Iいらいら 29 April 1988



#### SA BRANCH

#### Profit or Perish seminar

A cold, wet and windy day marked the beginning of summer 1987/88 in Adelaide. Despite the unseasonal weather the 60 participants in the LAA/SACAE national seminar for business were enthusiastic in their approval of the proceedings.

The keynote speaker, Katie Blake, from Enterprise Information Management in Sydney, gave a thought-provoking paper on the role of information consultancies and libraries in providing services within their organisation, to other agencies or individuals. Her address looked at the ways in which information as a commodity can be sold and the arguments which can be used to convince others of its value. She also examined the problems involved in charging for information.

Ross Gregory, from CLIRS in Melbourne, Helen Culshaw and Shelley Wickes covered the development of CLIRS (Computerised Legal Information Retrieval System) and the use of online legal databases in Australia. It was concluded that, although there are problems with CLIRS, there has been a considerable contribution to legal research, for which CLIRS should be fully supported by Australian librarians.

After lunch the afternoon's proceedings were opened by another interstate speaker, Leigh Oldmeadow, from Monash University. His paper discussed the marketing of HITS

(Hargrave Information Technology Service), which is a fee-based information service established by the Hargrave Library in 1983. The information needs of its clients and the marketing of the service attracted the interest of the audience.

The next speaker, Lynne Carmichael, from Adelaide Brighton Cement Ltd, spoke about the Special Libraries Promotion Task Force in South Australia, which conducted an informal survey of businesses to investigate attitudes to information needs. The aim of the investigation was to establish future directions for recommendations concerning provision of information to commerce and industry. The paper examined the lessons learned and reflected on future directions for the Task Force.



Katie Blake with Leigh Oldmeadow (middle) and Geoff Swadling.

The final paper was jointly presented by Dr Robert and David Goodwin of the SACAE at Magill. An entertaining paper dealt with the need to obtain up-to-date financial information in order for business to profit and not perish. In recent times there has been a shift towards electronic means of obtaining information quickly. In Australia there is now a wide range of electronic services available. It is imperative that people in business are aware of what services are available and how their business can profitably benefit from them. The paper considered some of the services available in Australia with particular reference to videotex services such as Elderlink and Viatel.

Thanks go to all the speakers involved in making the seminar possible.

Geoff Swadling Seminar Convener

#### **VICTORIAN BRANCH**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM of the Branch was held in Queen's Hall at the State Library of Victoria on 23 March. Just over 60 members and two guests, Professor Jean Whyte AO, and Catherine Reilly, a visiting British bibliographer, were present to hear Ann Forbes outline the activities of the past year in her President's Report, and then hand over the chair to the 1988 Branch President, Bruce Davidson. Bruce was able to report on a meeting with the Minister for the Arts, Ian Cathie, that very morning. Mr Cathie assured the delegation that met him that work on the State Library should start by August and be completed in 5 years. He also stated categorically that the Public Records Office will not be housed in the building with the library. The new Library Board legislation is to be tabled in the current session of Parliament and it should take effect by July or August this year. Mr Cathie also requested that the Branch consult with him on the matter of joint-use libraries in Victoria.

The guest speaker for the evening was the new Publications Manager for Penguin Books, Susan Ryan. Her topic was 'Publishing and writing in Australia in the future'. Ms Ryan spoke about the healthy state of the publishing industry in Australia and she put this down to a number of factors such as the growth of multiculturalism and other recent social changes which have all been good for the book trade. Australians purchase more books and have access to more bookshops than other major English-speaking countries. Moreover the number of authors is increasing and more of them are making at least a portion of their living from their writing. Film and television tie-ins have boosted sales and word processors have improved the quality of manuscripts.

Susan rounded out her talk with some reminiscences of libraries she had used, ranging from the few books the nuns kept at the back of the primary school classroom, to the bookmobile run by the Randwick Public Library and eventually the hallowed halls of Fisher Library at the University of Sydney.

Ray Price

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## INFORMATION SCIENCE SECTION — SA GROUP

### CD-ROM: putting the pieces together

The nuts and bolts of setting up for CD-ROM were the focus of a seminar held on 16 March by the Information Science Section, SA Group. About 40 people attended the session, the inaugural event for the SA Group.

The seminar was devoted to the 'how to' of CD-ROM and the decisions to be made before purchasing a system. Aspects discussed included the availability and compatibility of various pieces of hardware and software, technical requirements of CD technology and some of the common mistakes and pitfalls encountered by CD-ROM users.

The discussion was led by Kim Jelbart of Australian Laser Disk Information Systems (ALDIS), with Bob Taylor of the Department of Defence and Kevin Griffin, State Library of South Australia.

The session complements the seminar arranged by the LAA South Australian Branch in June 1988.

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The SA Group has also begun to collect information regarding information sources such as CD-ROM for publication as a directory. The directory will include host sites, hardware, software (including public domain software) communications and database details.

Lee Welch Secretary

#### CENTRAL WESTERN REGIONAL GROUP

#### Maps, censorship and the president

What a combination awaited the 39 participants at the Central Western Regional Group's meeting in Bathurst on 11 March. There was something of interest for everyone.

The Central Mapping Authority, the NSW Government's surveying and cartographic establishment, is located in Bathurst. Staff members first introduced the work of the Authority, then guided the visitors through the library, the topographic, cadastral and plotting sections of the operation.

The group then moved to Mitchell CAE where Senior Lecturer in Education, Judith Parker, gave a most thought-provoking paper on censorship and adolescent literature. She covered both historical and current dilemmas with many illustrations from publications known especially to the school and public librarians. Discussion showed just what a 'hot potato' this issue remains, with several present being under pressure to remove material from their collections.

The group was delighted to have National President, Alan Bundy, present for the meeting. He first presented a bottle of champagne to our most distant traveller, Caroline Selmes, who had driven for six hours from Bourke to attend. Alan then outlined the LAA's plans for the Information for the Nation campaign and urged all present to support it.

The day concluded with dinner in the function room at Mitchell College. The group held its first meeting in 1987 and it is encouraging to see the interest being displayed, especiallly in a region with such a wide geographic spreadl.

Another meeting is scheduled for October in Dubbo. Watch *InCite* for details.

M. Macpherson

## NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

#### Report on 1987

1987 was a busy, varied and interesting year for the Group. The year's activities began, perhaps somewhat courageously on 1 April, with a joint meeting with the Townsville Branch of the School Library Association of Queensland on 'Reader education transitions — readers moving from library to library', held at the Thuringowa State High School Library. This was followed on 23 April by a talk by Colin Steele, Librarian of the Australian National University, on 'Reviews of Australian libraries — problems and cures'.

On 3 June, Helen Mays, Reader Services Librariian of JCU, spoke on 'The Delamothe Collection — 10 years on'. On 18 June, Elizabeth Bunker, who is an ergonomist with the National Safety Council of Australia, gave a seminar on 'Ergonomics and computer technology'.

The Group hosted the Seventh National Cataloguing conference during 16-18 July. Some 168 people registered for the Conference and, most importantly, 38 local librarians attended some or all sessions.

After a suitable breathing space, normal meetings resumed on 16 September with the demonstration of a range of CD-ROM products. The final meeting of the year, on 27 October, was on copyright, built around a video of a talk by Derek Fielding, Librarian of the University of Queensland.

All meetings were well attended and interesting and it was a pleasure to see some unfamiliar faces. It was also a pleasure to be joined by school librarians at all meetings, and not just at the first joint meeting. This is something which should be developed and encouraged in the future.

J. McKinlay President

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION WA GROUP

#### School library automation marketplace

Ten different computer-based integrated school library systems were on display at a 'School Library Automation Marketplace' in Perth on 26 March. Organised by the Section in association with the Department of Library and Information Studies at WACAE, the function was held at the College's Nedlands campus. It attracted more than 150 participants from the Perth area and from country areas as far away as Exmouth in the north and Kalgoorlie in the east. Those attending included school principals, teacherlibrarians, teachers, librarians from other small libraries, tertiary students of librarianship, and representatives from parents' groups.

One of the organisers of the function, Dr Anne Clyde, spoke briefly about the aims of the function, and the process of selecting an automated system for a school library, before introducing the vendors, each of whom spoke for five minutes about their systems. After that, participants were able to move around, and try the systems for themselves. Systems on display were AIMS, ALARM, Dynix,

Libfind, Lothlorien, MacSchool Library, MICMARC, Prolib, URICA, and Winnebago. In addition, Datatech Information Services of Perth provided a demonstration of CD-ROM.

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

What are the salaries, awards and conditions for special librarians? What are your rights if you are made redundant? What compensation are you entitled to if you are injured at work? These questions, and others, will be answered at an evening seminar on industrial relations held on Wednesday, 11 May at 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm. The venue is Conference Room, 5th Floor, AMP Building, Cnr Alfred and Phillip Sts, Circular Quay.

Louise Lansley will speak on the LAA Industrial Service, Cheryl Grant on the Library and Information Staff Union and Anglo Koutts, GIO, on workers' compensation in NSW.

To RSVP contact: Angela Dunstan on (02) 228 1066 or (02) 228 1179.

## LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION — NATIONAL

A must for your conference diary is the Library Technicians' Dinner to be held at the Watersedge Restaurant, Pier One, Walsh Bay, Sydney on Sunday 28 August at 6.00 pm. Magnificent views of the harbour and fine food and stimulating conversation (provided by you) — this will be a highlight of your conference week. Book early. Three-course dinner \$27. Contact J. Harris (02) 524 3803, or J. Scherer (02) 950 3285, or M. Morgan (02) 250 0257.

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

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