



Health Libraries Section NSW Group

Joint meeting

A joint meeting with the Public Libraries Section was held on 14 June in the very pleasant facilities of Liverpool City Library. The six speakers spoke on ethics, providing the public with medical information in public libraries, serving the parents and families of sick children at AWCH Library, Freedom of Information, and the legal aspects of the provision of medical information. An additional guest speaker, Peter Dwyer, a pharmacist turned barrister who is the legal secretary of the Medical Defence Union, addressed the latter topic.

Many interesting and controversial issues were raised and discussed, but they were not all answered — there were enough questions left to fill at least one other joint meeting in the future!

A selected bibliography of overseas articles on ethical and legal concerns for librarians was distributed, and copies are available from me on (02) 633 6260. A video of the joint meeting may be obtained by sending a blank VHS tape to the Liverpool City Librarian, 170 George Street, Liverpool, NSW.

Auckland Conference

As the reduced fee concession for early enrolment for the Biennial Conference in Auckland ends soon, members are encouraged to send their applications. Sydney librarians can fly to Auckland for \$518 return (APEX) or \$768 (economy). Several NSW members have expressed interest in staying over in New Zealand for an extra week or so and in sharing travelling costs, hire cars etc. If members from any other State are interested in doing this, please contact me at Westmead Hospital Library and I will try to coordinate arrangements.

Award agreement

Agreement should be reached shortly on the long-fought Public Hospitals Librarians' Award (NSW). We hope to hold a meeting soon to discuss the Award and other industrial issues of interest to members. Further information on this and the next general meeting will be sent to members shortly.

Linda Mulheron
President

Online Users' Group

Visit to USIS Library

The United States Information Service (USIS) librarians, Rosemary Dickson (Country Librarian) and Roslyn Orr (Canberra Reference Librarian), gave an interesting insight into their Canberra-based Library at a recent meeting organised at the Library by the Group.

As well as accessing traditional online systems, USIS has access to LEGISLATE and PDQ Index.

LEGISLATE (a full-text database) is used to give information on legislation before Congress. In particular, it gives details of when bills are introduced and a history of their journey through Congress. It also gives details of the voting performance of each Member of Congress, their committee responsibilities, and a ranking by lobby groups of their political leanings. LEGISLATE is updated every 24 hours, so the information is guaranteed to be up to date.

PDQ Index is an online index to the Wireless file. It is very useful for locating information on US policy on a range of issues. As with most online files, you can either print the full text online, or just the reference if you have access to the hard copy.

Apart from LEGISLATE and PDQ Index, USIS also has a link with the US Information Agency's (USIA) Worldnet television network. When USIA is not transmitting a Worldnet program, air time is devoted to broadcasting C-Span — a domestic US channel broadcasting proceedings of the House of Representatives and live public affairs programming including Congressional hearings, speeches and occasional press conferences on Capitol Hill and at various US government departments.

Demand to visit USIS was greater than expected, so Rosemary and Roslyn have agreed to repeat the demonstrations later this year.

Heather Todd
Committee Member

Special Libraries Section National Group

Forthcoming AGM

The motions to be put to the forthcoming AGM (Adelaide Convention Centre, Wednesday 9 August 1989, 4 pm) are:

- That the roster of national committees/conference organisation agreed to at the 1985 AGM shall be changed so that Queensland and the ACT shall be transposed for one occasion

only so that the ACT members shall be responsible for forming the national committee between 1990 and 1991 and Queensland members shall be responsible for forming the committee in 1992 and 1993.

- That the Trust Deed prepared by Minter Ellison Solicitors (REF; NJOB/450625:PMS) should be accepted.
- That from Volume 22, No. 1 1990 the title of *Australian Special Libraries News* (ASLN) be changed to *Australian Special Libraries* (ASL).
- That in view of the reduced allocation of funds from ALIA head office to local groups the National Special Libraries Section consider allocating funds to State Special Libraries groups for specific purposes.

The first two motions may require some explanation. At a previous AGM, a roster of States/Territories responsible for the National Committee was accepted and has been in force for several years. However, the 1987 AGM decided that the State/Territory providing the National Committee would also organise the Conference in its own State/Territory. As a result of this decision, the next State/Territory on the roster was Queensland. However, the Queensland Section Executive felt it would not be a good idea for the Conference to return to Queensland so soon after the 1987 Conference. The next State/Territory on the roster is the ACT, and so the first motion proposes a revision of the roster to lengthen the time until the next Brisbane Conference.

The second motion is the result of a decision at the 1987 AGM. A small group was convened to formulate suggestions for the use of money generated by the 1987 Conference Committee for a proposed 'Australian Special Libraries Travel Trust Fund'. A draft trust deed for the formation of this fund has been prepared and copies are available on request. At the AGM it will be necessary to decide whether this will proceed.

In summary, the purpose of the trust fund is to provide annual grants for:

- (i) financial assistance to individuals in meeting travel, accommodation or educational expenses in undertaking study in Australia or overseas; or
- (ii) financial assistance in the establishment of educational courses, including continuing educational courses in relation to Special Libraries.

Such grants would not be limited to members of the Special Libraries Section (SLS) of ALIA, and the trust deed



does allow these purposes to be changed if the trustees consider that the aims have been met or cannot be met.

The trust deed states that there should be more than two trustees but less than four and that they hold office until they resign, die or are removed by the SLS Executive. As no travel funds are available from the trust fund, the trustees would in practice need to be from the same State.

As these matters will be of considerable concern to SLS members, the National Committee felt that Section members should have an opportunity to consider the motions before the meeting.

For further information about any of the items on the Agenda, please contact: Lynne Carmichael, Australian Submarine Corporation (Information Resource Centre), telephone (08) 348 7166.

Library Technicians' Section

NSW Group

The Annual General Meeting of the Library Technicians' Section (NSW Group) was held at the State Library of NSW on 22 June, 1989. Following official business, a panel discussion on the equivalency of library technicians' qualifications was conducted, with guest speakers Louise Lansley, former Educational and Industrial Services Manager, ALIA; Eric Wainwright, Chairperson, Board of Education, ALIA; Mairead Browne, Head, School of Information and Library Studies, Kuringgai CAE; and Kaye Barrett, Head, Division of Library Practice, NSW Dept of TAFE.

We hope to bring you a more detailed report of this pertinent issue in

future issues of *Lib Tec*, the newsletter of our Section. However, for those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, and are concerned about its content, a summary of the equivalency discussion follows.

Louise Lansley spoke about the history and background of the problem, and how the LAA Board of Education became involved from 1988. Two of its initiatives were to try to inform employers that LAA considered that both the Technicians Certificate and the Associate Diploma were minimum requirements for admission to the Technicians' Section of LAA, and to encourage employers to make eligibility for Library Technician membership of LAA an essential requirement when advertising jobs for technicians.

Eric Wainwright pointed out that technicians need to focus on several main areas in addressing the issue of equivalency. They need to find a way to combine present, past and future learning processes to ensure that Certificate holders are not disadvantaged by the new title for the award of Associate Diploma; they should make sure the qualifications are easily and equally transferable throughout Australia; and a way must be devised to foster equal acceptance by employers of the Certificate course, as the Associate Diploma course appears to be regarded as a higher qualification.

Mairead Browne addressed the question of course articulation, and explained how major constraints are imposed on institutions by federal bodies as to how much advanced standing can be given for previous study. Also each organisation has its unique value set which influences its response to accepting other qualifications, and these factors have contributed to the many different perceptions in various areas of education as to what the articulation for technician qualifications should be.

Kaye Barrett, by using material from TAFE handbooks, demonstrated conclusively that the Associate Diploma in Library Practice is equivalent to the Library Technicians Certificate. She suggested that the Library Practice Course that was available prior to 1982 did not contain enough automated content to be considered equivalent to the current course. With a view to converting the Library Practice Certificate to the Associate Diploma in Library Practice, an updated course will be available from technical colleges in 1990, requiring 6 hours per week over 36 weeks and proof of 400 hours' library work experience.

At this stage there is no vehicle for

converting a Library Technicians Certificate to an Associate Diploma in Library Practice, but it may possibly be considered in the TAFE update of 1993.

Jan Harris
Secretary

Queensland Branch

Council Meeting, 12 June 1989

The spate of southern visitors to Queensland during winter is always enjoyable. This month Anne Hazell (IFTN campaign, South Australia) visited. The Branch held an evening meeting at the State Library to allow members to meet Anne and hear her report. Her news was that there is lots of work to be done and not much money to do it with.

A Branch Task Force has for some time endeavoured to conduct a Review of Education for Librarianship in Queensland. The progress has been slowed by confusion over style of the Task Force's survey. The use of a qualified market researcher has been agreed on, and so we look forward to reporting a successful survey in the near future.

The debate on Summit resolutions about Free Library Service will be taken to a wider forum. A General Meeting is to be held on 5 July at the Brisbane College of Advanced Education. The key speakers will be Des Stephens, Derek Fielding, Jenny Cram and Helen Rourke (representing the State Library, University and College Libraries, Public Libraries and Special Libraries). Some consensus will hopefully come from this.

The Literacy Section, Queensland Group, has now received official ALIA approval and a keen group is now working on projects connected with the Year of the Reader and International Literacy Year.

The southern winter is sending lots of technicians our way for the National Conference at the Gold Coast late in July. As a spin-off from the Conference, we look forward to an evening meeting with Eric Wainwright, who will address collection assessment. Keep planning winter excursions to Queensland; the weather is perfect!



Australian Bureau of Statistics LATEST RELEASE of BRISBANE... A SOCIAL ATLAS (2503.3)

This is an interesting and informative new publication based on data collected in the 1986 Census. The social, economic and demographic characteristics of the Brisbane Statistical Division are presented in 31 easily interpretable colour maps, each accompanied by a brief analytical commentary.

Cost: \$25.00

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