



FEEDBACK

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION WA GROUP

Into the future

More than 140 people attended the Group's one-day conference, 'Into the future: school libraries for an information age', held in Perth on 13 August. Among those present were representatives from the Ministry of Education, tertiary institutions, and government and independent schools.

Dr Carmen Lawrence, the state's Minister for Education opened the conference and spoke of future plans for school libraries. She mentioned the possible career paths for other professionals, such as librarians, in schools and extra funding for school libraries. The keynote speaker, Dr Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir, Associate Professor, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, gave the participants an overview of the international scene.

The session on national developments involved reports from the different states. The WA situation was approached from three different perspectives. Imogen Garner, Ministry of Education, spoke of the challenges due to changes in the state's educational sphere. Jean Rhodes laid emphasis on the resourcefulness shown by school library staff in Catholic schools located in remote areas of WA and argued that teacher-librarians would rise up to future challenges. Mike Detiuk, Principal, Safety Bay Senior High School, made a lively comparison between running with the ball in football and taking up the challenges in school libraries.

In the session entitled 'Issues and developments', Dr Anne Clyde brought the participants up to date with developments in information technology and stressed the need to be aware of the benefits derived from the availability of up-to-date information to school libraries. Alex Radloff's talk was an update on learning theory. Alison Dewsbury gave an entertaining and personal view on developments in reading theory and convinced the participants that an inability to understand the workings of modern technology in no way prevented us from taking advantage of what it had to offer.

After the talks, discussion groups were set up to debate different topics. One topic, in particular, was avidly discussed by each group, entitled 'What do you think is the most important issue facing school libraries in the next five years?'. At the closing session group leaders gave a two-minute summary and Dr Patricia Layzell Ward concisely reviewed the main points. Common concerns were the need for qualified library staff in smaller schools, for continuing education and the need for teacher-librarians to be innovators and entrepreneurs. The need for teacher training colleges to include a segment on co-operative teaching in the library in their general courses was also discussed.

Judy Nicholls
Librarian

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

Delegation to Minister

Representatives of the Group met with Peter Collins, Minister for the Arts, on 29 August to discuss issues of importance to public libraries. Representatives included Mairead Browne, President, NSW Branch; Glenys Murray, President, Public Libraries Section, NSW Group; Faye Lawrence, Chief Librarian, Woollahra; and Ron Saunders, Chief Librarian, Canterbury.

The Minister agreed that public libraries in NSW require more funding and stated that he is also aware of the important role public libraries play in the dissemination of information. Mr Collins also stated that he had put forward some interesting ideas on the promotion of public libraries to the Government.

The representatives may meet later this year with members of the Arts portfolio to discuss other aspects of public library service.

Section events

All the seminars held this year have been well attended. Among these has been 'Public access microcomputers' which looked at the use of microcomputers in the library for activities other than catalogue access. Papers from this seminar will be available shortly from the Section. 'Young adults and the library' detailed in *InCite* no. 14, 26 August, was also popular.

The celebration of our Bicentennial year has caused an upsurge in the number of people researching family history. The Section ran a successful one-day seminar on this topic in August. The seminar looked at the various strategies that can be used to trace family history, with emphasis on the NSW State Archives kit.

We hope to have two more seminars this year - one on communication between Public Libraries and their Councils and the other on conservation to be held at Strathfield Library in November with Helen Price.

Committee members

Once again it is nomination time. At present the committee is very small. I would like at least eight committee members for next year. If you would like to help promote public libraries and add to the profession, please fill in a nomination form or contact me at Warringah Library, (02) 982 0502. If we do not have enough nominations then there will be no Public Libraries Section in 1989.

Congratulations to Diana Oliver who has been awarded a Fellowship of the LAA. Diana is and has been an important and innovative member of the Public Libraries Section committee.

Glenys Murray
President

GEELONG REGIONAL GROUP

A personal computer workshop, which was a recent joint-venture by the Geelong Regional Group and the Gordon Technical College Learning Resource Centre, attracted some 20 participants. They were given expert demonstrations and hands-on use of a variety of programs. Because of the interest shown, an advanced workshop will be considered for 1989.

Alan Bundy, LAA President, attended the mid-winter 'Wine, wisdom and wit' event. The President took this opportunity to talk about the Information for the Nation campaign. A tour of CSIRO's Animal Health Laboratory and Library, led by Helen Wood, committee member, was of great interest to members of the regional SLAV and our Group.

The Geelong Regional Group is planning its end-of-year activities: a 'Promoting libraries' evening and a 'Christmas capers'. Moreover the Group's contribution to the Library Expo is a 'library walk' during which the public is invited to visit five inner-Geelong libraries and information agencies (see 'Happenings' for details).

Sue Bone
Publicity Officer

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HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION SA GROUP

Last year the South Australian Health Libraries Section hosted the national medical librarians conference. This year the Section has passed on its national responsibilities to Queensland and has more time to maintain its activity within the state.

Following on from a decision made at the conference where SA acquired the task of compiling and monitoring statistics from GRATIS, GRATISSA and GRATISQ, a new statistics collection form has been developed to enable comparisons. The Section has also made a submission to the SA Health Commission review into General Practice, concerning the provision of information services to rural doctors. The Section has recommended that a formal policy be formulated to co-ordinate existing facilities. There has been ongoing discussion regarding co-operative computerisation and various methods have been investigated. Up till now there has been no easy answer, however the area is still being investigated. The Section has been represented at numerous SA Libraries Summit Committee meetings and is looking forward to the outcomes of the Summit.

The first major function was held at the Julia Farr Centre on 7 June with 18 health librarians in attendance. Ellen Randva spoke on her experience working in the Woodward Biomedical Library, University of British Columbia, Canada. Felicity Williams, who has recently developed a medical library in Western Samoa spoke on overcoming cultural barriers in encouraging library use. Lindsay Harris spent a recent holiday in England and also took the opportunity of visiting several health libraries. He reported that health libraries seemed to be facing similar problems in England, and even thought that in some areas Australian health libraries were more advanced than their English counterparts. The evening concluded with a pleasant dinner at the Cremorne Hotel.

Irene Doskatsch
Secretary

'Happenings' is now on LIBNET. The LAA number is MLN 207500 (NALIA).

VIC BRANCH

State election

The coming election on 1 October may be critical for the future of the State Library building and for the funding of public libraries in Victoria.

Library staff are urged to ask all candidates about their policies and opinions on the following issues:

1. the program for the provision of improved accommodation for the State Library;
2. state government funding of public libraries;
3. the functions and funding of the Libraries Services Unit within the Ministry for the Arts;
4. the Libraries Bill which has still to pass through the final readings to pass into law.

It is important that library staff increases the level of library awareness and library issues among politicians. There is little time for lobbying within the brief period before the election but it needs to be done for the future of us all.

Ray Price

NSW BRANCH

Lobby or lose

The times of self-effacement are gone forever — lobby or lose. This is your chance to share John Levett's insights and skills in the business of effective lobbying. John is Director, School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania. Delegates at the IFLA/LAA conference will remember John's influential role in the very successful 'hypothetical'.

John suggests that there is nothing magical about the lobbying process — it consists of a series of simple concepts. John will teach you these concepts in an all-day seminar to be held at the State Library of NSW on 18 November, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (see 'Happenings' for details).

Frank Willems
Continuing Education Officer

Organising an insert for *InCite*? Need to place an event in the *Happenings* column? Contact: Tanya Vojak at LAA HQ on (02) 692 9233 (008) 221481 or Fax (02) 692 0689.

Australian Libraries Summit

All submissions and responses to the steering committee on issues relating to the Australian Libraries Summit are now available for reference in each of the State and Territory libraries. These include all results from the state and territory consultations plus responses from various groups and individuals.

Contact place or person in each state and territory is as follows: ACT - Megan Curlewis, National Library (062) 62 1518; NSW - John Wright, State Library of New South Wales, (02) 230 1414; NT - Naida Tattersall, NT Library Service, (089) 89 7841; QLD - Monica Sherlock, State Library of Queensland, (07) 840 7864; SA - Bray Reference Library, State Library of South Australia (08) 223 8734; TAS - Cathy Doe, State Library of Tasmania, (002) 30 7460; VIC - Betty Foord, State Library of Victoria, (03) 669 9917 or (03) 669 9840; WA - Julie Hamm, State Library Service of Western Australia, (09) 42 73111.

For an up-to-date list of delegates to the summit, contact Megan Curlewis, Secretary, Australian Libraries Summit (062) 62 1518.

Green with Envy???

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