



the front line

Libraries 88 — Cerebration of a nation?

The First Fleet carried books, but no library. It was left to that freely settled Province of Enlightenment South Australia to be the only colony established with a library as primary cargo — a cargo which resides substantially to this day within the State Library of SA having survived, sans Disaster Plan, a dunking in the Port River in 1837.

Not too long before the first libraries in the Australian colonies were established — the Australian Subscription Library in Sydney and the Hobart Town Book Society, both in 1826. The year 2026 thus has historical significance for Australian libraries and may be worthy of celebration. But what of 1988?

Certainly members of our Association are heavily involved in the research underlying the Bicentenary, and the publications it is spawning. Victor Crittenden, for one, has worked at length on the bibliography of the First Fleet. Certainly our libraries of Australiana, particularly those attached to the State Libraries, have never been busier or more appreciated as recent articles in the *Times on Sunday* have recorded.

Without the initiative and dedication of librarians over generations, the source materials for the Celebration of a Nation

would be scant indeed. And that this tradition is alive and well was demonstrated to readers of all Australian newspapers late in 1987 with the news that thanks to the efforts of Alison Crook and her colleagues in the State Library of NSW the letters of Midshipman Newton Fowell, who sailed on the *Sirius* in the First Fleet, are to become part of our heritage.

Certainly 1988 is significant because the Bicentenary has provided us with the focus to welcome, for the first time, our international library colleagues to our shores for IFLA 88. And welcome they will be. We look forward to showing them that in a much shorter time than the 200 years of Australia, Australian librarians and libraries have achieved much.

As Jean Arnot reminded us at the Association's celebration of 50 years in Canberra last year 'It is as well to remember that in 1937 there were few libraries. Each capital city had one university with a library, one parliament with a library, and the general reference library . . . there were very few libraries in between'. In the troughs of despair at the idiocies and small vision of our politicians and finance directors at all levels, in the washing over us of the waves of crisis of confidence, let us not forget what has been achieved since then.

The measure of that achievement is, broadly, a national co-operating and sharing network of libraries with 14,000 service points throughout Australia. That network is fragile in places, it is unbalanced, it clearly has its inequities of resources and access. Yet it is working, it is cost-effective and it does provide something which no other area of Australian endeavour does — voluntary co-operation between the public and private sectors, co-operation across all institutional, organisational and political boundaries. As a profession we have a unique degree of

national cohesiveness, of which we have never made enough capital. Our task now is to show urgently the substance of that cohesiveness within the context of a library based National Information Strategy. To do this well, we need:

1. More research, statistics and evaluation on what libraries cost and what benefits they produce. Libraries are cheap, they are efficient, they are a public good. But where's our evidence?
2. A better awareness of ourselves — what each type of library does, just how libraries complement each other, and how we share with each other.

Both issues will need to be addressed at the first Australian Libraries National Summit on 17-19 October, but just to kick things along *InCite* during 1988 will be featuring a series of short articles on different types of libraries and their place in the national network. Read them, and broaden your knowledge of what collectively we are about.

1988 marks the first year of the second half century of our Association; the adoption of our new name (hopefully by May); IFLA 88, the first major international library conference in Australia; our own Biennial Conference in Sydney; a single body to arise from AACOBS and ALIC (which as Derek Fielding has observed can only strengthen the case to be made for the maintenance of adequately funded library services); a first National Industrial Forum for librarians and library technicians; the planning of our proposed Canberra Office; and of course, the first Australian Libraries Summit.

It will be a significant, and a mite busy, year for Australian libraries and our Association. It will also be a year to begin a series of initiatives premised on the fact that we have sub-

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"Three chairs, no waiting"

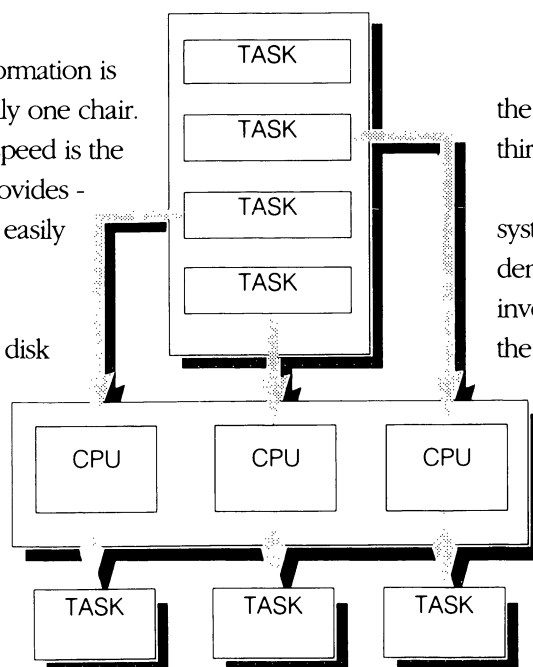
Waiting in a queue to process vital information is as outdated as a busy barber shop with only one chair.

In today's modern library, processing speed is the key. And that's what Parallel Processing provides - a quick, cost-effective system which copes easily with high-traffic demands.

What is Parallel Processing?

Using shared high-speed memory and disk storage, independent parallel CPUs simultaneously process multiple tasks - in the same time required by conventional computers for individual tasks.

With three CPUs in parallel, three different tasks can be executed simultaneously, or one complex task shared across three parallel CPUs, to achieve the end result in one third of the normal time.



And if three processors are not enough for the volume of your work, then thirteen or even thirty can be placed in parallel.

Which means that you can expand your system in easy and inexpensive stages as demand grows. No longer do you have to invest in a costly high-powered system at the outset.

And if this is not enough, Parallel Processing computers are more reliable than expensive single processor systems. Because if one CPU fails, there's always another in parallel to take over.

Talk to CLSI about Parallel Processing.

But be warned. Once the word gets around, there might be a bit of a queue.

CLSI

SUPERIOR DEDICATION

What you get for your LAA \$

Members are reminded that your 1988 membership fee is due by 29 February. If you have not yet paid you will have missed our \$10 earlybird discount, but you will still be in time for the other benefits you will receive as an LAA member.

Here are just a few -

- reduced prices for all LAA serial and monograph publications - up to 33 percent savings
- reduced fees for all LAA national and division conferences, seminars, CE activities - up to 60 percent savings
- purchase and redemption of LAA inter-library loan vouchers (for institutional members)
- discounts on travel and accommodation through ANZ Travel
- opportunities to participate in the activities of sister organisations at member rates.

And here are some of the activities in which your Association is involved in 1988 -

Lobbying

- National Information Policy
- Survival of Libraries in Victoria Campaign.

Advice and liaison

- Providing advice to governments at all levels by participating on committees, making submissions to enquiries, providing information and statistics. (This is often done by LAA committees such as the Audiovisual Services Committee and the International Relations Committee.)
- Liaising with a wide range of other professions and professional associations, local, national and international.

Publicity and promotion

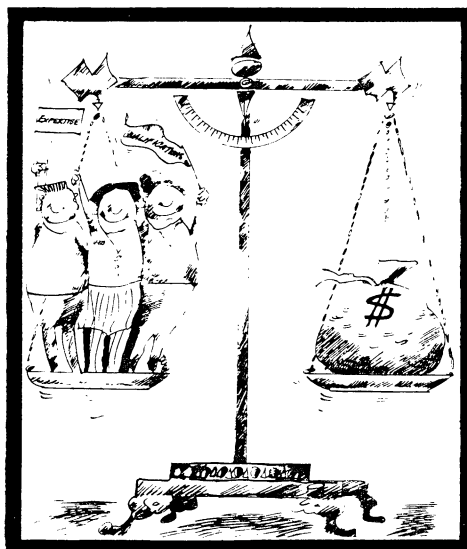
- Special Libraries Promotional Task Force
- Association response to advertisements which represent library staff in an out-dated/stereotyped fashion
- LAA video
- general publicity material.

Continuing education

- national CE program
- Branch, Section, Regional Group and Special Interest Group activities.

Conferences

- IFLA/LAA 1988 Conference
- Divisional conferences organised around particular interests eg. Information Online 88.



Awards

- The H.C.L. Anderson, Redmond Barry and Ellinor Archer Awards
- Fellowships
- The Metcalfe Medallion
- Library Manager of the Year
- Awards for students at each library school
- Study Grant Awards.

Special grants to finance division activities

Education

- Course recognition visits to monitor the maintenance of professional standards
- recognition of overseas qualifications
- provision of careers information including production of course booklets.

Publications

- InCite
- The Australian Library Journal
- Section journals
- Specialist monographs - proceedings of conferences, standards, directories.

Industrial matters

- collection of workforce data
- provision of information about employment prospects
- advice about staff exchanges
- operation of employment schemes
- development of library standards
- development of work level guidelines
- production of policy statements
- production of salary scales and salary advice
- assistance with industrial problems
- liaison with unions
- monitoring newspaper advertisements for positions which are advertised at the wrong level
- provision of information about occupational health and safety matters.

And of course LAA membership is tax deductible.

All LAA fees have been reduced by at least 12 percent, and some by as much as 50 percent since 1986. So renew now, and don't forget that registrations for the IFLA/LAA Conference at the earlybird rate close on 31 March - a saving of \$85 for financial members of the LAA.

Sue Phillips
Membership Services Manager

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stantially implemented the recommendations of the Corporate Plan and Review and that the best service that can now be rendered to members is a systematic and sustained national campaign of library advocacy.

Thanks in part to the unstinting leadership of our 1987 President Peter Dawe, the Association is well placed to undertake this campaign, which will focus on the Australian library network and its role in providing Information for the Nation.

Alan Bundy
President

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