

FEEDBACK

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES SECTION VICTORIAN GROUP

On Friday, 20 May, the UCLS, Victorian Group held a full-day seminar on 'Amalgamations '88: implications for libraries'. The seminar was held at the University of Melbourne and attracted approximately 60 librarians from university, college and TAFE libraries.

The Honorable Ian Cathie, State Minister for Training and Post-Secondary Education, opened the seminar with a discussion on the Victorian Government response to the Commonwealth policy discussion paper on higher education. He commented that any proposed structural changes to the tertiary institutions should include a proper consideration of the ramifications for library services. Dr Lynn Meek, lecturer and researcher, University of New England, presented an overview paper which was entitled 'Institutional amalgamation and the restructuring of Australian higher education'. It explored the current push towards amalgamations with reference to historical and political antecedents.

The experiences and lessons learned by librarians who had survived previous amalgamations were shared through presentations on impacts on particular services. Margaret Broadhead, from Victoria College, spoke on the experiences at her library. Chooi Hon Ho of Monash University addressed issues related to reader services, drawing on her experience at Chisolm Institute. Jane Kandiah, University of Melbourne, outlined the impact on technical

services from her experience at Deakin University, and Hans Groenewegen from CAVAL Ltd, spoke about shared library systems and amalgamations.

Megan Lilly, one of four speakers on staff issues, spoke on staffing and industrial implications of amalgamations. Kerry Lewis of VCUSA approached the industrial relations issue from a trade union perspective. Maxine Cuskelly, Carlton Campus, La Trobe University, reflected on staff issues following a cross-sectoral amalgamation. And, Margaret Cameron, Chief Librarian and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Deakin University, talked of the Deakin amalgamation. The program concluded with a question and panel discussion.

It was evident that there was not in the past, nor is there likely to be in the future, a single correct way to manage the amalgamation of library services in higher education. However, the information and experience shared at this seminar will contribute to the better management of future library mergers.

Michael Gavan

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION — NATIONAL

Fact-finding mission

In April I had a whirlwind tour of the Apple Isle to encourage library technicians to support their professional association and to advise on problems. All this came about when at last year's Library Technicians Conference, technicians put forward difficulties that they were experiencing. The National Executive consequently resolved to be in closer contact with members in remote areas as well as major cities. Being concerned about such issues, I applied to the LAA for a special grant for this purpose and was delighted to hear that the LAA was going to support my request.

While at the Conference I discovered that the Tasmanian technicians were concerned about their work situation. Most had part-time work, five to twelve hours a week. And they felt their union had not brought any significant changes to working conditions of library technicians in the past twelve years. However, while there, I stressed the benefits of joining the LAA and as a positive response, many enrolled.

Upon receipt of the grant, my first stop was

Perth, where a small but energetic committee was working for the advancement of library technicians. I found that the main problem in 'The West' was 'broadbanding' as library technicians are left with little scope, salary-wise or career-wise. Many feel frustrated with their lack of responsibility — one technician, for example, was expected to fill the condom and tampon dispensing machines! There was also some concern about accessing ABN because of the time lag between East and West.

On reaching Alice Springs I found that technicians had to follow courses either from SA or WA. Most had been external students for years without getting anywhere. However, members in Darwin were happy with their lot, though somewhat fearful of amalgamation. The members there were concerned that membership forms did not show a library technician group in the Northern Territory, although the group is listed in Vital Link.

In Brisbane, technicians were discontented with the amount of fieldwork expected of them in comparison to other states. However, there was excitement about next year's conference, 26-29 July 1989, being held at Jupiter's Casino on the Gold Coast. So, I implore all you Library Technicians to start saving your money.

My main reasons for visiting Sydney was to meet with LAA staff and to convey some of the problems encountered on my fact-finding mission. And then on to Canberra where 'broadbanding' was again the issue on everybody's lips. Since most of the technicians are found in the Commonwealth Public Service, it is hoped that some 'local' solution will be found. And in Melbourne, my last port-of-call, I discovered that a number of functions were organised to keep members informed.

During my tour, I met not only many technicians, but, many senior people in the library service. By talking to the supervisors I got a very good idea of whether they were really supportive of their technicians or whether they were just paying lip-service to them. Some supervisors preferred to accompany me on my visits, others were astute enough to leave me with the staff. Despite time limitations, I gained a lot from this trip, and judging by the feedback, others did as well.

Again, to those of you who are procrastinating, you should seriously think of supporting your professional association. You will only ever 'get something out of it' if you 'put something into it'. Don't forget LAA members pay less than others to attend conferences, and you can claim membership fees on your tax. So, I hope that when I go through the next list of financial members I come across some new names!

Leigh Evans
 National President

EDUCATION FOR LIBRARIANSHIP SECTION NATIONAL

EFLA essay competition

Entries for the Education for Librarianship (EFLA), National Section essay competition has been extended until 31 October 1988. Entrants are reminded that the topic is '1988 Library and Information Centre Management' (and information management or other topics in this field).

The competition is open to everyone and the award will be \$500 with the winning entry published in EFLA. Send entries to G.E. Gorman, School of Information Studies, Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education, PO Box 588, Wagga 2650.

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VICTORIAN BRANCH

Award night

On 6 July, the Victorian Branch hosted, at RMIT, an award night to recognise the achievements of two of our Victorian colleagues. Michael Ramsden received a Fellowship of the LAA and Anne Casey was awarded the Metcalfe Medallion. The awards were conferred by Alan Bundy, LAA President.



After positions in various libraries and four years lecturing at the College of Librarianship, Wales, Michael and his family migrated to Australia where he took up a lectureship at RMIT. In 1977 he was appointed Head of the Department of Librarianship and he is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, RMIT.

In part the Fellowship citation read:

Michael Ramsden has a record of sustained high achievement and leadership in the field of librarianship. He has an internationally recognised reputation for his work in the areas of classification and indexing. His books are used as standard texts throughout the world and the workbooks published by RMIT have been made available to schools of library and information studies in many countries...

The Metcalfe Medallion recognises the contribution of John Metcalfe to librarianship and library education in Australia. The award is made to a first award student in librarianship or archive administration for the most outstanding essay or other written work.

Anne Casey undertook the Graduate Diploma in Information Services at RMIT in 1987. She was awarded the Metcalfe Medallion for her annotated bibliography of works by and about the Australian playwright Dorothy Hewett. The judges deemed the work out-

standing and it is expected the work will be published later this year. After being presented with the Metcalfe Medallion for 1988, Anne's acceptance speech showed she had great affinity with the subject of her work. Congratulations to both Michael and Anne.



Section funding

A major item of business over the past few meetings has been the funding of locally based Sections. As most members will know Section membership has declined quite significantly with the change in the fee structure. The funding which locally based Sections receive covers only the smallest costs. Consequently, the Branch passed the following motions at the July meeting:

- (i) The LAA based fee structure should include one free Section membership.
- (ii) Sectional membership should be automatically included in calculating fund allocations to each Branch.

The second motion covers an interesting anomaly in funding, namely that when you pay five dollars for each State-based sectional group, nothing of that sum is re-allocated back to the group concerned. There is a feeling that strong Sections at the state level are important to the good health of the LAA.

Library legislation

The new Libraries Bill was not voted by the State parliament in the Autumn sitting and is now slated for the Spring sitting. Some minor revisions to the original Bill are expected but it is believed that both sides of the House will support the major reforms embedded in the Bill. Some administrative changes which were dependent on the passage of the Bill through Parliament are underway. The Consultancy and Public Libraries Services, a division of the State Library, for example, has already been

effectively dismantled. However the State Libraries Board still awaits the proclamation of the Libraries Act.

State library building

The building project was gazetted on 6 July and the State Government's Major Projects Unit will take over the project. This should mean action, however it seems the site chosen will not be adequate, spacewise. According to the plan most of the smaller buildings behind the dome are to remain. The Branch Council is in favour of the levelling of all buildings on the site, excluding Queen's Hall and the domed Reading Room, as the most efficient way of setting up a new library building that will meet users' needs.

Local presence

The local office of the LAA has been running effectively for just over six months and a small committee has been set up to evaluate its functioning. The original decision to open the office was that it should be subject to a review after six months operation and members are invited to comment to the Branch Secretary on any aspect of the office.

Ray Price

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES SECTION — NSW GROUP

Proposed Marjorie Cotton Award

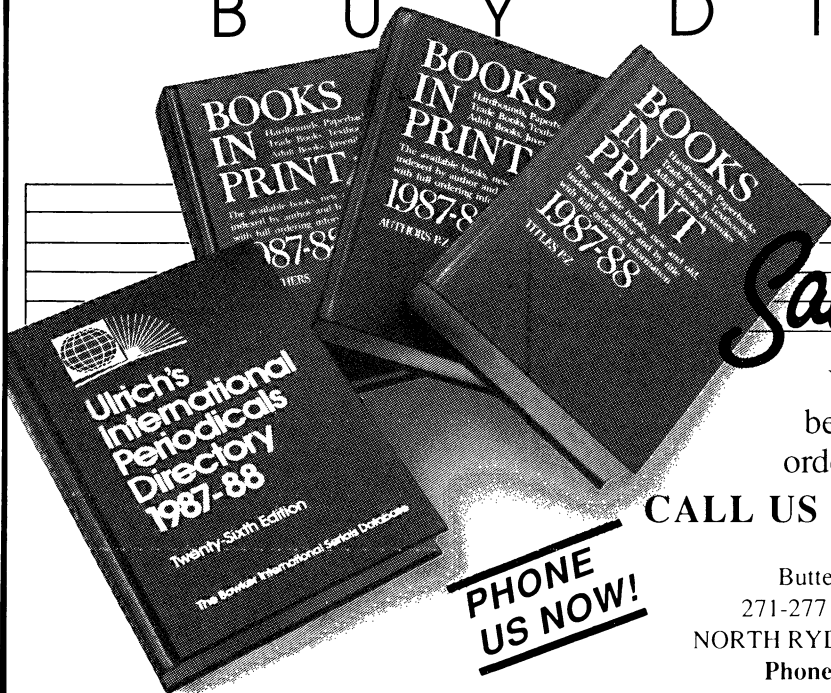
The Group has submitted a proposal to the National Section that an award be established to honour Marjorie Cotton, the first qualified professional children's librarian to be appointed in NSW, possibly in Australia.

Because she has had such far-reaching influence as a pioneer and practitioner in the field of children's librarianship, it is felt that the Bicentennial year would be an appropriate time to establish such an award — 'The Marjorie Cotton Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Librarianship'. This would complement the Bess Thomas Award.

As the proposal is to be discussed and voted on at the Section's AGM during the forthcoming IFLA/LAA Conference, it is vital you express your views on the issue. Note that proxy voting can be arranged.

Val Watson
President

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LAA Publishing: any ideas?

The LAA has appointed Sandra Forbes as Publishing Consultant to report on the LAA's book publications program. The aim is to establish how the Association's book publishing activities can be continued but rendered more financially viable.

Sandra, a former Director of the Australian Book Publishers Association, has a background in publishing, journalism and administration. She has been working as an independent publishing consultant since 1986. One of her consultancies last year was for the Australia Film, Television and Radio School, for whom she provided a report on the re-organisation of the publishing program — a project similar to the one she is now undertaking for the LAA.

Sandra is looking for input to her project from as many sources as possible. If you have any comments on the current book publishing activities of the LAA — including publication by Branches and Divisions — or any ideas about how these activities might be organised in the future, she would be very pleased to hear from you.

Although her brief does not encompass serials as such, she will also be looking at the serials to some extent because the skills and equipment necessary for their production are similar to those required for books: so comments on serials publication would also be welcomed.

Comments can be as brief as you like, but *must be in writing*. Please mark letters for Sandra's attention, c/o Kathy Husselbee, Publications Manager, LAA, 376 Jones St, Ultimo, NSW 2007.

Sue Kosse
Executive Director

CATALOGUERS SECTION NATIONAL

National Cataloguers Conference 1988

The LAA Cataloguers Section (SA Group) is hosting the 1989 LAA National Cataloguer's Conference which will be held in Adelaide, 15-16 September 1989.

The conference will be concerned with the maintenance of cataloguing standards within automated networks and systems, and why these standards are as important now as ever before. The conference will look at the sources of bibliographic data in today's automated systems and networks; the training needs to maintain cataloguing standards; institutional and local system constraints on standards; and last but not least, the importance of cataloguing standards to library users.

The theme of the conference will be 'Garbage in, garbage out'. For further details contact: Philip Keane (08) 213 0184.

CANCELLATION

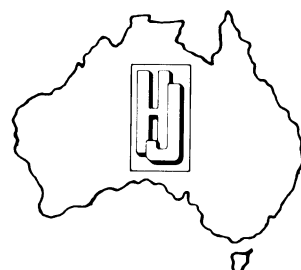
The IFLA Section of Public Libraries Workshop, on 'Measuring the Performance of Public Libraries', scheduled for Monday, 5 September 1988, has been cancelled. The keynote speaker, Professor Nick Moore is unable to participate. The Section regrets this late change, but is unable to make alternative arrangements at this stage.

Correction

In Christine's Frey's 'Frontline' (*InCite* vol 9 no 10), it was stated that after the holding of the Task Inquiry into State Library Services, funding arrangements for the State Library Services would revert to the previous arrangement of a 0.25 percent levy from local government with the remainder of funds coming from the Tasmanian State Government. What was meant to be conveyed was that the local government would revert to 25 cents in the dollar of annual assessed value of land.

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