABC listeners via the Ockhams Razor program on 27 March. Professor Hunt, a visiting Canadian environmental health academic, was responding to the question 'What are the necessary resources for a successful resolution of the difficult environmental health problems we face today?'

Nutcote news

Neil Shand, President of the May Gibbs Foundation, reports that 'Nutcote', the home of May Gibbs in Neutral Bay, Sydney has been placed on the Interim List of the National Estate. This includes the garden as well!

Last year's fundraising events were successful. But there is no time to relax as the Foundation is busy planning further promotion and fundraising activities. Volunteers willing to organise events or give general assistance are welcome. The Foundation would also like to hear from people who bought items at the Nutcote auction in 1970 as well as from people

with May Gibbs memorabilia so that they can be added to the records.

Membership of the Foundation is available for \$50. Tax deductible donations can be sent to The May Gibbs Foundation, PO Box 500 NSW 2047.

Best wishes

The LAA's best wishes go to Peter Dawe, Past President, on his retirement from his position of Acting Manager, Information Resources Unit at CSIRO. Victorian colleagues organised a special dinner in Peter's honour at the Melbourne Cricket Club on 12 May and around 90 people attended. Speeches were given by friends and CSIRO personnel including Jean Conochie, Peter Judge and John Thawley. The LAA presented him with a special bottle of port.

PD at RMIT

Interested in advanced online searching, conservation and asset management or library services for children? If so, you might be able to gain a place in elective subjects offered by RMIT's Department of Information Services from July-November in 1988.

Fees are \$360 for four hours of classes per week for 14 weeks. There is an additional charge for computer connect time in the advanced online searching course. Enquiries to Patricia Owen, RMIT Department of Information Services (03) 660 2313.

ACLIS arrangements

Averill Edwards is filling the position of Executive Officer of ACLIS while the position is being advertised and an appointment made. Staff will include a Librarian Class 2 to provide professional support, an Administrative Officer to handle financial matters and a keyboard officer. ACLIS' physical location will be on the first floor of the National Library.

Marion Newman who has ably served as AACOBS Secretary will be winding up affairs until 30 June, after which she will transfer to one of the operational areas of the National Library.

ACLIS has taken over the projects formerly

the responsibility of AACOBS and ALIC and any enquiries relating to these or to other matters of interest to ALIC should in the first instance be directed to Averill Edwards, Acting Executive Officer, Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services, PO Box E202, Queen Victoria Terrace, Canberra ACT 2600 (062) 62 1200.

Child Care Facilities at Kensington for IFLA/LAA

Delegates to IFLA/LAA who require child care facilities close to University of NSW should contact Isabella Trahn, University of NSW Libraries, PO Box 1, Kensington NSW 2033, before 30 June. It may be possible to arrange day-time care (for children up to 5 years only) using the Randwick Family Day Care Centre at Bundock Street, a reasonable walk from the campus. Rates will be approximately \$2.50 per hour per child over 18 months, \$3.50 per hour per child under 18 months and double these charges on weekends. A limited number of night-care (4.00pm to midnight) vacancies may be available for children to 12 years at Kunga's House in Barker Street, next to the University.

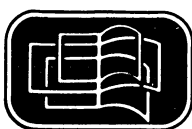
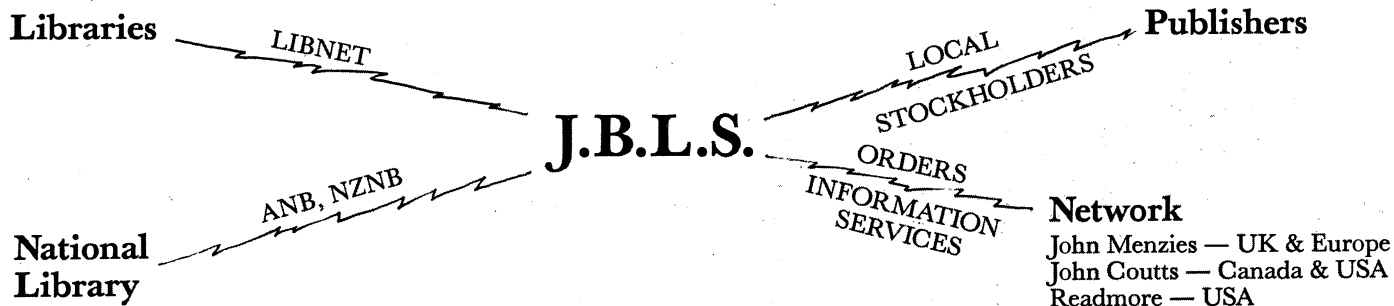
Frontline cont'd from page 2

of the existing Library Council of Victoria are separated. Some of the definitions used in the Bill need tightening up and it is possible this can be achieved by amendment.

As for the State Library building it is now time to get behind the Government's plans to redevelop the State Library/Museum complex as no new building will be forth-coming. With the expertise of architect Ken Woolley and the undertakings the Victorian State Government has given about the time frame, consultation, functional space, etc. we must be optimistic. Another generation of librarians can take up the issue of a new building for the State Library of Victoria, with another government, in another century!

Bruce Davidson
President, Victorian Branch

James Bennett — At the Centre of Electronic Communication



James Bennett Library Services

4 COLLAROY STREET, COLLAROY, NSW 2097, AUSTRALIA. PH: (02) 982 2122. FAX: (02) 971 1309.