

No
Posters...

No
Cats...

No
Chocolates...

No glowing
green Screens...

No cheap Pens
with our name
on them...

(Not even a
Jigsaw Puzzle)

Blackwell's

...the gimmick-free zone
on the 1st floor of the
Round House at the
Library Association of
Australia Conference
Aug 27-Sept 3.

Just Blackwell
people and a good
cup of coffee.

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.

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