



A lot in common

I write to thank the Executive Director and through her the President and Council of the LAA for the great time that I had at the biennial conference in Sydney.

I thoroughly enjoyed all the social events which gave me the opportunity to meet and talk to Australian colleagues, and I found the sessions and papers extremely interesting. We have so many issues and developments in common.

I hope that I shall have the opportunity to entertain one day in the United Kingdom.

Jean Plaister
President
Library Association

Thanks

I thought that I should write to thank the President and the LAA, particularly its staff, for organising a most successful and enjoyable IFLA Conference. You can imagine that I, and other British delegates, came prepared to be,

perhaps not critical, but, keen in observation after our own experiences last year in Brighton. In the event I think that the LAA lived up to our expectation. If there were minor slip-ups then they were not noticeable to your audience. Everything seemed to go extremely well and I thought the venue worked well although I must have lost some weight running up and down the campus. It looked marvellous covered in spring flowers. Sydney, too, was at its best and I will have long memories of the harbour, the bridge and the Opera House. It was a very successful event and one of which the LAA can justly be proud.

Many thanks for all the efforts that went into the success.

Russell Bowden
Deputy Chief Executive
Library Association

Acquisitions stats

I welcome the President's suggestion that Australian libraries need to place more emphasis on the collection and dissemination of statistical data on their services and activities. I had planned to put forward a proposal on collection of statistics on acquisition matters to the Acquisitions Section and Alan Bundy's call to action has given me added incentive to do so.

There are significant gaps in the coverage of acquisition matters. For example, the only readily available data on expenditures for books and serials are those for academic libraries which are published annually in *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*. Academic libraries also benefit from the provision by Monash University Library of prices and price movements data for books, serials and binding which are published in *Acquisition News*. All

types of libraries need to have similar data as a means of, for example, identifying variations (especially inequities) in financial provision between otherwise comparable services.

From the Australian book trade's point of view, there would be value in identifying, for example, how many books are bought by libraries from various supply sources.

I hope that, either as part of a wider project or as a project conducted by the Section itself, these and other issues can be addressed in the near future.

Joy Sheehan
President
Acquisitions Section

Acid-free

They say that any publicity is good publicity, therefore, I should be grateful that my handbook on preventive conservation (*Stopping the Rot*), published by the LAA, should have received two mentions in *InCite* no. 15, 9 September 1988, pp 9 and 10. As an added item of interest to Karl Schmude's article on the use of non-acidic paper in publishing, may I let your readers know that *Stopping the Rot* is the first LAA publication to be printed purposely on alkaline processed and sized paper, and has the potential to last three hundred years.

The aim is for it to wear out long before that — through use of course!

Helen Price
LAA Bicentennial Conservator

Organising an insert in *InCite*? Need to place an event in the Happenings column? Contact: Genevieve Flore or Tanya Vojsk at LAA HQ on (02) 692 9233; (008) 22 1481 or fax (02) 692 0689.

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