

LETTERS

Ironic nod

Dear Editor,

One notes that the King of Belgium values the work of an Australian librarian more highly than the powers that be in his own country do [*InCite*, 19 June]. Our governments certainly take no notice of Axel Lodewycks' experience or advice.

Previously the Belgium monarchy's main claim to fame was cutting off the right hands of the inhabitants of the Congo. Today the monarchs of the Australian purse cut off the books and the flow of information to their own citizens. More of a blow to the head than the hand.

In fact, Axel Lodewycks is in a state of depression and (almost) inertia over the intellectual bankruptcy of this nation, especially in relation to libraries. His book *The funding of wisdom* is a dismal record and libraries in general are worse, not better, in the 1980s.

The Country NSW Libraries Conference at Parkes on 21, 22 June founded a NSW Country Libraries Association, upheld free access to basic services and demonstrated the appalling performance of successive NSW governments. The Conference was attended not only by librarians, but by Shire and Town Clerks, Aldermen and Shire Councilors, who were the majority of the participants. The ghosts of Munn-Pitt hung over the venue with stories like 'We have bought no new books for 18 months'. Hopefully it may demonstrate the observation, 'The furthestest back shall make the greatest leap forward'.

Until then, we can all give an ironic nod in the direction of the King of the Belgians.

Julian Woods
Goulburn City Library

Recycle *InCite*?

Dear Editor,

There is a growing awareness of the need to conserve our planet's resources and environment. The demand for paper products is causing extensive deforestation and environmental desolation on a global scale. One of the results of deforestation is the increased release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

contributing to the Greenhouse effect.

The consumption of forest for use as paper is rising by 5 per cent annually and, at current rates of deforestation, global timber resources will have been reduced by 50 per cent by the year 2000. Action needs to be taken to fight the mining of our forests to preserve what is left.

Libraries are major users of paper products. If we insisted on using recycled paper materials we could meaningfully assist in preserving the forests that remain. If half of the world's paper consumption was recycled, almost 75 per cent of new paper demands could be met. At the same time, 8 million hectares of forests would be released from paper production.

As an association, we should be encouraging paper manufacturers and publishers to provide library products using recycled materials. Indicating our acceptance for, and the desirability of, this process will help lead to a wider acceptance and use of recycled paper products among the general community. As a first step, we need to draw up a policy statement affirming this and ensure that it is effectively communicated to government and pulp, paper and publishing industries, as well as to other relevant organisations and persons. In addition, we need to encourage librarians to recycle the paper they use.

And, closer to home, what are we as an association doing to ensure that *InCite*, our other journals and publications, correspondence and memorandums are printed on unbleached, recycled paper?

Jeremy Hodes
Wagga Wagga, and
Ann Turnbull
Sydney

Lead by example

Dear Editor,

So far as the Association's publications are concerned, we are faced with what one might call a collision of objectives. In the first place, publications are expected to return a profit, but recycled paper costs significantly more than ordinary paper. The objective of being a 'good citizen' collides with the objective of earning money for the Association in order to improve services to members and keep membership fees down.

More important in some cases is the need to publish books and journals of lasting significance on permanent paper. As Jan Lyall pointed out in her article 'Paper — What's the difference?' [*InCite* 19 June], recycled and unbleached paper are not permanent. So, again, the objective of being a 'good

citizen' collides with the objective of ensuring the preservation of the printed record.

The Publications Board has taken the view that, for ALIA, the preservation objective must take priority and that the Association should lead by example in using permanent paper for its most important publications.

Neil A. Radford
Chairman
ALIA Publications Board

In appreciation

Dear Editor,

I wish to express my appreciation to the Awards Committee and General Council of ALIA for honouring me with the impressive Letter of Recognition for my work with the Queensland Branch of the (then) Library Association of Australia. This very special award is one that I shall always treasure.

The opportunity to live and work in Australia was one of the great experiences of my life, both personally and professionally. An important part of the 7 years there was my association with LAA. It is I who should be presenting ALIA with a Letter of Appreciation — for the welcome and encouragement I received, to say nothing of the sheer good fun of working with some wonderful people who became good (and I hope lasting) friends as well as respected colleagues.

With all good wishes to ALIA, as the Association continues to grow and prosper in Sydney and, in the near future, in new headquarters in Canberra.

Frances Flynn

In 1981 Fran Flynn left her native Boston to take up an appointment as Principal Librarian, Health Libraries, at the University of Queensland. Prior to her arrival in Australia, Fran was Manager of the Frances A. Courtway Library, Medical Bibliographic Service, of the Harvard Medical Library. Sadly for the Queensland Branch, colleagues and friends, Fran has recently returned to the United States.

During her 7 years in Brisbane, Fran rendered significant service to the Queensland Branch and the Medical Libraries Section at branch and national levels. Fran was the prime mover behind the formation of the Medical Libraries Section (Qld) and became its Foundation President. Since stepping down from the Presidency she has served on the Executive Committee of the Section.

In recognition of Fran's service to the Queensland Branch and the Association as a whole, Fran Flynn was awarded a Letter of Recognition of the Library Association of Australia.

Ann Hanger

Sesquicentenary

Dear Editor,

The NSW Parliamentary Library celebrates its sesquicentenary in 1990. I would be glad to learn whether there is any library in Australia that is as old or older, having a continuous existence since 1840 either as an independent body or as a library attached to the same institution throughout, which has funded it all that time.

Incidentally, it would also be of interest to know what is the earliest printed library catalogue issued in the colony of New South Wales.

Anyone who is able to throw light on these questions is invited to contact me.

R.L. Cope

Parliamentary Librarian

Parliamentary Library

Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Reader education research

Dear Editor,

As part of the requirements for a Master's degree in educational administration, and with the support of the inaugural Anne Harrison Award sponsored

by the Health Libraries Section of ALIA, I am currently undertaking research on reader education in health-related libraries.

I have recently distributed copies of a survey to all current hospital librarians in Australia plus other librarians in health-related institutions. There is, however, the definite possibility that I may have missed sending the survey to an interested library, or to individuals who have had previous experience in this area that they feel would contribute to the study. If anyone is interested in completing the survey, please contact me at Westmead Hospital Library, Westmead, NSW 2145.

I would like to thank those who are already participating in this research, and I hope to keep receiving your replies so that I can continue this important study and finish writing the paper that I must submit by the end of July for presentation at the Medical Librarians' Conference in New Zealand later this year.

Linda Mulheron

Chief Librarian

Westmead Hospital

From 6 •••

All NSW TAFE libraries belong to CLANN, a cooperative network of NSW and ACT government and education libraries. NSW TAFE Library Services is leading the field in the development and implementation of new technology — the CD ROM (compact disk read only memory). The CD ROM initiative will replace all microfiche catalogues with CDROM by the end of 1989, achieving improved service and cost savings.

The launch was held at Crows Nest College of TAFE Library, recently opened by the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Nick Greiner, and the Minister for Education, the Hon. Terry Metherell. It provided an excellent opportunity for people from the library, education and computer professions to mix and exchange ideas and to acknowledge the work and support of all those involved.

For more information, contact Michele Sullivan, Librarian (Planning and Facilities), TAFE Library Services, Department of Technical and Further Education, PO Box K638, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Telephone (02) 289 7846.

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