

TASMANIAN BRANCH

Film and video library services

The closure of the State Library of Tasmania Film Library is symptomatic of the alarming decline in Tasmanian public library services. Tasmania is now the only state without a film lending library. Moreover, while other states are developing new film and video library services, the State Library has not been able to spend money on the purchase of films or videos and has not even been able to start developing a video library service.

A comparison with services offered in other states shows clearly that the Tasmanian public is missing out.

The State Film and Video Library of South Australia spent \$417,000 last financial year (1986/87) on the purchase of new films and videos. Films and videos are available for loan to community groups, service groups, schools, businesses, organisations etc. Videos as part of a pilot program, are also being made available for loan from 26 public libraries; next year 50 small public libraries in South Australia will participate in the program. The videos available through the public libraries are videos not available from retail outlets eg. children's material, documentaries, ABC and BBC programs etc.

The State Film Centre of Victoria is developing an exciting program called '100 videos in 100 libraries'. The Centre offers municipal libraries 100 titles a year which have been purchased in bulk and can be made available to small public libraries at a much lower cost. The videos provided by the Victorian public libraries cover a wide range of subjects.

The State Film Library of NSW has spent a total of \$235,000 last financial year on films and videos, 90 percent of which was expended on the purchase of videos. The State Library of NSW is allowing a whole floor of one wing of their new building to be an open access video library collection, available for loan, and the librarians involved with the service consider the video collection to be one of the new dynamic public library services to be offered to the public in the 1980s.

Other states and territories are all similarly expanding their film libraries to encompass the provision of video lending services.

The Branch wishes to alert the Tasmanian

public to the inadequate library services they are receiving. The Association believes Tasmanians deserve and should be entitled to the same library services taxpayers receive in other states.

Jill Adamski
Past President

SA Public Libraries Automatic Information Network

SA State Local Government Minister, Barbara Wiese, has announced details of a \$3m Public Libraries Automatic Information Network (PLAIN), jointly funded by State and Local Government.

The scheme, to be developed over the next five years, will link South Australia's 131 public libraries giving users greater access to resources held in public libraries throughout the state.



Watching PLAIN go through its paces — SA Local Government Minister, Barbara Wiese, Local Government Association Vice President, Malcolm Germein, with SA State Librarian, Euan Miller, at the microphone.

Access to PLAIN is via modem. The system facilitates book selection (without the expense of librarians having to visit the Public Libraries Branch at Norwood); easy checking of catalogues and the progress of ordered items; and interlibrary loan.

Ms Wiese praised Local Government for its co-operation and enthusiastic support of the initiative. 'PLAIN is an excellent example of the State and Local Government working together to benefit the community', she said. 'PLAIN will particularly benefit borrowers in rural areas, but every library user will gain

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What's new for '88 ...

Celebrations for the LAA half century are over now. We have reached that level of maturity where we are hoping to make leaps and bounds on the way to our centenary celebrations (that's if we survive this Bicentenary!!)

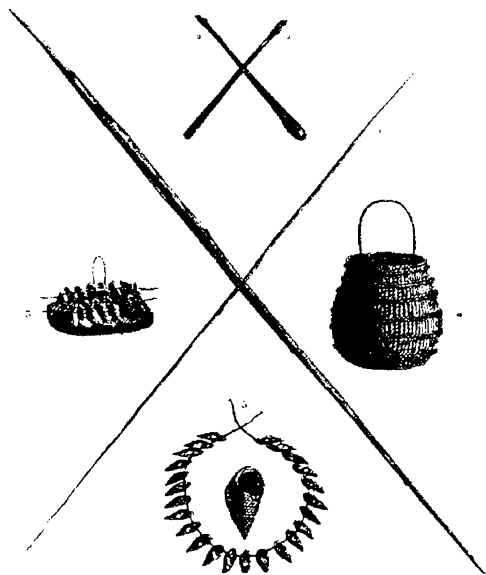
While most Australians are lying in the sun enjoying their holidays, the LAA has already been busy putting together the first issue of *InCite* and planning for a big year, with many new members and many others renewing their membership (no, this isn't a reminder). So what can we do for you? A small group of NSW YUPLIS (Young Upward Professional Library Information Specialists) has met to examine what we can do for our new and young professionals. So far the group is made up of a special, a school, and a public librarian as well as two euphoric non-librarians. We would like to get more new and young professionals involved in the activities of the Association, making you aware of the benefits gained from meeting new people and making professional contacts, continuing education, and getting involved in what is happening in professional matters.

The group is looking at organising economical social activities, specialist continuing education programs, establishing an encouragement award, organising topical presentations to students and any other activities that may be desired. If you are interested in being part of this group contact Alison Reid on (02) 230 1414 (w) or (02) 929 5763 (h), or Joanne Fuller at the LAA on (02) 692 9233. Maybe you have some ideas of your own for activities. All are welcome.

Mary Baker

If you want to know how the concept of a National Information Policy impinges on the role of the teacher-librarian, read Anne Hazell's article in *ALJ*. Out February. And only \$15 pa.

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Overseas Job Exchanges

If you have ever seen notices in *InCite* headed 'Job Exchange Wanted' you may have wondered what it would be like to exchange positions with an overseas librarian or library technician for a while. Hal Tarr and Kay Turnbull have provided information about how they went about arranging an overseas exchange.

Hal Tarr is a librarian at Peirce Junior College in Philadelphia USA. Through *InCite*, he arranged a 12 month exchange with a librarian from TAFE in South Australia.

To initiate the exchange, Hal first discussed the idea with his library Director. He then submitted a formal proposal setting out the benefits for the organisation of taking part in such an arrangement. He undertook to pay his own travelling expenses and to facilitate the issuing of visas, suggested that both partners in the exchange continue to be paid by their home organisations.

Having been given approval in principle to undertake an exchange, Hal arranged to place a small notice in *InCite* asking interested Australian librarians to contact him. He was contacted by a librarian from the Port Adelaide College of TAFE who wished to undertake an exchange.

Approval for the exchange was ratified by both colleges and detailed arrangements regarding relocation were negotiated. Hal agreed to live in his exchange partners house, whilst she agreed to live in his friend's house as he does not own one himself.

A contract was drawn up stipulating the period of exchange, salaries, and health insurance arrangements etc. The contract required the signatures of the representatives of the institutions involved and the exchange participants. Copies of the contract were sent to the immigration authorities so that visas could be obtained. Both participants drew up

detailed job manuals to assist the other in adapting to the new position.

After working in Australia for 12 months, Hal Tarr concludes that the experience was worthwhile. 'I gained experience with budgeting, acquisitions, computers and a bibliographic network and expanded my perspective on library operations. My view is that an international exchange is a good way to develop one's library abilities and to live in another country at the same time'.

Kay Turnbull is a library technician at the Darwin Institute of Technology who will commence a 12 month exchange with a British library assistant at the Brighton Polytechnic in January 1988.

This position was advertised in *InCite* early in 1987. Kay began a regular correspondence with her prospective exchange partner after seeing the notice in *InCite*. Both colleges gave their permission for the exchange to take place and arrangements were made regarding starting dates and accommodation.

Kay will commence work at the Brighton Polytechnic on 18 January. Her exchange partner will meet her at London airport and Kay will spend a couple of hours each day at the library for a week before officially starting in the job so that she can be shown the ropes. Her exchange partner will then leave for Australia and will start at the Institute at the end of January.

Kay will be staying at her exchange partner's sister's flat whilst in Brighton. Her partner will be staying with a friend of Kay's in Darwin. Both partners in the exchange are paying their own airfares and will be paid by their home institutions.

A note about LIBEX

LIBEX (the Bureau for International Exchange) was launched in 1983 under the auspices of the Library Association and its International and Comparative Librarianship Group and its objective is to assist exchanges world-wide by putting librarians in touch with potential exchange partners.

Enquiries for exchanges are sent to the Bureau. In return a list of exchanges currently available is sent out together with a

Library Display Competition Bestsellers at bargain prices

The National Book Council is running a library display competition in connection with the books shortlisted for the 1988 NBC Banjo Awards for Australian Literature. The prize will go to the best display of the shortlisted titles. Entrants are requested to send colour photographs of the display with their name and address on the back to the NBC, Level 5, 1 City Road, South Melbourne 3205 in time to be received no later than Monday 4 April.

The NBC is arranging for dump bins each containing 3 copies of the six shortlisted titles plus display material including posters and bookmarks to libraries wishing to participate. These will be delivered free of all charges except for the 6 x 3 copies of the titles. They will be supplied within two days of the shortlist announcement on 21 March. The books will be sold at normal trade discount.

Publishers will bill each library individually. The closing date for dump bin orders is 19 February.

data sheet concerning the proposed position for exchange. An abstract of this job description appears in library journals in appropriate countries. People responding to these abstracts are sent full details and asked to contact the originator if they wish to initiate an exchange.

Libraries wishing to establish links with a view to exchanging staff are sent a form requesting all relevant details and the same procedure as for individual applications is followed.

The Bureau operates from the College of Librarianship Wales. Enquiries should be addressed to: A. Hillier, Esq., B.A., Co-ordinator, Bureau for International Staff Exchange (LIBEX), College of Librarianship Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, Great Britain.

Louise Lansley

Manager, Educational and Industrial Services

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because PLAIN will result in much more efficient and effective use of library resources'.

Other initiatives which already have been implemented or will be implemented during the year include:

- the establishment of a permanent 'videos in libraries' scheme, offering documentary and educational material including sport, cooking, crafts, hobbies, history, music, travel and children's material
- appointment of an officer to survey, co-ordinate and advise public libraries on local history collections
- appointment of an officer to assist development of multicultural services and activities in libraries in Adelaide's Western Region, and more specialist help to libraries generally, particularly in rural areas
- further examination of school/community library funding by Local Government
- improvement in library education material.

In particular, the State library will review its services to youth.

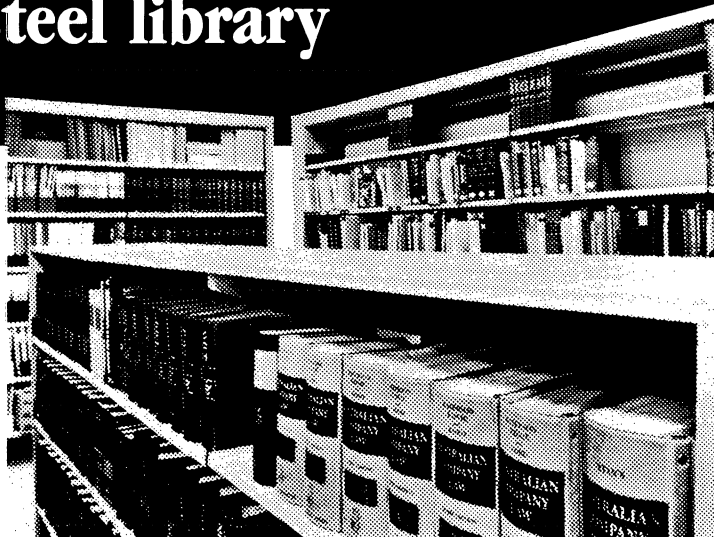
'All these initiatives will benefit considerably from PLAIN', Ms Wiese said. 'This scheme underscores the importance of libraries. We are faced with an information explosion and rapid technological development and change. Libraries have a vital role to play in keeping communities up to date and aware of information and developments which could affect them. PLAIN will give State and Local Governments an important edge in meeting those needs.'

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