



FEEDBACK

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

Meeting with the Minister

Representatives of the LAA and the NSW School Libraries Section recently met with the NSW Minister for Education, Dr Terry Metherell, to discuss issues affecting school libraries and the decisions taken by the Government concerning teacher-librarians throughout the state.

A meeting had originally been requested in March, just after the State election, to present the Minister with a copy of the School Libraries Section Policy Statement. The meeting, held on 29 June 1988, allowed Mairéad Browne (NSW Branch President), Sheila Hawkins (School Libraries Section President) and Murray McLachlan (School Libraries Section Vice President) to present Dr Metherell with a copy of the policy, to raise issues, and to gauge his perception of the role and importance of school libraries.

During the 35-minute discussion a number of areas was covered.

Status of school libraries. The Minister indicated that the NSW Government Schools Policy Statement continues to have support but explained that the decisions regarding release from the face to face had been made on the basis of rationalising available resources and because of a perception that there is still a significant number of teachers who are 'parking their kids in the library'. He explained that he looks to schools being flexible in their arrangements for provision of release from face to face.

Co-operative program planning and teaching was discussed and it seems the Minister is now more familiar with it as a term and as a concept.

Oasis library management module. The development of Oasis will continue, within the context of Schoolink, as its first phase. The implications for teacher-librarians who will now have less time to implement Oasis Library Management because of the difficulties in scheduling their timetables were discussed. The Minister stressed again that schools need to be flexible in their approach.

Ancillary staffing. The Minister explained that recent changes to ancillary staffing have come about because of the desire to create a pool of ancillary staff and as a consequence of demarcation disputes in schools. The intention is that schools will be able to use their ancillary staff as their skills determine.

Promotion for teacher-librarians. The Minister indicated an understanding that promotions opportunities for teacher-librarians are restricted by the current structuring of schools and explained that the issue could be looked at. He referred to the creation of leading teacher positions as a possibility in this regard.

Supply casuals. The difficulties of teacher-librarians employed as supply casuals were discussed. The Minister indicated that the rules for their use have not changed, with schools still having discretion regarding their employment. He indicated that the trial of permanent part-time employment will continue as the Government supports the principle. Dr Metherell indicated that he sees permanent part-time employment operating on a case-by-case basis, within a general policy.

Status of the Information Skills K-12 Curriculum Statement. Dr Metherell explained that an examination is currently under way regarding the release of curriculum documents to schools. He pointed out that he was not aware of the Information Skills document as one of those affected by the current 'hold' (as opposed to freeze) on the release of documents. He stated that if recent changes of policy announced by the Government affect the statement it may need to be changed. However, he undertook to 'look it out and expedite it'.

There are still clearly areas of concern for the Section in the decisions being taken by the Government. However the Minister expressed support for school libraries. He sees the opportunity for the LAA and the Section to provide proposals as to how schools and teacher-librarians can deal with issues such as release

from face-to-face teaching and the use of ancillary staffing.

Unfortunately, this is at odds with the Association's role as a lobby group for teacher-librarians and perhaps does not recognise the function of branches of the Department of Education, in particular library Services, as a source of advice. The opportunity for further discussion has been provided with an undertaking to meet with us again.

Murray McLachlan

VIC BRANCH

Official opening

The Victorian office of the LAA was officially opened by Alan Bundy on Wednesday 22 June. The office has been fully operational since January on the premises of Technilib at 123 Dover Street, Richmond, an inner suburb of Melbourne. The office is staffed by Mrs Micheline Anderson who shares her time between Technilib and the LAA.

The office answers about 80 calls a month, mostly about membership, fees, publications and salary scales. There is also a display of LAA publications.

For LAA matters Victorian, ring (03) 427 0071 (9.00 am — 5.00 pm) or fax (03) 427 0939.



Officially opened at last! LAA President Alan Bundy opens the Victorian Branch office watched by Bruce Davidson, Branch President; Micheline Anderson, Technilib/LAA staff member and Deborah Lisson, Branch Secretary.

INFORMATION SCIENCE SECTION — NATIONAL GROUP

Database review seminars

As database hosts increase their files and subject coverage and enhance their services, the innocent user can become overwhelmed, finding it difficult to keep up and obtain the optimum benefit from online searching. Seeing this as a problem the Online Users Group of the Information Science Section is presenting free product review seminars by various database hosts where users and other interested people can hear about these developments, ask questions of the experts and have some hands-on practice.

The subject of the first seminar was Dialog and we heard about the CD-ROM products, the communication program Dialoglink and the new facility for searching more than one file at a time called OneSearch. The subject of the next seminar, 11 August, is Orbit (see 'Happenings' for details). We will deal with CLIRS and CSIRONET's INFORM later in the year.

Among some of the exciting new developments being featured at upcoming seminars, is Orbit's 'get' command, useful for identifying journals with the best coverage of a subject or in locating experts from the author's fields and in identifying leading companies in a technological field. CLIRS new menu-driven interface and the new INFORM system which includes the Australian company databases from Dun and Bradstreet will also be on display.

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HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION NATIONAL

Name change

Towards the end of 1987 members of the then Medical Libraries Section voted to change the Section's name to Health Libraries Section, a title which reflects more accurately the Section's current membership.

However, although the name has changed, the Section and the work done by its members remain the same. Librarians who make up the Section come from libraries dealing with all facets of health information for the whole range of health care professionals and researchers. The traditional base of providing information for the medical profession remains the same but now additional areas are involved and these are becoming larger and more active. Health promotion, nursing education and research in the tertiary and hospital settings, health information for the 'consumer' — are just some of the areas that have developed over the last few years.

We feel the new name will show our awareness of the changing health scene and the new directions being taken as we move towards the 1990 s.

Mary Ann Ross
National Secretary

LAA Student Award

A LAA Student Award was presented at the Western Australian College of Advanced Education (WACAE) graduation ceremony at Perth Concert Hall on Monday 27 June. Awarded to the graduate with highest academic results in the College's Graduate Diploma of Applied Science (teacher librarianship) course, it was won this year by Rosslyn Greene, an

experienced secondary school teacher who has worked in North America and Europe, as well as in Australia. This year, she has been a member of the executive of the School Libraries Section in Western Australia.

The LAA Award for teacher-librarianship at WACAE is one of several sponsored by the Association. In 1987, the LAA offered to sponsor an annual prize at each of the library schools and WACAE accepted the offer for an award in teacher librarianship. The winners receive one year's free membership of the LAA, plus an LAA journal subscription. So, as well as recognising excellence, the prize also encourages continuing Association membership among new graduates.

Dr L. Anne Clyde
Senior Lecturer
Dept of Library and Information Studies,
WACAE

AUSTRALIAN SERIALS SIG

Going to IFLA?

The Australian Serials Special Interest Group (ASSIG) will be holding an informal meeting at the beginning of the IFLA Conference at the University of NSW.

Feel free to come along on Sunday 28 August from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm at the John Goodsall Building, Room JG119. Alan Ventress, Collection Development Librarian, State Library of NSW, will be presenting a short talk on LIBNET. We also hope to welcome overseas visitors who are members of similar serials groups in Great Britain and North America to IFLA.

ASSIG in joint sponsorship with New England Regional Group, NSW Acquisitions Group and UCLS, will be holding a seminar 'Attacking

Serials in 1988' covering aspects of serials management. Topics will include currency management, rationalisation, budgeting, serials agencies and new technologies in serials automation.

The seminar will be held in Sydney on Friday 30 September at the University of NSW, Library Reader Education Room, and repeated on Monday 17 October in Armidale at the Armidale City Administration Building. There will be CD-ROM demonstrations of *Bowker Ulrichs Plus* and *EBSCO Serials Directory*, two serials databases currently available. The time at both venues will be 9.30 am — 4.30 pm. The cost will be \$50 for LAA members and \$65 for non-members.

Rhonda Barry
Committee Member

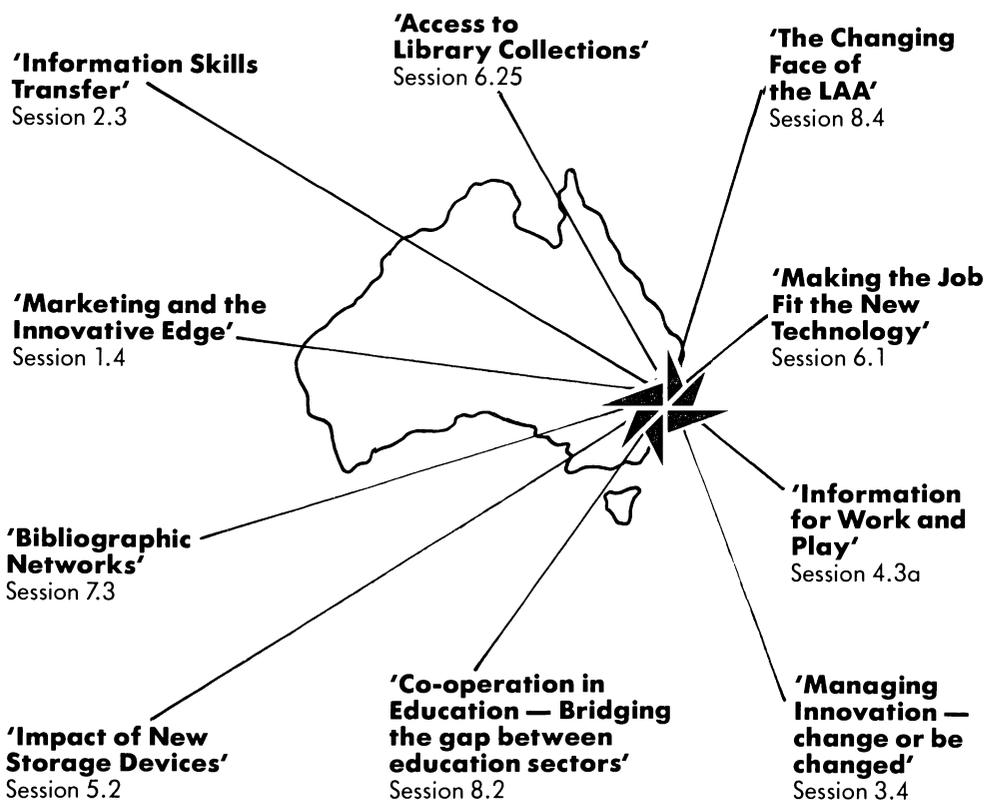
LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION — NSW GROUP

In the last two months, the Group has held four very successful promotions at Sydney and Mount DrUITT Technical Colleges. Day and evening sessions were held with attendances reaching 75 plus. LAA membership forms and kits were distributed at all meetings and students, most appreciative of the talks, initiated lively discussion. We would like to thank all those who took part in each session, in particular the representatives from the LAA who not only addressed each session but also brought pamphlets and information packs for distribution.

Also, don't forget the National Section Conference dinner to be held at the Watersedge Restaurant, Pier 1 (see 'Happenings').

Miriam Butler

LAA 1988 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 27-30, 1988



Theme:

**People,
Persuasion, Power**

A look at the Conference Program clearly indicates that this central theme is reflected throughout the Conference.

Take a look at this selection of program sessions and see if you agree!