

## INDUSTRIAL NEWS

### Queensland State Librarian position

The LAA has been concerned about the salary attached to the recently advertised position of Queensland State Librarian.

The President, Alan Bundy, wrote to the Queensland Premier in March about this matter and urged the Queensland Government to readvertise the position at a higher salary level. A copy of Mr Ahern's reply appears below.

Dear Mr Bundy,

I have your letter of 23 March in regard to the salary level for the position of State Librarian.

I note your concerns in regard to the proposed salary. However, the position has been advertised at a particular salary level and time precludes any adjustment at this stage. Due processes must now take their course.

However, should it not be possible to make an appointment of a person of sufficient experience and quality to do justice to the job, then no doubt consideration will need to be given as to whether the salary level is appropriate.

I can assure you that the Government will be looking for a person of the highest calibre to do justice to the new State Library Centre which I had the pleasure of officially opening on 8 April 1988.

Mike Ahern  
Premier and Treasurer and  
Minister for the Arts

### LAA Salary Scales

Compilation of the 1988 *Salary Scales* has been a nightmare, with library staff in some areas still waiting for a flow on of the February national wage increase and 4 percent second-tier increases pending in others.

Most of the information has, however, been gathered and is being put on the wordprocessor prior to typesetting. It is hoped that the

booklet will be available some time in June. A notice will appear in *InCite* as soon as it is ready.

### Discussion Paper No. 4

The National Review of Local Government Labour Markets has released its fourth discussion paper, 'Improving Access to Skills Upgrading and Retraining for Local Government Employees'.

Copies of this paper are available from Louise Wilson at the National Review of Local Government Labour Markets, GPO Box 241E, Melbourne 3001, (03) 669 3918.

### LINOS Project

During April the LINOS project team completed its interviews in NSW. It met senior management in the NSW Department of Education and the State Library of NSW; personnel in the Catholic Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools, academics and resource producers. A public meeting held in Sydney was attended by about 30 people.

The team also visited the Riverina region to gather data from those involved in providing library and information services in non-metropolitan and isolated areas.

The team has carried out preliminary analysis of school survey forms and prepared a draft guidelines document.

### Industrial survey

The response to the industrial survey enclosed in the issue of *InCite* No 7, 13 May 1988 has been very good.

Don't forget, if you have not returned your survey, you have until 30 June to do so. The more responses we receive the more accurate will be our perception of industrial conditions for library staff.

No postage stamp is required. Simply complete the survey and forward it to Freepost 42, LAA, 376 Jones Street Ultimo NSW 2007. And why not encourage other library staff in your organisation to complete a survey form

too? Forms can be photocopied and passed on to other members or non-members of the LAA.

If you did not receive a survey form and would like one please contact Louise Lansley at LAA Head Office on (02) 692 9233 or (008) 22 1481.

Louise Lansley  
Manager, Educational and Industrial Services.

## Public library user surveys

• Three important statistical surveys of public library users have become available recently.

Undoubtedly the most significant is *Public Library Usage Tasmania, 1987* (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Tasmania, Catalogue No.4102.6, ISBN 07246 1599 7). It is by far the most comprehensive survey of public library use ever undertaken in Australia. Its methodology as much as its results will be of relevance for public libraries everywhere.

The survey analysed visits to public libraries, reasons for and frequency of these visits, and satisfaction with the materials and services available.

A second section analysed reading habits, factors influencing the selection of books and ownership of certain appliances as they affected use of libraries.

Highlights of the survey are that more people come to libraries to borrow non-fiction than fiction and that besides borrowing, substantial numbers of people visit public libraries to use materials or services (eg reference services and study materials) available only on the premises.

• *Tertiary Students and Library Usage* with particular emphasis on public libraries, RMIT Department of Information Services. Occasional Paper No.3. Copies available from RMIT Bookshop, GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne 3001. Cost \$25 (including postage). Kerry Grosser's survey report provides detailed results and analysis of a survey originally initiated by the Victorian University and College and Public Libraries Sections of the LAA.

This report gives strong statistical backing to our claim that tertiary students are not self-sufficient (ie buy their books and/or use university/college libraries); they do need and do use public libraries. 61.8 percent of tertiary students were members of public libraries, 65.7 percent claimed to use them and 59.2 percent claimed to use them for course-related purposes.

• The third survey was commissioned by the Chief Librarian's Association of South Australia in 1987. McGregor Marketing questioned 400 adults and 101 children in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

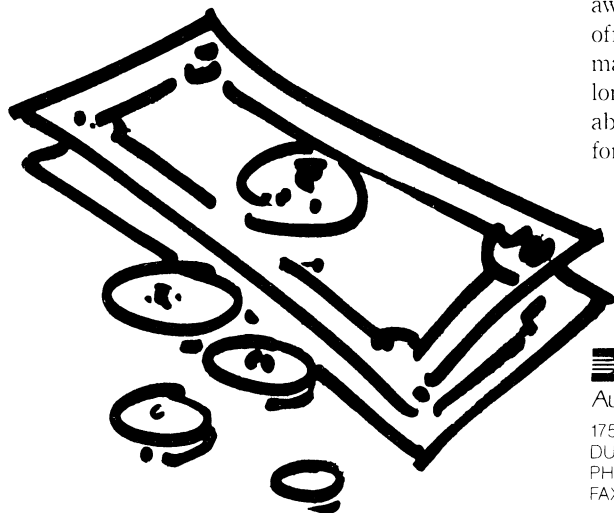
Interestingly, the survey results showed that the type of adults most likely to use public libraries are blue collar workers and married females. The most commonly used service was adult non-fiction (here confirming the ABS findings in Tasmania and substantiating public library claims to be major information providers).

Children most likely to use public libraries were found to be girls aged 7-12 but teenage use (over 50 percent) was also high.

Further information about survey results is available from Mrs A. Waddell, Secretary, Chief Librarians' Association of South Australia, c/o Salisbury Public Library Service, Central Library, James Street, Salisbury, SA 5108, (08) 259 1283.

Ross Gibbs

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