

United we stand; divided we fall

E EDLIB — ELISS news

With the recent move of the Education for Librarianship (EDLIB) National Section from the Riverina Region to Victoria, EDLIB is in the process of re-examining its role and charter, and is considering ways to expand its membership.

EDLIB hopes to re-establish groups in all States. Over recent years, the active groups have been Riverina and Victoria. However, in States where no groups are formally established, corresponding members are kept up to date with national activities. Initial meetings have also been held in some States in which a group does not currently exist.

Visits to most States by Eric Wainwright, Chairman of the Board of Education, have helped raise general awareness of education for library and information services throughout the country.

Why form a Group?

The Victorian Group of EDLIB would urge other States to establish a Group and to experience the benefits of:

- enjoyable professional and social interaction between educators and practitioners;

(The Victorian Committee comprises representatives from each of the five library schools and three library technicians' schools in Victoria, from the State Library of Victoria, the Library Services Unit in the Ministry for the Arts, CSIRO, special libraries, public libraries, tertiary libraries, and from Freelance Library and Information Services. Strong friendship networks have been established between all sectors.)

- regular meetings focusing on issues and solving problems of mutual concern;

(The Victorian Committee meets each month on a Friday afternoon at 4.30 pm. That is dedication, but also the only time educators on the Committee are not teaching, and the most suitable time for country members who travel from Ballarat and Gippsland to attend.)

- establishing an agreed educational position within the State;

(As a small professional group, librarians and information professionals need to develop a unified position on

professional issues: 'united we stand; divided we fall'. The realities of government funding can mean that counter-productive rivalries develop between institutions. One significant benefit of EDLIB in Victoria has been the creation of a forum for addressing issues related to the education of library and information professionals and the breaking down of barriers between institutions.)

- identifying educational issues and bringing them before the rest of the profession;

(Through the EDLIB representative on Branch Council, the larger professional body is kept informed on educational issues, and, conversely, professional issues impacting on education are conveyed to educators.)

- developing strong links with practitioners;

(Apart from its significant level of practitioner membership, the Victorian EDLIB Committee has developed strong links with practitioners through conferences and professional activities it has conducted. Particularly memorable have been the Library Workforce Conference in 1982; the Information Professional Conference in 1984; and the more recent series of Demands and Directions Workshops — on Management Education (1986), Cataloguing Education (1988), and Acquisitions Education (1989), which involved joint educator-practitioner input. Another recent venture of value to the profession was the development of a Careers Booklet listing all library and information services courses available in Victoria.)

- liaising with other information-related professional groups.

(The Information Professional Conference in 1984 focused on the wide range of emergent information professions. Currently, Jenn Evans, from Freelance Library and Information Services, provides EDLIB with a link to the Information Management Consulting Association or IMCA.)

The National Section

The National Section of EDLIB produces a journal *Education for Librarianship: Australia* (or EFLA) three times a year, which provides a vehicle for the exchange of views and information on library and information services edu-

cation.

Close links are maintained between the EDLIB Section and the Board of Education. Matters referred to the Section from the Board have included the Education Policies Review, Summit issues for action, discussion on the effect of amalgamations, and a recent request for the Section to mount a conference on library education in 1991.

Internationally, the Section is represented at IFLA Education and Training Section meetings by Maxine Rochester, who reports regularly. The Section hosted a most successful luncheon for international educators at the IFLA conference in Sydney in 1988.

What's in a name?

The EDLIB National Section recently distributed a survey seeking members' views on a possible name change and a broadening of the role of the Section. Thanks go to all members of the Section, and of the Association, who responded.

The Section has advised the Board of Education of the clear preference for the name 'Education for Library and Information Services Section' (ELISS), and will seek action to change to this name.

What's in the role?

The majority of respondents agreed that 'A role in continuing education is valid and could be expanded so that stronger links are established between initial training and continuing education, and between practitioners and educators'.

Additional comments were most valuable. These included:

- the need for the Section to expand;
- the possibility of a coordinating role in continuing education;
- the possible expansion into research; and
- further promotion of the link between initial professional courses and continuing education.

A future for ELISS?

The National Section welcomes the challenges of a new direction brought about by a change of name, and a possible expansion of activities to include more involvement with continuing

Hewson (09) 384 4911.

December 19 ALIA Library Technicians' Section.
Christmas function. Details TBA.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

December 1 ALIA Special Librarians' Section (NT Group). **AGM and Christmas Party.** Venue: TBA. 12.30 pm. Contact: Trish McFarlane (089) 80 2975 for further details.

INTERNATIONAL

November 12-17 ALIA - NZLA Medical/Health Library Sections joint conference: **Information management - needs and technological imperatives.** Contact: Margaret Gibson Smith, Philson Library, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

November 19-December 1 The management of archives and records: techniques and resources. At Liverpool, UK. Contact: The British Council, PO Box 88, Edgecliff, NSW 2027.

November 24-December 20 International Youth Library, Munich. **40th International Children's and Youth Book Exhibition.** At Bavarian State Library, Munich. Contact: International Youth Library, Schloss Blutenburg, D-8000 Munich 60, Federal Republic of Germany.

December 12-14 13th International Online Information Meeting. At Olympia 2, London, England. Contact: Rebecca Blinkhorn, Press and Public Relations Officer, Learned Information Ltd, Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford, OX1 5AU, UK. Phone (0865) 730275; fax (0865) 736354.

February 13-15 (1990) NZLA. 1990 Conference: **Information + energy = power.** At New Plymouth. Registration forms available now from 1990 NZLA Conference, c/- New Plymouth City Library, PO Box 48, New Plymouth, New Zealand. Ph (067) 84 544. Fax (067) 83 257.

May 17-19 (1990) Vancouver Children's Literature Roundtable and the Dept of Language Education, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. An IBBY Regional Conference on the Pacific Rim: **Serendipity '90: Cultural roots/routes.** Contacts: Dr Ronald Jobe or Dr Wendy Sutton, Dept of Language Ed., UBC, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z5; 604 228 5233 228 5229.

June 10-14 (1990) 13th Polar Libraries Colloquy: **Man's future in Arctic areas.** At Rovaniemi, Finland. Call for papers. Enquiries: Liisa Kurppa, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland. Telephone +358-60-324-275; Telex 19205519.

September 3-8 (1990) International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID). 45th FID Conference: **Information, a resource for development.** In Havana, Cuba. Currently calling for papers. Contact: FID 90 Organising Committee, IDICT, Apartado Postal 2019, Cod. 10200, La Habana, Cuba. Fax: 22 8382; phone: IDICT 31 1404; 31 1448; 31 2309. fly people at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Library in August.

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education, professional development and research. It is keen to involve as many ALIA members as possible — practitioners and educators alike — in the discussion of such educational issues.

Taking the initiative

Examples of initiatives the Section is currently involved with are:

- devising a package for a workshop on organisational change, planned for use Australia-wide, and with all types of libraries;
- designing a database to record continuing education activities, to be piloted in Victoria. 'ELISS' plans to make this computer program available to other States for development of their own databases.

Current plans are to make the Victorian continuing education activities database available in several locations within Victoria, enabling individuals to access information on continuing education offerings. This database should also assist 'ELISS' and other ALIA Sections and Branches in the planning of suitable continuing education activities.

If you are interested in contributing in a practical way to education for the profession, join an 'ELISS' Group now. Contact persons include:

Victoria

Fay Nicholson, Division of Library and Information Studies, Institute of Education, University of Melbourne.

New South Wales

Mairead Browne, Department of Library and Information Services, Kuring-gai CAE.

Riverina-Murray

James Henri, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.

Australian Capital Territory

Maxine Rochester, Canberra CAE.

Queensland

Geoff Chapman, Department of Communication and Resource Studies, Brisbane CAE, Kelvin Grove Campus.

South Australia

Anne Hazell, Library Resource Development Unit, Education Centre, Adelaide.

Western Australia

Vicki Williamson, Curtin University Library.

Tasmania

Christine Frey, University of Tasmania.

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In praise of Katz

Bill Katz is one of those rare figures in the literature of librarianship: the author of recognised standard works, an editor whom one actually remembers, and an editor with stamina to boot.

Back in 1971 Katz edited *Library Lit*, reproducing the best articles in the field that had been published in the previous year, drawn from an amazingly wide-ranging variety of sources. And from then on, a jury would select the 'best' thirty or so items for the year from 200 or more pieces that (mainly) Bill brought to them for judgment. The approach was far from parochial: Katz and his fellows looked well beyond library periodicals for 'writing of relevance and interest to librarians and students of librarianship'. Articles came from periodicals as diverse as *Science*, *Dissent* and *New Yorker*.

With *Library lit 18: the best of 1987*, Katz's editorship draws to a close, and a fine swan song it is, with some marvellous stuff: CD-ROMs, the history of young adult services, the ethics of book reviewing, the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), networks, management - matters of contemporary concern or simply darned interesting. Like Margaret Cribbs' article on the 'invisible drip' of computer data that is actively or passively destroyed.

This is vintage Editor Katz, an excellent antidote to Rip van Winkleism, a good read, and good value at US\$28.50. *Library Lit 18* was published in 1988 by Scarecrow, and the review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8108 2163 X)

David J. Jones

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