



## FEEDBACK

### NSW BRANCH

#### The Young Ones

Although it has been a while since the Young Ones committee, NSW Branch, were in print, the committee has been involved in a range of activities.

On behalf of the NSW Branch, the Young Ones have met with library students from Sydney Technical College, Mount Druitt Technical College, Riverina Murray Institute, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education and the University of NSW. The aim being to introduce the LAA to potential technicians and librarians and encourage them to actively participate in their professional association.

An Encouragement Award has been established. The idea behind this award is to encourage new members of the profession to reflect upon their own experiences and share their knowledge with their colleagues. Details of the award and an invitation to participate will appear in *InCite* early in 1989. Right now, however, the Young Ones are pleased to acknowledge that Resource Card Services are sponsoring the 1989 Award.

During May, a Young Ones' dinner was held to assess interest in the committee. Twenty people attended and a good time was had by

all. It was encouraging to see a number of new faces there too!

To end 1988, a Christmas function will be held on 29 November in the Mitchell Galleries, State Library of NSW, to launch a new publication on *Job Hunting in Library and Information Work*. Anyone interested in attending this function, please contact Alison Reid (02) 230 1469 or Mary Baker (02) 875 6289.

*Alison Reid*

### LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION SA GROUP

#### Talk with unions

Margaret Rowe, President of the Library Technicians Section, (SA Group) organised a meeting between the LAA (represented by herself, Louise Lansley and Anne Harris) and the two unions covering school assistants in SA, the Public Service Association (PSA) and the SA Institute of Teachers, to discuss the possibility of an award for library technicians in the school assistant structure. The meeting took place on 6 October at the PSA.

The two unions felt that this approach was not likely to succeed — being against the trend towards multi-skilling, removing the current flexibility in the system and being likely to be divisive in the school assistant ranks. Beverly Mason proposed an alternative strategy, which the meeting supported, of pressing for a qualification allowance in pay for any school assistant holding one or more of an agreed list of qualifications — whether as a library technician, laboratory technician, interpreter or whatever. This would support multi-skilling and efficiency and not be divisive. The proposal is timely as a structural efficiency review is about to commence for school assistants in conjunction with the three percent wage increase.

The two unions are now going to discuss the proposal with their relevant committees and identify relevant qualifications and salaries as well as the number of members concerned. They will also investigate the timetable for the structural efficiency review

discussions and then call meetings of members to organise and lobby. The LAA has agreed to provide whatever assistance is needed and awaits the outcome with much interest.

*Anne Harris*  
General Secretary and  
SA General Councillor

### CATALOGUERS AND INFORMATION SCIENCE SECTIONS NSW GROUPS

#### Thesaurus construction

David Batty, prominent information scientist and guest speaker at the 'Information Online' seminar in January 1989, will conduct a one-day workshop in Sydney on 20 January on 'Thesaurus Construction and Maintenance'. Lecture and discussion sessions, and group participation sequences will be included, during which a model thesaurus will be developed. The workshop will provide an understanding of the principles as well as practice of constructing and maintaining index languages. For details see 'Happenings'.

*Eugenie Greig*  
President

### SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

#### Concern for school libraries

The work of the School Libraries Section (NSW Group) in responding to changes by the NSW Government to the NSW education system continued on Wednesday, 26 October. A meeting was held between members of the staff of the Minister for Education and representatives of the LAA (Louise Lansley, Sheila Hawkins and Murray McLachlan).

The meeting was a consequence of the previous meeting held with Dr Terry Metherell in July this year. Although the Minister was unable to be present, productive discussions were held with his staff. The meeting allowed the expression of the Association's continued concerns about the implications of recent Government decisions for school library programs and for the work of teacher-librarians.

Implicit throughout the meeting was the willingness on the part of the Minister's staff to listen to the Association's concerns, addressing them on the basis of examining ways in which 'the situation for teacher-librarians in schools could be made more tenable'.

This allowed discussion of the concept of co-operative program planning and teaching, and of resource-based learning. The meeting examined the need for adequate administration and management time for the teacher-librarian. It was suggested that the Department of Education should provide clear guidelines as to ways in which schools can pursue the provision of release from face-to-teaching time for classroom teachers which will not impinge upon the work of the teacher-librarian or jeopardise school library programs.

Ministerial support was expressed for the OASIS Library (the Department's automated library system) and for ASCIS. Concerns regarding the implications of OASIS implementation on teacher-librarian and

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**Australian Libraries Summit continued from page 1.**

preservation of materials, to ACLIS and the LAA to discuss identified issues concerning trained staff with relevant academic institutions and professional organisations and for the ACLIS Preservation Sub-committee to advise on priorities, feasibility and funding for nine specific national projects including a possible program to develop widespread use of acid-free paper, a national brittle books survey and a national register of microform masters.

**National database**

A major part of the Summit agenda was the question of a national database for Australia, where delegates accepted an objective of having generally available the bibliographic record of the national collection. It was resolved that the Summit supported the concept of a central database operated through the NLA as the major component of a national database for the foreseeable future, but that the development of OSI application level standards for the interchange of bibliographic information should be a priority. Appropriate institutions are to address the issue of ensuring that as high a proportion as possible of the bibliographic record of the national collection is accessible online.

**Document delivery**

The Summit debated at length the issue of a document delivery system for Australian libraries, with the objective of ensuring that library users have efficient access to documents not held by the library of which they are the primary users. Delegates identified desirable outcomes as including agreement on national

and regional requirements, acceptance of stated roles for ILL by various types of libraries and agreement on guidelines for user/library pays.

The nine resolutions adopted in this session include the identification of primary responsibilities for the National, State, academic and other libraries, agreement that the practice of charging for the supply of interlibrary loans continue to be accepted and that ACLIS be responsible for consultation on a scale of charges, agreement that protocols on charging for interlibrary loan between individual libraries should be the responsibility of the libraries concerned and that the decision whether to pass interlibrary loan charges onto the end user be a matter for decision by the receiving library.

In debating the question of effective access to government information, the Summit reached agreement on what it saw as the responsibilities of governments in providing access to government information and charged ACLIS with accepting responsibility for protecting and extending existing deposit arrangements in National, State, academic and regional libraries. ACLIS and the LAA have been asked to develop a plan to persuade all governments that private organisations should be given exclusive publication or distribution rights to government information which is in the public interest only under terms which protect this interest.

**User needs**

A large part of the Summit agenda concerned user needs. In debating multicultural services, it was resolved that ACLIS and the LAA should

continue the thrust of the CAPL campaign to achieve Commonwealth Government involvement in the provision of multicultural library services. State and Territory library authorities have been asked to ensure that consultative mechanisms for multicultural library services are established where they do not exist, and the NLA to establish a national consultative mechanism to address national issues on multicultural library service and in particular the co-ordination of policy, data collection and the conduct of research.

Other resolutions suggest action on ways in which the national database could be enhanced for non-English language records and holdings data, and urge that in line with government policies on equity and access the national, state and public libraries be urged not to charge for interlibrary loans to non-English language public library users.

The LAA has been requested to promote the establishment of a federally funded review of library services to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission, and to take other initiatives to ensure the development of purpose-designed library courses and employment opportunities for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. The Summit endorsed a national agenda for the further development of library services to people with disabilities. The more effective development of multitype library networks is also the subject of various recommendations.

**Remote users**

The Summit also accepted that remote users (ie geographically remote users) are a group with special needs and that special priorities of library service should be developed for them. It

*Cont'd page 7*

# Pick the one with the track record.

- Which automated library system is No. 1 in both Australia and New Zealand?
- Which system has the most comprehensive and proven functionality?
- Which system offers a dedicated nation-wide service and support network?
- Which system offers a clear growth path across a complete range of computers?
- Which system continues to be specifically developed to satisfy Australian and New Zealand requirements?

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