

Employment of library technicians

At its last meeting, the Board of Education discussed a number of matters concerning the employment of library technicians, including the transition of Library Technician Certificate courses to Associate Diploma level.

The Board of Education has written to the Director of TAFE in each State and to major employers of library technicians informing them that library technicians holding either a Certificate or an Associate Diploma which has been recognised by the Australian Library and Information Association (formerly the Library Association of Australia) meet the minimum criteria for library technician membership of ALIA.

Major employers have been further encouraged to make eligibility for Library Technician membership of ALIA an essential requirement when advertising for library technician positions. The Board of Education would like to encourage all employers of library technicians to make eligibility for library technician membership of ALIA an essential requirement in the same way that eligibility for professional membership of the Association is an essential requirement for librarian positions.

Acting on a resolution passed at the Association's Industrial Forum 88, the Manager, Educational and Industrial Services, has written to the Heads of all Commonwealth Government Departments requesting the use of the local designation 'library technician' for paraprofessional positions in Commonwealth public service libraries. These positions are formally designated 'Administrative Services Officer' and have no mandatory requirements for library qualifications.

Louise Lansley

Manager, Education and Industrial Services

Lively meeting on local government records

THE Action Committee on Local Government Records hosted an evening of celebration and lively discussion at History House, Macquarie Street, Sydney last November.

The Action Committee was formed seven years ago at a joint seminar of the NSW Branch of the then LAA and the Sydney Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists. Its work, in formal association with the Department of Local Government of NSW, produced a major revision of the Ordinance in 1985 which stipulated the records to be kept. Then came the problem of what was to be kept and how. The outcome was the *General Records Disposal Schedule for Local Government*. Composed in great detail, the *Schedule* was prepared with the aid of a Bicentennial Grant administered by the Archives Authority of NSW. It was launched with some ceremony on 26 October by the Hon. David Hay, Minister for Local Government [see *InCite* 9(20)].

When the Action Committee held its get-together on 2 November it was not only to celebrate seven years of achievement but also to consider what had to be done to give permanence to its success. The meeting place—History House—was symbolic; that was where the seminar had occurred which had given rise to the Committee.

The panel of speakers included representatives of the Bicentennial Archives Program, the Archives Authority of NSW, the Australian Society of Archivists, the Records Management Association of Australia, the Library Association of Australia, Local

Government and Shires Associations and historians as well as the Action Committee itself. The addresses were properly complimentary but their theme was the future. Schedules must be updated, microform methods kept abreast of new technology; there was the problem of staffing and space; the issue of accessibility had to be addressed. Local governments had to budget for their records and archives management systems. Above all there was the need to 'sell' the concept of the *Disposal Schedule* and assist its implementation by the provision of workshops and consultancy services.

Accepting these concerns for the testing time ahead, the meeting ended on a note of achievement and renewed commitment.

Kenneth J. Cable

Meeting on Disposal Schedule

The Public Libraries Section NSW Group has arranged a one-day seminar for chief librarians, reference librarians and local studies librarians on the implications of the Disposal Schedule for public libraries on Friday 21 April 1989 in the Conference Room of the Archives Office of New South Wales. Speakers will include: Sally Irvine-Smith, Senior Project Officer and compiler of the Schedule; John Burke, Coordinator of the Bicentennial Archives Program; Judy Washington, Archivist and Local Studies Librarian, Lane Cove Municipal Library; and Terry Kass of the Professional Historians Association. Enquiries Glenys Murray (02) 427 5194 or Patricia Ward (02) 337 6214.

Feedback ... from page 8.

Maggie Exon, has been elected Associate Editor of *Cataloguing Australia* for the next three years. Maggie has been a lecturer in indexing at Curtin University Department of Library and Information Studies since 1980. Previously she worked in the United Kingdom at the University of London Library and at Sheffield University.

The Cataloguing Section owes a substantial debt of gratitude to Jack Nelson, who founded *Cataloguing Australia* and was its editor from 1976 to 1988, and to the departing Associate Editor, Michael Wyatt.

Any member of the Association who can make a professional contribution on a cataloguing-related issue is urged to submit a paper to *Cataloguing Australia*. State groups of the Section are urged to send reports of local meetings or seminars to: Ms Chris Richardson, Department of Library and Information Studies, Curtin

University of Technology, GPO Box U1987, Perth WA 6001. Telephone: (09) 350 7631.

Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities SIG

Guide to resources

A guide to resources for providers of information services for people with disabilities has been compiled by the Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities Special Interest Group of ALIA. The price is \$7.50 (ALIA members \$5; LISPD members \$2.50).

To order a copy or provide feedback to the compilers contact the Secretary, Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities SIG, Ms Alla Kamaralli, c/- New South Wales Society for Crippled Children, PO Box 10, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012. Telephone: (02) 698 9555.

ALAA or AALIA ?

The General Council has endorsed the retention of Associates admitted before the establishment of ALIA of their certificates as Associates of the Library Association of Australia. As from the date of establishment of ALIA, 31 December 1988, Associates can choose to use the letters ALAA or AALIA.

The post-nominal letters for Fellows of the ALIA have been referred to the Standing Committee on By-Laws and Regulations, as there were some concerns expressed at the Council meeting over the possible sexist language connotations of the continued use of the word 'fellow'.