

N IN THE NEWS

Library Technicians Section newsletters

Until recently newsletters have been published by the National Section, by the State Groups in the ACT and NSW, and occasionally by the South Australian Library Technicians (SALT).

The State Groups in the ACT and NSW no longer have the resources to continue publication, and the editor of the National Section's newsletter has found difficulty in obtaining copy. These factors, plus financial constraints and the need for greater cohesion between Groups, have prompted a new approach.

Consideration is being given to the following:

- The NSW Group handing over the title of *LibTec* to the National Newsletter.
- Professional publication of the National Newsletter to facilitate its promotion to advertisers.
- The formation of an Editorial Committee, comprising representatives from all State Groups.

If you have any comments about this proposal please contact Jeff Gregory, telephone (089) 72 1472, fax (089) 72 1272; or Jean Bailey, telephone (02) 692 4691, fax (02) 692 2811.

Library technicians in Australia: an annotated bibliography — news of a second edition

The first edition, published in 1988 had a print run limited to 150 copies and it is now almost out of print. After consultation with Alan Bundy, who originally suggested the bibliography, it has been decided to publish a second edition at an early date.

Ellen Ennever has been asked to compile this second edition and she is now looking for items to include in the expanded work. Anyone having any relevant material, published or unpublished in any format, whether video, book, tape, pamphlet et cetera is asked to send them to: Ellen Ennever, c/- SACAE Library, Sturt Campus, Sturt Road, Bedford Park, SA 5042.

1990 VALA Award

Nominations for the 1990 VALA (Victorian Association for Library Automation) Award are now open. The 1990 Award will be presented to the Australian library or information centre judged to have made the most innovative use of currently available computer technology during 1988-89.

VALA has called for nominations from staff, users or other interested people of a library or information centre they believe has made such use of the technology. The 1988 Award was presented to Redcliffe City Library in Queensland for its development of a community bulletin board. Details and application forms can be obtained from the chairman of the judging panel, Hans Groenewegen, on (03) 573 2402 or the Secretary via mail at GPO Box 2342V, Melbourne, Vic 3001. Applications close on 12 October 1990.

Schools' literature festival, 1990

Two teacher-librarians, Dee Green and Suzette Boyd, have written an enthusiastic report of this 3-day event, held in Melbourne at the end of June.

They conceived and organised the festival from scratch, with the aim of informing and inspiring 12-18 year olds to read and write more. Their personal input included borrowing the initial seed money, scrambling over the unfinished World Congress Centre, securing grants and sponsorship, and finally persuading schools to participate.

In the end it all came together—2000 students sat at the feet of 30 authors, poets, illustrators, TV presenters, storytellers, journalists, playwrights and professors. It was voted a tremendous success and it will happen again next year.

University of Canberra TAFE progression graduates

Rowena and Neville Wilmott are the first to complete the Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Studies at the University of Canberra under the TAFE Technician Progression Program. They both hold Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Library Technician Studies) from the Gold Coast College of Technical and Further Education.

This progression program commenced in 1989, based on the findings of a study carried out by Dr. Nancy Lane of the University of Canberra and Helen O'Brien of the ACT Institute of TAFE. The study was sponsored by the TAFE National Centre for Research and Development.

A feather in our caps!

Congratulations to Michelle McAuliffe, a library technician working at Hillcrest Hospital in Adelaide, who recently had the good fortune to attend the 7th International Forum for Interlending at Edinburgh University on 28th to 30th June and, better yet, the experience of presenting a paper.

The paper was on the GRATISSA network of interlibrary lending in South Australia - a reciprocal borrowing scheme among health libraries.

The paper was reportedly very well received and it is greatly to Michelle's credit - especially since she undertook the task, with her librarian's encouragement, in her own time.

Well done, Michelle.

"LIBRARY & INFORMATION EDUCATION IN THE 1990s"

*The Chairperson and the Members of the
ALIA Board of Education
cordially invite*

ALL ALIA MEMBERS

to a pre-Conference

Meeting of Educators to be

held in Perth on 30 September 1990

The Board wishes to share with members interested in education their deliberations of the past two years, to report on their activities and to elaborate on plans for the future. The Board would appreciate input from you or your representatives to this program.

• **RSVP • Barry Hewish • (06) 285 1877 •**

• **ALIA Conference Manager • PO Box E441 • Queen Victoria Terrace • ACT 2600 •**

Margaret Cameron - The Profession

Margaret Cameron AM is known to most of us as the Chief Librarian and Pro Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University. She has been honoured by our profession when she was made a Fellow and now she has been honoured by the Australian Government which recognised her contribution to librarianship in the most recent honours list.

Margaret has worked in four Australian States as well as spending a year in the Australian Reference Library at the Australian Consulate General in New York. While most of her working life has been dedicated to libraries in the academic environment she has made an outstanding contribution to Australian librarianship through her active membership of our professional association. The current conference committee is amazed to discover that Margaret has survived membership of no less than three biennial conference committees. For that alone she deserves special attention.

Margaret has also found the time and commitment to contribute to her community in other ways. She is a very active member and office bearer of the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union and edits



Margaret Cameron

the Geelong Naturalist for the Geelong Field Naturalists Club as well as serving on an extensive number of community organisations including the Council of the Museum of Victoria, the Geelong Hospital Committee of Management and the Portarlington and District Community Health Centre Committee. She is currently a Commissioner of the Geelong Regional Commission and only this year was appointed Chairman of the Monitoring Committee to Oversee the Value Adding Utilisation and the Silvicultural Systems Project for the Victorian Ministry of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

Her professional background and extensive interests mean that there are few people better placed to give us a significant paper on future directions for 'The Profession'. Don't miss Margaret's Plenary Address on Wednesday, 3 October in the Perth Concert Hall. 

ALIA 1990 1st Biennial Conference

30 September - 5 October

Perth Concert Hall

Only weeks remain until the culmination of 2 year's hard work by a small band of Western Australian information specialists.

ALIA 1990 promises to be an invigorating intellectual event and a forum for speakers of national AND international standing.

Plenary speakers include John Berry of the Library Journal, James Billington of the Library of Congress, Meg Cameron of Deakin University, plus Ian Lowe and Lachlan Chipman.

The Trade Exhibition has been fully subscribed for weeks.

A very busy social program includes the mid week Conference Gala Dinner at the Sheraton Hotel. It has been arranged for all delegates and their guests and will feature an excellent menu with premier Western Australian wines. The WA Academy of Performing Arts, Music Theatre department students will perform a cabaret and the WA Jazz Orchestra will entertain guests during the evening. Don't hesitate if you are coming alone, we will be happy to arrange your seating. Should you wish to arrange a table, please let Promaco Conventions know.

DON'T DELAY — ENROL NOW

Contact the Conference Organisers: Promaco Conventions
telephone (09) 364 8311, fax (09) 316 1453.

James Bennett

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Is the library technician an endangered species in the ACT?

A couple of months ago at an ACT Branch Council meeting I announced that the Library Technicians Section was in danger of 'folding up' at the end of this year through lack of support.

Why is there this apathy and lack of support, especially from student technicians? What do library technicians really want?

There has been a Library Technicians Section in the ACT for over 10 years, but during this time it has become harder to find an affordable and convenient meeting place. We still hold a student lunch for newcomers to the TAFE Library Studies Course, but this hasn't generated any interest from them. This year we have moved our meetings to a more central locale, at an early evening time in the hope that this might attract more technicians to 'pop in' on their way home after work. The move may have helped: we did have more people at our April meeting than we did in February.

When the Block Report was implemented here in the Commonwealth Public Service at the beginning of 1988, library technicians or library officers, as technicians were often called, were merged in with all clerical officers, filing clerks, typists/stenographers, receptionists etc to become Administrative Service Officers (ASOs) — most mandatory qualifications were out, everyone had to be multi-skilled. Some technicians have benefited from this restructuring, but after 2 years, many are feeling disadvantaged, because there are not the jobs within libraries that there once were.

Librarians in some Commonwealth departmental libraries can no longer advertise for a library officer or library technician; they must take from the pool of ASOs within the department. The ASO selected might be totally unqualified for library work, in which case the library staff have to spend considerable time instructing this newcomer. The library is also seen in some departments as a good 'dumping ground' to place ASOs who are having difficulties fitting into the work area. In other libraries once a library officer or technician leaves, that position is taken by a qualified librarian, usually a Librarian 1 but in some cases higher. In the Library Technicians Section, we that feel we have lost our identity, our professionalism.

What do technicians really want? We want recognition of our qualifications; we want a proper career structure in libraries for technicians; we would like to be consulted on matters affecting technicians. The Section has had an Industrial Working Party for the past 5 years. This has been

headed by Reina Hill and Helen Mould, who have worked tirelessly on our behalf to get better pay and conditions. These matters were not taken seriously by the former Administrative Clerical Officers Association (ACOA). Working technicians were urged to join the union in preference to the LAA (as it was then), with the promise that we would have a better chance of being represented, but it all came to nothing. Recently it was suggested that qualified library technicians may be able to join the Professional Officers' Association (POA), the union that represents the librarians.

The Library Technicians Section knew nothing of this until an open meeting with the POA was held in March or April, showing us the various levels of pay and structure we could obtain if we joined them. We were unhappy that we hadn't been consulted before and not many technicians were in favour of joining. The proposal would allow us to go up to a certain level, but to go higher we would need a degree in librarianship. In the end the POA proposal was not accepted by the employer. Once again the library technicians don't have a union that could represent them.

The Section decided that if we want industrial matters to change, we have got to act ourselves. With ALIA's help we compiled a questionnaire and sent it to well over 100 technicians — so far 54 have been returned! We plan to compare these questionnaires with those returned by technicians in an earlier survey in 1985, to see if anything has changed in 5 years.

The Library Studies Course at Reid Campus is no longer attracting as many full-time students as it did 5 or 6 years ago and one reason is that fees have become quite high. Many library technicians are now thinking of upgrading their Associate Diplomas in Library Studies to Librarianship Degrees because they say there is no career structure for technicians within libraries. It certainly makes you ask 'Is the library technician here in the ACT a dying breed?'

Kate McGlynn

President

Library Technicians Section

ACT Group

Call for Agenda Items

Public Libraries Section
(National Group)

A.G.M.

The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Public Libraries Section Dinner/Winery cruise, scheduled to start at 6.00 pm on Thursday 4th October, 1990. Please forward all agenda items to:

The Secretary, Public Libraries Section
(National Group)

c/o Sunshine Melton Library Service
McCracken St. Sunshine, Victoria 3020

September Book Month

Full colour posters are now available from the National Book Council for libraries, librarians and other interested people who wish to promote September Book Month.

The poster features a range of literary and writers' festivals, book fairs, the ALIA Conference in Perth and a range of related functions and includes a calendar of September events.

Orders accompanied by a cheque or money order for \$2.50 to cover post and packing may be made to: The National Book Council, Suite 3, 21 Drummond Place, Carlton, Vic 3053. Enquiries: Fran Awcock or Joan Bosch (03) 663 8655.

National ILL meeting — call for proposals

The Australian Library and Information Association is convening a nationally representative meeting, on Thursday, 22 November 1990 to discuss the development of a more efficient system of payment for interlibrary loans in Australia.

Expressions of interest in presenting proposals for new ILL payment options and strategies are invited. They should be directed to the Conference Manager, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600. Submissions are required by 24 September 1990.

The North Queensland Libraries: A Directory.

(2nd Edition)

This edition contains 176 entries of which 84 are school libraries. The Directory is arranged in two sections, non-school libraries followed by school libraries. All entries are in alphabetical order and start with routine information in a standard format.

Published by the ALIA North Queensland Regional Group.

\$9 members, \$13.50 non-members, plus \$2 p & p.

Copies are available from the
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PO Box E441
Queen Victoria Terrace,
ACT 2600
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