

Distance education for library technician students in NSW

The issue of education for library technicians in non-metropolitan areas of NSW has for some time been of concern to the Library Technicians Section (NSW Group). A survey was conducted in late 1989 to assess the perceived need for an external Library Technician Course based in NSW. The survey was funded by ALIA Branch Council, and a full report, together with recommendations, is now being prepared. This report will be presented to Branch Council, and with the approval of the Executive of Branch Council, will be forwarded to the NSW Director of TAFE.

The survey targeted two groups: non-professional library staff, and librarians. Two questionnaires were compiled, and were distributed to 394 libraries in non-metropolitan areas of NSW. The survey covered 162 high school libraries, 166 public libraries, 60 TAFE libraries and six university and college libraries.

The results of the survey have indicated strong support in country areas for the introduction of an external course. Responses from both groups have demonstrated great need for some form of paraprofessional education for library staff outside the major metropolitan areas of NSW, i.e. Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. Non-professional library staff find that moving from job to job is difficult without formal qualifications, and that some form of training would assist them greatly in their ability to perform on the job. Librarians cite the difficulty of attracting suitably qualified paraprofessional staff to libraries in country areas as a major concern.

It is worth noting that in the most recent issue of *LibTec* (Vol. 6 No. 2), the newsletter of the Library Technicians Section (NSW Group), Dr. L Anne Clyde from the Western Australian College of Advanced Education points out that 56

students currently enrolled in their externally offered course for library technicians are from NSW. It is of great concern that so many library staff from NSW are compelled to study from a Western Australian institution. The Library Technicians Section (NSW Group) is hopeful that survey results, when presented to the NSW Director of TAFE, will add weight to the argument for a State-based course, and will finally see the introduction of an external course in NSW.

To those of you who completed the questionnaire, thank you for your responses. Copies of the report can be obtained from Janelle Thoms, Secretary, Library Technicians Section (NSW Group), c/- State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, telephone (02) 230 1472.



Reference and Information Services Librarians Section

Membership

RAILS has nearly 200 members registered for the Section as of the end of July. Any ALIA member interested in joining the Section is invited to contact the Membership Section at the National Office (telephone: toll free [008] 02 0071) and ask for RAILS to be added to your membership record. Membership of RAILS in 1990 is free.

State activities

Several states have already organised common interest meetings and at least one state (Northern Territory) is making an application to form a state group of RAILS. Interested persons should contact their state coordinators (listed below) regarding local activities.

Newsletter

The first issue of the Section's newsletter *References* was published in May and was mailed to all who attended the Third National Reference Librarians Conference. The next edition of the newsletter is due at the beginning of September and will be sent to all registered members of RAILS as well as the Third Conference delegates.

General meeting

The Section's first general meeting will be held during the 1990 ALIA Conference on Wednesday, 3 October at the Perth International Hotel. A continental breakfast (\$9.50) will be served from 7 am and the meeting will commence at 7.30 am. As well as reporting on activities to date, the meeting will provide a forum for reference and information services librarians to propose projects to be undertaken by the

Section, and to suggest themes for the 4th National Reference Librarians Conference to be held in 1991.

State coordinators

- ACT** Bette Dracoulis, ABS Central Library. Ph: (06) 252 6603
- NSW** Craig Grimison, University of Wollongong. Ph: (042) 27 0550
Clare Wilde, Macquarie University. Ph: (02) 887 4752
- NT** Alex Byrne, Northern Territory University. Ph: (089) 46 6192
- QLD** Denise Dryburgh, University of Queensland. Ph: (07) 377 3249
- VIC** Erica Maxwell, Sunshine Melton Regional Library Service. Ph: (03) 311 0712
- SA** Patrick Condon, University of Adelaide. Ph: (08) 228 5370
- TAS** Twila Herr, University of Tasmania. Ph: (002) 20 2784
Cathy Doe, State Library of Tasmania. Ph: (002) 30 7460
- WA** Malcolm Traill, Curtin University of Technology. Ph: (09) 351 7256

RAILS First General Meeting

Please send your name and address with a cheque (made payable to ALIA RAILS) for \$9.50 for the breakfast, by 21 September, to: Susan Bray, Treasurer, ALIA RAILS, c/- Institute of Education Library, University of Melbourne, PARKVILLE VIC 3052.

Job exchanges and library technicians

So you think you're 'just' a technician and that no-one would want to exchange jobs with you?

Wrong. Job exchanges are what you make them and it's pretty rare to exchange with a person who's at exactly the same classification and level as yourself. The library workforce encompasses all areas of industry and the public sector. You don't have to get a new job to get a change of scenery and a new challenge — just an exchange.

If the person is not a library technician it's important to make sure their job is of an appropriate level and that they're comfortable with the thought of doing your job. But first things first ...

To begin, make sure the place you are currently working in allows exchanges. Some people are lucky enough to work in institutions that actively encourage exchanges and have the knowledge and bureaucratic processes in place to manage the exchange. If no such infrastructure exists — maybe you can invent one! ALIA also has access to information on exchanges and often advertises them on behalf of individuals or overseas agencies. Don't sell yourself short — but don't exaggerate either. If you can't do all the duties of a prospective exchange be honest about it, everyone involved will appreciate it and it often makes an exchange more interesting. Exchanges usually don't fall through because the people involved don't exactly mesh in their respective sets of duties. If you're willing to learn and it's all right by the employer, then the sky is the limit (figuratively speaking).

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- NSW. 2 pm. Venue details available from Vicki Williamson (09) 351 7152, fax (09) 351 2424. BYOG.
- **30 SEPTEMBER. School Libraries Section. Official launch of its new publication *Information Technology in Schools*.** Brunch/Lunch at the Cafe de Paris, South Perth. From 10.30 am. \$30 approx. Reservations required. RSVP by 21 September. Contact: Alison Hewson, School Libraries Section (WA Group), 2 Brodie Hall Drive, Bentley, WA 6102.
 - **1 OCTOBER. Library Technicians Section. AGM/Dinner.** The Q Club, 1st Floor, 90 William Street, Perth. 6.30 pm AGM, 7.30 pm dinner. \$18. Make cheques payable to 'Technicians AGM/Dinner'. RSVP: 21 September. Contact: Linley Thorner (09) 387 0720.
 - **1 OCTOBER. Health Libraries Section. Conference Papers/Workshop.** Education Centre, Fremantle Hospital. 2-5 pm. Contact: Brigitte Glockner (09) 340 1498.
 - **1 OCTOBER. Health Libraries Section. AGM.** To follow Workshop. Education Centre, Fremantle Hospital. 5-6 pm. Contact: Brigitte Glockner (09) 340 1498.
 - **1 OCTOBER. Health Libraries Section. Conference Dinner.** Norfolk Hotel, Fremantle. 7.30 pm. \$20 approx. Contact: Brigitte Glockner (09) 340 1498.
 - **2 OCTOBER. ELISS. Breakfast during the 1990 Conference.** Venue: TBA. 7 am. Less than \$20. RSVP Vicki Williamson (09) 351 7152, fax (09) 351 2424.
 - **2 OCTOBER. Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities. LISPD Conference Breakfast.** Coffee Shop, Kings Ambassador Hotel, 517 Hay Street, Perth. 7.45 am-8.45 am. \$11 full smorgasbord. Contact: Jan Murray (03) 344 8219/8615 or Yvonne Coombs (09) 427 3166.

- **2 OCTOBER. School Libraries Section. AGM.** Caroline Room, Perth International Hotel, 10 Irwin Street, Perth. 5.30-7 pm. Contact: Ingrid Chidlow (09) 272 7922 (W), (09) 387 1080 (H), fax (09) 272 7133.
- **2 OCTOBER. Community Services and Social Welfare Librarians** are invited to an informal get together. Seminar Room, WIRE, 32 St. Georges Terrace, Perth. 12.15 pm. Tea and coffee provided (sandwich bars nearby). Contact: Diana Simon (09) 222 4663 or Ann Yorke (09) 426 3427.
- **4 OCTOBER. Public Libraries Section. AGM and Dinner.** Cruise to Mulberry Farm Restaurant and Function Centre. \$45. Make cheques out to 'Public Libraries Dinner' and send to Kay Poustie, City Librarian, City of Stirling Libraries, Civic Place, Stirling, WA 6021. Contact: Kay Poustie (09) 345 8593.
- **4 OCTOBER. Special Libraries Section. AGM and Dinner.** South of Perth Yacht Club. \$40. Make cheques payable to 'Special Libraries Section Dinner' and send to: Sue White, Information Services Librarian, Curtin University of Technology, Kent Street, Bentley, WA 6102.
- **8 OCTOBER. Australian Society of Archivists, WA Branch,** in conjunction with the Friends of the Battye Library. Meeting. Alexander Library Theatre Room 2.9. Penny Pemberton, formerly Assistant Archivist, Archives of Business and Labour, ANU, will speak on 'The Australian Agricultural Co. and the Early Wool Industry'. 5.30 for 6 pm. Contact: Bob Sharman (09) 291 7220.
- **17-18 OCTOBER. Info-one Geopac Seminars.** Introductory (17 October), Advanced (18 October). Room 2.9, Alexander Library Building, Cultural Centre, Perth. 9 am-1 pm. Contact: Julie Roberts, Australian Mineral Foundation (08) 379 0444, fax (08) 379 4634.

● Activities organised by ALIA Divisions



InCite DEADLINE Dates

Issue	All copy	Ad bookings	Cover date
17	21 Sept	24 Sept	29 Oct
18	12 Oct	15 Oct	12 Nov
19	26 Oct	29 Oct	26 Nov
20	9 Nov	12 Nov	10 Dec

Call for Nominations



Call for nominations for all positions on the Executive and Committee of the Public Libraries Section (National Group).

All nominations to be forwarded by 21 September to:

The Secretary, Public Libraries Section (National Group), c/- Sunshine-Melton Library Service, McCracken Street, Sunshine, Vic 3020.

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Technicians have been fairly active exchange and overseas work program participants. Leigh Evans, Faye Pattinson and Janette Telford immediately spring to mind as Australian technicians overseas, and plenty more have exchanged for periods ranging from weeks to months, within Australia.

So next time you think about the library next door ...



Catalogue cabinets and guide cards

Golden Guides, an estimated 300,000 side-cut and 55,000 centre-cut plastic superior quality guide cards (originally costing over \$100,000) will become available in December 1990, following closure of the card catalogue at Macquarie University Library. If interested in acquiring some or all at bargain prices, please contact Mrs Eugenie Greig in the Cataloguing Department. Tel. (02) 805 7525. Enquiries also welcome re card catalogue cabinets.

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Janine Schmidt

Former Director-General Reminisces: An Interview With Harrison Bryan

Peter Biskup

Library Users — A Psychological Profile
Desmond B Hatchard and Christine Crocker

Extrinsic Aids in the Law and Australian Libraries

Gregory P Jones

Library Services and Construction Act: A Model for Australian Library Coordination in the 1990s?

Tom Cochrane

Reciprocal and Public Access to Academic Libraries: A Rejoinder

G G Allen and F G A Exon

Review Article: Whither National Library of Australia

E H Wilkinson

Letters

Book Reviews

Publications Received

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She or he is also expected to keep up with all developments on the Australian library scene and advise the company accordingly.

Essential:

Extensive knowledge of library technical services practices. Highly developed communications skills. Ability to relate market information to company potential. Ability to work with minimum of supervision. The applicant must be prepared to travel extensively.

Salary is negotiable and remuneration package includes company car.

Applications:

Before 24 September to

Joe Mauch
c/- Baker & Taylor
27/2 Beattie Street
Balmain 2041

For information telephone: (008) 22 518
or (02) 818 2788.