DATELINE SYDNEY
27 AUG - 3 SEPT

THE LIBRARY BOARD 2 2 AUG 1988 OF W.A.

On 1 August 1981, the General Council of the LAA decided to host the 54th IFLA Conference in association with its own biennial conference. This was a significant decision in many ways. The organisation of a biennial conference in itself is no mean feat. To attempt to coincide a major international conference with a major national conference could be somewhat understated as somewhat of a challenge. To undertake both in the Bicentennial year was to complicate matters even further.

The process to date has basically been two committees and many sub-committees working in different parts of the country. The LAA acts as a pivot for the whole process and Dulcie Stretton and Associates as conference organiser. Let us not forget the dozens of LAA members who have collectively (and will yet) put hundreds if not thousands of hours into what is undeniably the LAA's most ambitious conference activity to date.

Nevertheless after seven years of planning the dual event is about to unfold. The show will go on the road. Very shortly some 2,000 delegates will descend upon Sydney for a variety of activities, presentation of conference papers, meetings, social gatherings, sightseeing. There will be a lot of talking. All this will only be the realisation of the Bicentennial theme 'Living Together' but at both the national and the international level. By whatever standards, this will lead to an enrichment of the profession at the national level and greater awareness of Australia and its libraries internationally.

Your association and its conference committees have made a major contribution to the planning and organisation of this landmark in the Association's history. It is now up to you to join us and participate in and enjoy both LAA and IFLA Conferences. We look forward to welcoming you in Sydney.

Barrie Mitcheson and Margaret Trask
Chairpersons
IFLA/LAA Conference Committee

Round table sessions

This year's IFLA/LAA Conference includes a number of round table sessions. These sessions cater for small groups of around 20 participants and provide a high degree of flexibility in their presentation. The speaker or moderator will introduce the topic and then lead a discussion on the topic.

Round table sessions that have been scheduled cover such areas as the role of teacher-librarians (Joe Hallein); innovative uses of microcomputers in school libraries (Craig Boaden); international exchange (Catherine Zwickert); changing perspectives of work and power in libraries (Glenn Lowry); control in special libraries (Sandra Barrkman); public libraries: then and now (Neil Hinsch).

The Conference Program will include further details of round table sessions.

Dagmar Schmidmaier
Convenor
LAA Program Sub-Committeeint

Conference Speaker Previews

Here is a sneak preview of some of the speakers and the topics they are covering at the LAA conference - everything for the switched on, strung out librarian and information worker. To refresh your memory a program overview is presented on page 9.

Luring the reader

The days have gone when reading books formed the main activity of people after work. In order to 'lure' customers libraries have now to present books as 'goods' which fulfill one or more customer's needs. One has to tell readers about what 'goods' are available...Since readers are visual creatures, presentation is all the more important. And this is where desktop publishing comes in...

So argues Philippa Yelland, Managing Editor, *Desktop Publishing Magazine*. This is the argument she will present to participants in the afternoon session on the first day of the IFLA/LAA Conference. For the past five years, Philippa has been full time editor of Ski and *Business Publications* of which *Desktop Publishing* is a division. In collaboration with the publisher of the company, this former newspaper reporter and sub-editor has expanded the firm's business to include new titles as well as producing magazines and various newsletters for clients.

Publications are produced using an Apple Macintosh desktop publishing system and Philippa was responsible for installing the system,

Above: Philippa Yelland - who will be unravelling the mysteries of desktop publishing and speaking on its application to libraries and Alex Barlow, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies . Below: Dr Neil Shaw, Footscray Institute of Technology, holding the first CD-ROM pressed in Australia. Neil will be covering computer-aided learning programs.

one of the first in Australia. With the new equipment the company produced the first four-colour magazine using a desktop publishing system to platemaking stage.

CD-ROM in education

Want to learn Japanese or be familiar with medical terminology? Then try the respective computer aided learning programs. Dr Neil Shaw, Centre for Research and Development, Footscray Institute of Technology will, on Tuesday, 30 August, demonstrate how the CD-ROM can be used in education.

The paper which will be presented by the senior lecturer, in the morning concurrent session, will highlight the variety of computer-aided learning programs available to students. Some of the programs which will be demonstrated at the session include: 'The Foetal Heart', 'A Talking Dictionary of Medical Terminology', 'Learning Japanese' and 'The Spelling Program'. In the latter program, words commonly misspelt by students are targeted.

Dr Shaw, who has produced an interactive videodisc for the Canadian Government, will explain his 'interactive audio approach' using CD-ROM, supplied by Disctronics Pty Ltd, as delivery medium. He will talk of the ability of the disc to store quality sounds (including voices) as well as photographs, whether colour or black and white. With 14 years experience in the Applied Physics Department, Dr Shaw has recently been appointed to the Centre for Research and Development to contribute to technology based education research.

IFLA/LAA focusing on technology

In 1983, Tom Suprenant wrote an article about the future of libraries. He pointed out that the issue of technology required serious consideration by librarians to prevent technocrats dictating to the library world what types of systems to adopt and how to introduce the new technologies to libraries. He emphasised that it wasn't merely a question of transferring cultural characteristics to electronic technology but more a question of incorporating humanistic values to technology. These issues are still being addressed in 1988 — Online '88 in January, the forthcoming IFLA/LAA Conference and the Australian Libraries Summit. The highlight of the year is, without doubt, the IFLA/LAA Conference. Sydney will become the focal point for around 2,000 library workers who will participate in a range of challenging sessions and explore the latest technological developments.

The IFLA component of the conference is divided into eight areas. Many of these contain references to the impact of information technology on service delivery and management. For example, Dr J. van Gent from the University Library in Leiden discusses automated cataloguing efforts in the Netherlands; Tom Cochrane from the Queensland Institute of Technology details the Australian bibliographic Network; the Social Sciences Libraries Section has as its theme 'Impact of information technology on the Social Sciences'; and Nancy Fjallbrandt from the Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, reports on the software packages for training information specialists and users. One group of IFLA concerns itself with management and technology. Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) is the flavour of the year with three papers devoted to its potential including one from Sydney's Rona Wade, Chief Executive Officer of CLANN, the major academic library network in NSW. Her paper is entitled 'The potential for OSI in the Australian library and information environment'.

During the LAA conference participants will hear speakers whose papers reflect a keen interest in developing technologies. These include:
- Technology — informationising society
- Electronic publishing and ordering
- Managing the automated office
- Effective use of microcomputers
- Software vs liveware
- Communications technology
- Impact of new storage devices
- Living together — automated multilingual information services for people of non-English speaking backgrounds.
- Making the job fit the new technology
- Machine readable databases and public access
- Using the L-plate approach — simulation databases and CD-ROM

Ten years ago Simon Nora and Alan Minc presented a report to the French President called 'The computerisation of society'. In this report they alluded to the major socio-economic and socio-political consequences of the 'informationisation' of society. It is rather apt that 10 years after this illuminating investigation, Australian library workers are joining with international colleagues in doing some soul-searching focusing on their role in an environment which can be both information rich and culturally poor without regard for the environmental and human consequences. Perhaps Wilson Dizard said it all in his 'The coming information age'

'In the final analysis, our ability to adapt the powerful new communications and information machines to ... intensely human qualities will be the best measure of our success in the new age'.

There is much in the IFLA/LAA Conference which will inspire and much to be questioned ... that is the essence of a good conference.

Frank Willems IFLA/LAA
Publicity and Promotions Sub-Committee

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*Aileen
Stevenson*

The stress factor

Are you a positively motivated librarian? If not you should attend Aileen Stevenson's talk on 'Coping with Stress', on Tuesday, 30 August. Aileen, Head, Information Resources Centre, Hawkesbury CAE, was part of the team carrying out a survey investigating stress factors among librarians.

The 1987 survey involved more than 500 librarians working in academic libraries. The questionnaire was set to gauge stress levels so that appropriate management strategies could be adopted to minimise dissatisfaction and create a positively motivated staff. In the paper presented on Tuesday morning, Aileen will elaborate on the pride felt by librarians in doing a job well, on how lack of staff, money and senior management were predominant causes of dissatisfaction, and on the 3R's — role realisation, restructuring and recognition.

Aileen has been involved with the LAA since 1974 and shown a keen interest in education and continuing education for librarianship. She is also on the Board of Directors for AIMA and CLANN.

The 80s office

Sue Kavanagh, company librarian for Sinclair Knight and Partners will be one of the speakers addressing participants on Monday, 29 August on the topic 'Managing the Automated Office'.
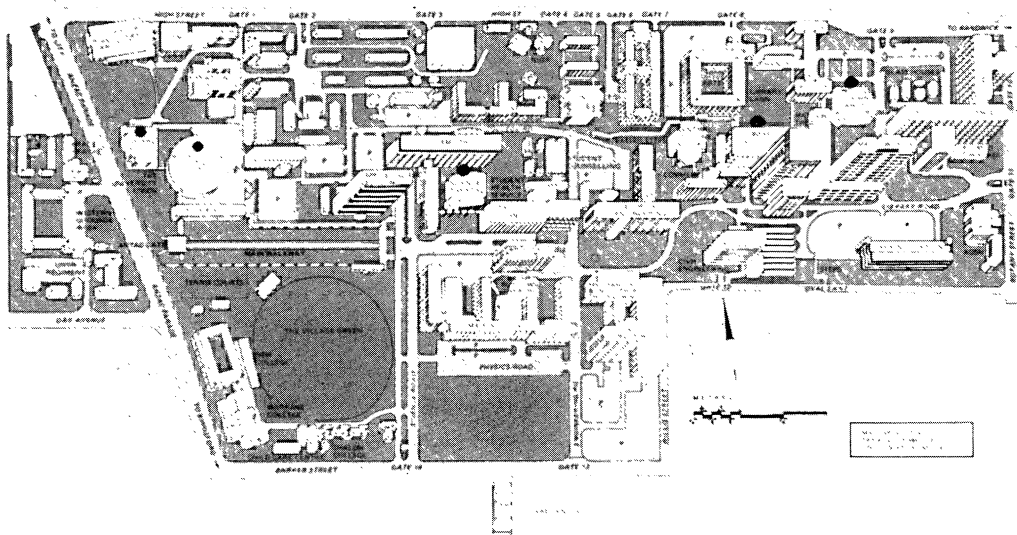
Sue has been working with this consulting engineering firm since 1980. She has had previous experience in Australia with other consulting engineering firms and the Department of Water Resources. Her overseas experience comprises working for the British Architectural Library and the Property Services Agency, London. Sue has been responsible for the establishment, automation and organisation of library services.

The paper she will present in the 9.00 am — 10.30 am session on Monday, will describe Sinclair Knight and Partners' experience in the introduction and management of automated systems. Computerisation has affected every area within this consulting engineering firm, from engineering design, drafting and project management to word processing, accounting and information retrieval. Participants will gain an insight into the management philosophy behind the selection of both hardware and software. The procedures developed for training and system maintenance will also be discussed.

LAA Biennial Conference Program

University of NSW - Square House, Round House, Science Theatre, Sir John Clancy Auditorium, Library.

SUNDAY, 28 AUGUST

10.00 — 11.30 Plenary
11.45 — 12.45 Concurrent sessions
1.1 Games We All Play — Industrial Relations in Australia
1.2 Technology — Informationising Society?
1.3 Education in the Information Age
1.4 Marketing and the Innovative Edge.
1.5 Waltzing with Matilda — Australian Libraries 1788 — 1988

Lunch

2.15 — 3.30 Hypothetical
4.15 — 5.30 Concurrent sessions
2.1 Who calls the Tune? — Management, Professionals, Unions
2.2 Servicing the Electronic Collection
2.3 Information Skills Transfer
2.4a Competition for the Information Dollar
2.4b Who Needs a Strategic Plan?
2.5 Poster Sessions

MONDAY, 29 AUGUST

7.30 — 10.30 Section AGMs
9.00 — 10.30 Concurrent sessions
3.1 Where is the Carrot? — Rewards Systems and the Individual
3.2a Managing the Automated Office
3.2b Managing the Electronic Collection
3.3 Responses to Innovative Curriculum Design
3.4a The Psychology of Budgeting
3.4b Managing Innovation — Change or be Changed

11.10 — 12.45 Concurrent sessions
4.1 The EEO Shuffle
4.2 Effective Use of Microcomputers
4.2a Software vs Liveware
4.2b Communications Technology
4.3 Information for Work and Play
4.4a Research as a Change Agent
4.4b Defining the Image: Breaking the Mould
4.5 Round Table Sessions

2.15 — 3.30 Concurrent sessions
5.1 Myths and Legends of Part-Time — Who is exploiting whom?

5.2 Impact of New Storage Devices
5.3a Living Together — Multicultural Library Services: Information Needs of Aboriginal People
5.3b Living Together — Automated Multilingual Information Services for people of non English-Speaking background
5.4a Getting the Message Across
5.4b Building for the Future

4.10 — 5.30 Concurrent sessions
6.1 Making the Job Fit the New Technology
6.2 Machine Readable Data Bases and Public Access
6.2a Pay As You Go
6.2b Access to Library Collections
6.3 From the Getting of Wisdom to Illywacker: The Library and Our Literary Heritage
6.4a Conflict, Negotiation, Compromise — A Question of Attitude
6.4b Coping with Stress
6.5 Poster Session

TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST

9.00 — 10.30 Concurrent sessions
7.1 Mirror Mirror on the Wall — Who is the Finest Information Provider of Them All
7.2 Using the L Plate Approach — Simulation Database and CD-ROM
7.3 Ten Years of Networks — Still an Appropriate Strategy
7.3a Resource Sharing Networks
7.3b Bibliographic Networks
7.3c Information Networks in Education
7.4 Coping with Stress (cont'd)

11.10 — 12.30 Concurrent sessions
8.1 Support for Public Libraries — Making Lifelong Learning Work
8.2 Co-operation in Education — Bridging the Gap between Education Sectors
8.3 The Changing Face of the LAA
8.4 The Power Brokers — A Beginners Guide

12.30 — 2.00 Lunch on the buses
2.10 — 3.15 Closing Session

Facing the challenge

'Change or be Changed'. John Maxwell, Senior Personnel Executive, Capita Financial Group, will elaborate on the 'art of change' at management level. John's paper will be presented on Monday, 29 August, in the session dealing with 'Managing Innovation'.

John has 30 years experience as a personnel professional graduating from the University of NSW, followed by post-graduate courses at the University of Technology, Sydney. He is currently the World President (Elect) of the World Federation of Personnel Management Associations (WFPMA), and Secretary of the Asian-Pacific Federation of Personnel Management Association (APFPM).

In his paper, John will look at different aspects of change, how it permeates our lives, and how our environment is altered. Emphasis will be laid on the art of change, how it can be generated from within the individual or how it can be generated externally. The experience of the Australian organisation, Capita, will be used as an example of facing the challenge of change.

Aboriginal and Islander service

'We want all our stuff'. This will be the title of the paper presented by Alex Barlow, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies on the 29 August afternoon session which will focus on multicultural libraries.

Alex Barlow is the research officer in education at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. Before joining the Institute as a Research Fellow, he had been teacher-librarian-in-charge at Padua College and Kelvin Grove High School, Brisbane. Alex was an Associate of the LAA during the 1975-85 period.

Together with Marji Hill, the research officer authored two highly respected volumes on Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. *Black Australia* and *Black Australia 2* are annotated bibliographies and teachers' guides to resources on Aborigines. Alex publishes regularly new editions of *Aboriginal Studies Resource List* as a guide to the best and most recent resources for use in Aboriginal and Islander studies.

At the conference, on Monday, Alex will talk of the library of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, of the services it provides and the information needs of Aboriginal and Island people.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

The National Review of Local Government Labour Markets has released its fifth discussion paper: *Recruitment and personnel development of staff — local government*. Copies have been circulated to the Secretaries of all LAA Public Libraries Sectional groups. Additional copies are available from Louise Wilson at the National Review of Local Government Labour Markets (03) 669 3918

Louise Lansley.