

### Letter from America

I am working on a project with the Chicago Public Library in which we are trying to come up with a plan for resource sharing by means of co-ordinated collection development. I am seeking information on projects that are in progress or that have been completed in Australia in this area. An example of this as implemented in academic libraries here in the United States is the Conspectus of the Research Libraries Group. We are in the process of a similar study for a large public library system — although I am willing to take ideas from any size library.

If you are involved in any efforts in this area, I would like to hear from you as soon as possible. I would request that anything that you might send me be sent either by International Priority Paid mail or airmail (as other means of mail from Australia would be too slow) c/- Co-ordinated Collection Development Planning Project, Office of Systemwide Services, Chicago Public Library, 425 N. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611-4253 USA. I also can be reached by telephone at work on 0011 1 312 269 2826 from 1.00 am to 7.30 am on Tuesdays through Saturdays AEST. I also have the capability to receive fax transmissions on 0011 1 312 670 3664 with the notation of a cover page that has my name and extension (2826) on it so that I can be advised that it has come in. All correspondence will be promptly acknowledged.

Thomas J. Reiser  
Project Director

### Paraprofessionals excluded

I'm concerned by Alison Reid's item on NSW YUPLIS in *InCite* (25 March 1988). The Committee may be 'up and coming' but Alison seems to have overlooked some important details. I understand that concern has been expressed, both formally and informally, about the need to include library technicians in the program. I also understand there has been a suggestion that in order to embrace library technicians the term 'library worker', not professional, be used by the Committee in their terms of reference. I thought this had been agreed to.

In my opinion most library technicians reading the item would not feel addressed by it. The title of the Committee, Young Upward *Professional* Library Information Specialist, is exclusive. The repeated use of the term 'professional' is exclusive. Having agreed to establish a program through which the LAA can address the needs of its young membership I think it is important that the Committee clearly identify its target population — does it include library technicians? If so, an additional 'P' for Paraprofessional added to the acronym would not change the sound but would certainly change the intent.

Jean Bailey

### As the crow flies

I was touched to see that the old CROW campaign for federal aid to public libraries has not been entirely forgotten and that the LAA is using some of its symbolism in our current conference publicity — see, for example, *InCite*, 4 March, p.5.

Alan Bundy tells me there are a number of people who, quite naturally, don't know about the old CROW — after all it is now 11 years since we CROWs 'terrified' Don Dunstan into giving us some embryo public libraries in Adelaide's western suburbs. For these puzzled people, please see Carl Bridge's *A trunk full of books: history of the State Library of South Australia and its forerunners*, (Adelaide 1986), pp. 217, 224 and 225.

However, it should not be forgotten that we CROWs were not aiming at our South Australian State Government but at the Federal Government of the day. But there have been so many days since 1976, when the Horton Report was handed up, or down, on April Fool's Day of that year. What about the whole idea of federal aid to public libraries? Is it a dodo or a phoenix? Should we just give up, having got so close in 1975? We CROWs would be interested in any thoughts about this perennial concept.

Arthur Mortimer

### ILL Impact Study

The paragraph in Ross Gibbs' Public Libraries Section, National, column in the 25 March issue of *InCite* concerning the postponement of the proposed ILL Impact Study was necessarily brief. A fuller statement of the reasons for this decision is given in the March 1988 AACOBS Newsletter but since not all public libraries are AACOBS members many LAA members will not have seen it.

AACOBS had every intention of carrying out the Impact Study and the Working Party on Research and Development, in consultation with Ross Gibbs and others, had put forward a detailed proposal. The final meeting of AACOBS Standing Committee provisionally allocated \$20,000 for the study but hoped that the LAA, which had recommended a study of the likely impact of ILL charges, would pick up half of the cost.

The only useful hard data about the ILL situation before charges is that in the SAIL study and the Working Party proposed that data should be collected about the current situation which was comparable with the SAIL data. Since the principal interest in the study concerned public libraries the data was to be collected in one state where the public library system is decentralised, New South Wales, and one more centralised state, South Australia.

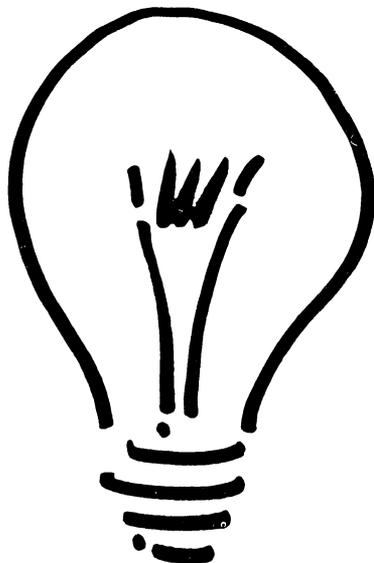
In the event the LAA was unwilling to assist in financing the Study. Nevertheless the Study would still have gone ahead if the New South Wales State Committee had not advised that

*State Committee considers that the proposed Impact Study is premature and should be postponed to a later time; institutions who are likely to be asked to participate are reluctant to do so at this time.*

Earle Gow, Chairman of WPRD, and I had been given responsibility by AACOBS Standing Committee to get the Study under way. The \$20,000 cost would represent more than half of AACOBS' annual income from members' subscriptions. Since neither the LAA nor one of the major groups of participants were supportive, we decided to refer the matter to the first meeting of the ACLIS Interim Council. ACLIS decided that, in the circumstances, it would reconsider such a study in 1989 when patterns of ILL traffic should have been established. It also decided not to reconsider the \$6 charge until after the study has been undertaken.

Derek Fielding  
Chairman, AACOBS Standing Committee  
and President of ACLIS

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### AGM Notice

Divisions are reminded that the LAA's AGM will be held on 27 August from 2.30 pm — 4.30 pm at the University of NSW. Divisions should not schedule other conference activities to conflict with this time.