

# FEEDBACK

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION NATIONAL

### AGM and dinner

The Public Libraries Section AGM and dinner at this year's IFLA/LAA Conference is to be held at the Opera House. The Reception Room, with views over the Harbour, has been booked for the Annual General Meeting. The dinner is to be in the Bennelong Restaurant. Date is not as notified in the conference brochure, but on the Sunday evening, 28 August.

The AGM commences at 6.00 pm and the dinner at 7.30 pm. The cost of the evening will be \$44. This is the cheapest you'll ever meet and dine at the Opera House. Make it a highlight of your conference.

For bookings contact: Rod Blacker, Treasurer, Public Libraries Section, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown Vic 3016, (03) 393 9246. (Cheques to be made payable to LAA Public Libraries Section)

### Public library funding — a national issue

A copy of report on current issues in the public library funding debate in Victoria has been prepared by the Association's Education and Industrial Services Manager, Louise Lansley and is available from Jane King, President, LAA, Public Libraries Section (Victorian Group), 415 Church Street, Richmond Vic 3121, (03) 429 3644.

While the report is obviously Victorian in

direction, most of the issues it addresses — user charges, core service, performance based funding, etc. — are clearly of national interest to public librarians.

### Federal funding — dead again

Most members will recall the publicity in September last year about the announcement in the documentation to the Prime Minister's ALP policy speech that:

...we will review the public library system in Australia with a view to its full integration in a national network available to all in the community.

Both the LAA and AACOBS had been pushing for implementation of that commitment.

It has just been revealed (late February) that new Federal Arts Minister, Gary Punch, with Cabinet support, has killed the idea and there will now be no review of the public library system by the Federal Government. Surprise!

### Interlibrary loan review

Late last year AACOBS agreed to fund (\$20,000) and organise a survey of the impact of the introduction of interlibrary loan charges on public libraries. (The LAA was originally asked but declined to contribute half the cost (\$10,000) of the survey).

ACLIS at its recent Canberra meeting rescinded the decision and the survey now won't take place until 1989.

Ross Gibbs  
President

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION VICTORIAN GROUP

### Expanding horizons

A conference, 'Expanding Horizons: Librarians Working with Young People', will be held on the weekend of 21-23 October at Blythwood Grange Sebastopol, Ballarat. Major topics will include image and status (your own perceptions and others of you); mobility (how to move or change direction); communication (effective methods, channels); stress management (how to minimise stress); and conflict resolution (with clients, colleagues and administration).

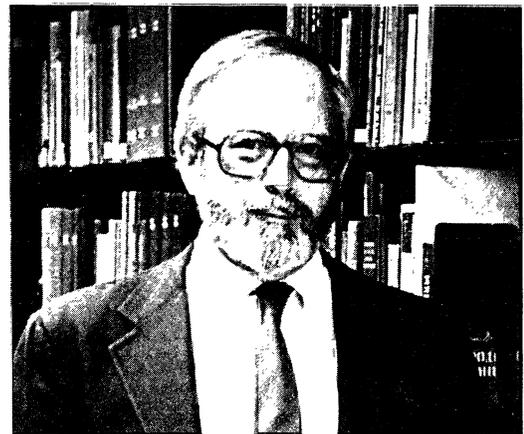
Conference fees include accommodation

and meals with a daily rate for those unable to attend the whole weekend. No effort has been spared to get the most expert speakers available and to make the conference professionally stimulating and enjoyable. If you only go to one conference this year (and you can't get to Sydney), this is the one for you. For more details and application forms contact Nola Schlegel (03) 870 5399, (03) 299 1434 (ah). Maelor Himbury

## ACQUISITION SECTION NATIONAL

A pre-conference seminar, 'The RLG Conspectus and Collection Evaluation', will be held on 27 August.

One of the most exciting recent projects in the area of collection development is the RLG (Research Libraries Group) Conspectus, a method of evaluating and recording collecting strengths in libraries in detail. 'The resulting descriptions, whether made available online or on paper provide a basis for co-operation in collection development, resource sharing, shared cataloguing, and preservation that is much more detailed and flexible than has been available before' (LRTS October/December, 1984, p. 368).



Mr Paul H. Mosher, Deputy Director of Libraries, Stanford University.

The keynote speaker at the seminar will be Paul H. Mosher, at present Deputy Director of Libraries, Stanford University, but soon to take on the position of Director of Libraries at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr Mosher has been closely connected with developing the idea of the Conspectus, and indeed coined the term. The article which he wrote jointly with Nancy E. Gwinn, 'Co-ordinating collection development', was selected as the best publication in the field of acquisitions and collection development in 1983, and received the Blackwell North America Award. Dr Mosher has been extensively involved with resource sharing and collection-development, and has lectured widely in the US and overseas. He holds a number of senior positions within the ALA, and has also served on the Advisory Committee of the North American collections Inventory Project.

Dr Mosher will speak both on the philosophy of Conspectus and on the practicalities of evaluation. His visit is very timely, given the interest in the RLG Conspectus at the National Library, the various state libraries, and academic libraries.

The registration fee for the seminar is \$50 LAA members, \$75 for non-members. The seminar will run between 10.30 am — 4.00 pm, and lunch will be provided. Further details and registration forms will be available from Joy Sheehan, C/- Tait Bookshop, 415 Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000.

# MANNINGS

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**New editor**

Philip Kent has been appointed editor of *Acquisitions*: Newsletter of the Acquisitions Section of the Library Association of Australia. It is planned to enhance the publication during 1988 and contributions, news items and seminar reports are requested for publication. All enquiries may be directed to: Philip Kent, CSIRO, 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Vic 3002, (03) 418 7454. Advertising rates upon application.

**Geddes reports**

A draft Branch response to the proposed reconstitution of the Library Council of Victoria was discussed and amended slightly. Major concerns of Branch Council are the level of professional representation on the Council, and the method by which the Council is to be funded. Branch Council hopes to have access to the draft legislation soon after it is drafted. Ray Price

reform in Australia on academic libraries — and many of us are less optimistic now than we were a few days ago!

And Dr Burrows' conclusions about the future for academic libraries in Britain? The large research libraries in those institutions that can attract significant research grants are 'pretty well placed'. Smaller technological libraries in technological institutions are taking opportunities to develop and market their services along special library lines. The libraries of medium-sized institutions that cannot attract significant research funds are in decline, as are those of small institutions that offer non-technological courses. What will happen in Australia?

Jane E. Klobas  
Secretary

**LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION NATIONAL**

**UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES SECTION WA GROUP**

**AUSTRALIAN SERIALS SIG**

I am pleased to inform some members who were concerned with the matter of 'extra-charging' during the last Library Technicians' Conference, that the Victoria Hotel has sent an explanation and a cheque to cover a refund to certain members. I am pleased that the goodwill of the hotel prevailed, and have assured them that we look forward to continued patronage of their establishment. When the cheque is 'split up' those members affected can expect their refund. I'm glad my letter brought some results!

Also, we are currently compiling a newsletter which perhaps will be distributed to all states next month, so remember, if you have something you would like to share with colleagues nationwide, please send it to us.

Leigh Evans  
National President

**AGM, address and dinner**

A small group of UCL(WA) members met for the first time in 1988 at the AGM and dinner at Le Canard Restaurant in Cottesloe.

While the lowlight of the evening was the transfer of the President's vintage port (complete with sediment) into carafes, the highlight was certainly Dr Toby Burrow's paper on university libraries in the United Kingdom. Toby presented the situation in the UK in a way that allowed his listeners to draw some clear and disturbing parallels between Britain's educational reforms and the Dawkins green paper on Australian education.

The libraries of British universities have been receiving a reduced share of reduced university funds. In response, 55% of libraries have reduced their opening hours, others open at night with no services (not even photocopying), some services are not available at lunch times, charges have been introduced, and acquisitions budgets have been cut and in some cases 'transferred' to academic departments for expenditure. Overall, it would appear that the Library's role in the university is diminishing as it is coming to be seen as an expensive overhead. This is perhaps the natural result of the Thatcher (and Dawkins?) policy that universities should be market-oriented.

While we heard some of the 'horror stories' before, Dr Burrows' factual presentation allowed his listeners to draw their own conclusions about the effect of educational

ASSIG was formed in late 1987. Its objectives include: to bridge the gap between the producer and the end user of serials by providing a forum for the interchange of ideas and information; to promote professional awareness among all those concerned with serials; to encourage library educators to provide continuing education for serials; to maintain liaison with the sections of LAA and NZLA that have an interest in serials.

Executive members are:

**Convenor:** Mary Anne Kennan, Company Information, AGSM

**Secretary:** Patricia Baigent, Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services

**Treasurer:** Alf Gans, International Subscription Agency

Committee members are: Frances Bluhorn, Susman Library, RPAH; Pearl Champion, Bailleu Library, University of Melbourne; Alan Ventress, State Library of New South Wales; Lionel Robson, University of New South Wales; Lyndal Coote, Butterworths; Richard Siegersma, DA (Aust); Rhonda Barry, Reserve Bank of Australia.

Membership is open to all interested persons or organisations, either by joining the special interest group as an LAA member, or by joining ASSIG directly (non-LAA members). If

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**VICTORIAN BRANCH**

The first Branch Council meeting for the year was held in the local LAA office facilities provided at Technilib and 7 new Branch Council members were welcomed by President, Bruce Davidson. Major items of business included the State Library building, the Geddes reports and the location of future LAA conferences.

**State Library building**

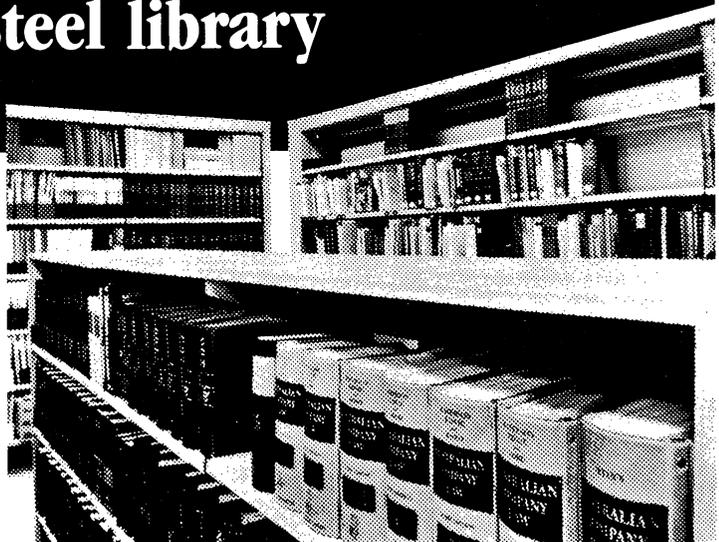
The Past President, Ann Forbes, reported on the activities of the State Library Support Group which was set up at the public meetings held at the end of last year. The Group includes a number of prominent citizens and its major aim is to continue the publicity campaign for a new building. Branch was asked to provide some professional input to the Group and a small sub-committee was set up under Ann's leadership to do this. The role of the Group may need to change now that the State Government has announced firm plans, however there may be a need to keep even the less than ideal proposals firmly in the public eye.

A highlight of the meeting was a break to watch a ten minute lead item on the State Library on the program 7.30 Report on ABC television.

**Future LAA conferences**

A report about the location of future LAA biennial conferences was tabled at the meeting. The normal of capital city locations suggests that Melbourne should host either the 1992 or 1994 conference, however the Riverina regional group has suggested that Albury-Wodonga be the 1992 venue. the report is to be fully discussed at the March meeting.

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you are interested in becoming a member please contact the Secretary, Patricia Baigent at Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services, 35-51 Mitchell Street North Sydney NSW 2060

ASSIG will be arranging workshops and seminars pertinent to its objectives. A newsletter is also being issued which will include articles, products, letters and events of interest about serials librarianship, production and distribution.

*Rhonda Barry*  
Committee member

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION  
NSW GROUP**

The School Libraries Section, NSW Group is continuing its efforts to reach 'isolated librarians'. The Annual General Meeting, which was held at St. Vincent's Primary School, Ashfield, on Wednesday 17 February, was recorded on cassette tape for distribution to country librarians.

In keeping with the spirit of the Bicentenary, the guest speakers at the AGM were John Trevillian and Mary Mitchell from the NSW Bicentennial Council. They spoke with great enthusiasm of their work throughout the state with community and school groups, and of the many projects developed on a group or individual basis to celebrate our 200th birthday. Both stressed that they saw the Bicentenary not as a one-off festivity but as an event which created a climate for discussion, and therefore change, which would benefit all Australians. Hear, hear!

*Elizabeth Hughes*

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION  
VICTORIAN BRANCH**

**Library funding**

The Public Libraries Section (Victorian Branch) has published a report, 'Government funding to Public Libraries', prepared by Louise Lansley, Education and Industrial Services Manager of the LAA. The report was prepared at the request of the Public Libraries Section, the Chief Librarians' Council and the Municipal Inter-Library Committee of Victoria, and has been distributed to all Victorian public libraries.

At a joint meeting in early February the three groups met to respond to the various funding documents issued in 1987. These included the Libraries Review (Geddes 1 and 2), the State Library Development Study

1987, A Framework for the Future (MAV), and Discussion Paper: Library Council of Victoria 1987.

Further information or copies of the report are available from Jane King, Carringbush Regional Library, 415 Church Street, Richmond, 3121, (03) 429 3644.

*Jane King*  
President

**SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION  
VICTORIAN GROUP**

Only three major meetings were undertaken in the second half of 1987 by the Victorian Group of the Special Libraries Section, as the 2nd Asian Pacific Special and Law Librarians Conference was held in Brisbane in September. The first of these activities — the Section's launch of its publication Guide to collections in Victorian special libraries was held on 16 September and reported in *InCite* in detail.

On the 27 November, the Section organised a successful one-day seminar on 'Integrated Library automation systems — issues, planning and implementation'. With the wide variety of fully integrated library automation packages now on the market, many small libraries — both those maintaining automated systems for one or two functions and those which are still using completely manual systems — are feeling some pressure to automate.

This seminar set out to provide some guidelines on how to tackle this issue, by drawing on the experiences of colleagues who have been involved with the implementation of fully integrated automation systems within the special library environment. Speakers were Margaret Findlay and Anne Newell, consultants; Ted Hamilton, CSIRO Information Research Unit; Michael Manning, Graduate School of Librarianship, Monash University; and Susan Molyneux, Marketing and Information Services Manager, Arthur Andersen and Co. The Section hopes to make the papers from this seminar available for publication in Australian special libraries news in 1988.

The Section's popular Annual General Meeting and Christmas party was held on 7 December and was hosted by the Parliamentary Library. The AGM was held on the Terrace and some unseasonably chilly weather ensured that discussion did not ramble! The newly-elected Committee for 1988 was introduced and issues affecting the Section during 1987 and into 1988 were discussed. A selection of foods and wine kept the Christmas party lively into the late evening.

**MEDICAL LIBRARIES  
SECTION  
NSW GROUP**

The committee for 1988 has been busy arranging activities for this year but welcomes further suggestions from the members of the section. The committee comprises the following persons:

**President:** Linda Mulheron, Westmead Hospital Library

**Secretary:** Bronwyn King, Westmead Hospital Library

**Treasurer:** Janet Jeffries, Susman Library, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Committee members are: Marion Steele, Association for Welfare of Children in Hospitals; Barbara Mew, Developmental Disabilities Librarian, Rydalmere Hospital; Christine Lindsay, Biomedical Library, University of NSW.

The first evening for 1988 is being held at the AMA Library, Westmead Hospital, 22 March. Moira Bryant will talk about Healthlink, the separate patient education library at Westmead and this will be followed by a talk and tour of the Westmead Hospital Library itself.

Other activities planned for 1988 include demonstrations of different versions of Medline on CD-ROM, a session on the provision of library services in NSW mental hospitals, a one-day management workshop, and a yet to be finalised talk from a favourite visiting medical librarian.

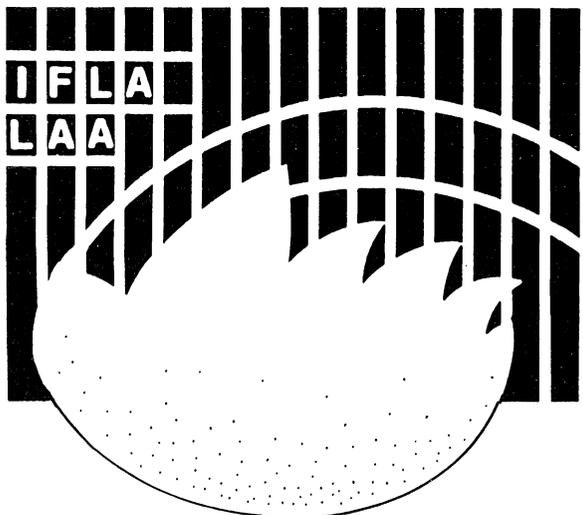
**NSW YUPLIS — All systems go**

After presenting our ideas to the NSW Branch Council, the YUPLIS (Young Upward Professional Library Information Specialists) Committee is now up and running.

With the blessings of Branch a range of activities has been proposed — a young professionals' dinner, topical presentations to student bodies and an encouragement award scheme. Please keep your eyes open for our first activity — a BYO dinner to kick off the fun and games.

Overall it is hoped that the program will move the LAA to address the needs of its young professional membership, provide a means of establishing human networks and pave the way for fun social activities.

For further information contact Alison Reid (02) 230 1480 (w) or (02) 929 5763 (h), or Joanne Fuller at the LAA on (02) 692 9233. Alison Reid



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by registering before  
March 31st.