

Overseas Job Exchanges

If you have ever seen notices in InCite headed 'Job Exchange Wanted' you may have wondered what it would be like to exchange positions with an overseas librarian or library technician for a while. Hal Tarr and Kay Turnbull have provided information about how they went about arranging an overseas exchange.

Hal Tarr is a librarian at Peirce Junior College in Philadelphia USA. Through *InCite*, he arranged a 12 month exchange with a librarian from TAFE in South Australia.

To initiate the exchange, Hal first discussed the idea with his library Director. He then submitted a formal proposal setting out the benefits for the organisation of taking part in such an arrangement. He undertook to pay his own travelling expenses and to facilitate the issuing of visas, suggested that both partners in the exchange continue to be paid by their home organisations.

Having been given approval in principle to undertake an exchange, Hal arranged to place a small notice in *InCite* asking interested Australian librarians to contact him. He was contacted by a librarian from the Port Adelaide College of TAFE who wished to undertake an exchange.

Approval for the exchange was ratified by both colleges and detailed arrangements regarding relocation were negotiated. Hal agreed to live in his exchange partners house, whilst she agreed to live in his friend's house as he does not own one himself.

A contract was drawn up stipulating the period of exchange, salaries, and health insurance arrangements etc. The contract required the signatures of the representatives of the institutions involved and the exchange participants. Copies of the contract were sent to the immigration authorities so that visas could be obtained. Both participants drew up

detailed job manuals to assist the other in adapting to the new position.

After working in Australia for 12 months, Hal Tarr concludes that the experience was worthwhile. 'I gained experience with budgeting, acquisitions, computers and a bibliographic network and expanded my perspective on library operations. My view is that an international exchange is a good way to develop one's library abilities and to live in another country at the same time'.

Kay Turnbull is a library technician at the Darwin Institute of Technology who will commence a 12 month exchange with a British library assistant at the Brighton Polytechnic in January 1988.

This position was advertised in *InCite* early in 1987. Kay began a regular correspondence with her prospective exchange partner after seeing the notice in *InCite*. Both colleges gave their permission for the exchange to take place and arrangements were made regarding starting dates and accommodation.

Kay will commence work at the Brighton Polytechnic on 18 January. Her exchange partner will meet her at London airport and Kay will spend a couple of hours each day at the library for a week before officially starting in the job so that she can be shown the ropes. Her exchange partner will then leave for Australia and will start at the Institute at the end of January.

Kay will be staying at her exchange partner's sister's flat whilst in Brighton. Her partner will be staying with a friend of Kay's in Darwin. Both partners in the exchange are paying their own airfares and will be paid by their home institutions.

A note about LIBEX

LIBEX (the Bureau for International Exchange) was launched in 1983 under the auspices of the Library Association and its International and Comparative Librarianship Group and its objective is to assist exchanges world-wide by putting librarians in touch with potential exchange partners.

Enquiries for exchanges are sent to the Bureau. In return a list of exchanges currently available is sent out together with a

Library Display Competition Bestsellers at bargain prices

The National Book Council is running a library display competition in connection with the books shortlisted for the 1988 NBC Banjo Awards for Australian Literature. The prize will go to the best display of the shortlisted titles. Entrants are requested to send colour photographs of the display with their name and address on the back to the NBC, Level 5, 1 City Road, South Melbourne 3205 in time to be received no later than Monday 4 April.

The NBC is arranging for dump bins each containing 3 copies of the six shortlisted titles plus display material including posters and bookmarks to libraries wishing to participate. These will be delivered free of all charges except for the 6 x 3 copies of the titles. They will be supplied within two days of the shortlist announcement on 21 March. The books will be sold at normal trade discount.

Publishers will bill each library individually. The closing date for dump bin orders is 19 February.

data sheet concerning the proposed position for exchange. An abstract of this job description appears in library journals in appropriate countries. People responding to these abstracts are sent full details and asked to contact the originator if they wish to initiate an exchange.

Libraries wishing to establish links with a view to exchanging staff are sent a form requesting all relevant details and the same procedure as for individual applications is followed.

The Bureau operates from the College of Librarianship Wales. Enquiries should be addressed to: A. Hillier, Esq., B.A., Co-ordinator, Bureau for International Staff Exchange (LIBEX), College of Librarianship Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, Great Britain.

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because PLAIN will result in much more efficient and effective use of library resources'.

Other initiatives which already have been implemented or will be implemented during the year include:

- the establishment of a permanent 'videos in libraries' scheme, offering documentary and educational material including sport, cooking, crafts, hobbies, history, music, travel and children's material
- appointment of an officer to survey, co-ordinate and advise public libraries on local history collections
- appointment of an officer to assist development of multicultural services and activities in libraries in Adelaide's Western Region, and more specialist help to libraries generally, particularly in rural areas
- further examination of school/community library funding by Local Government
- improvement in library education material.

In particular, the State library will review its services to youth.

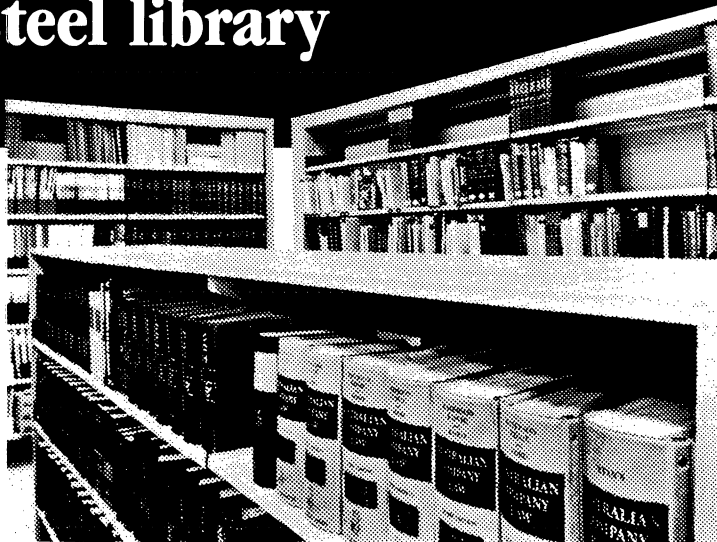
'All these initiatives will benefit considerably from PLAIN', Ms Wiese said. 'This scheme underscores the importance of libraries. We are faced with an information explosion and rapid technological development and change. Libraries have a vital role to play in keeping communities up to date and aware of information and developments which could affect them. PLAIN will give State and Local Governments an important edge in meeting those needs.'

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