

IN THE NEWS

SLANT wins prestigious award

The School Library Association of the Northern Territory (SLANT) has received the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) Commendation Award for 1990, for a project entitled:

Networking in the North Downunder—Australian Northern Territory School Libraries: Remote, Isolated, But Not Disadvantaged.

The project links 39 primary schools and 13 high schools in the Northern Territory by a computer network that provides teacher-librarians with online access to bibliographic utilities, specialist information databases, a film library booking system and the Libraries in the Northern Territory Network (LINNET).

LINNET uses the DOBIS/LIBIS software package mounted on the Northern Territory Government's IBM mainframe computer. Dedicated communication lines provide high schools, public libraries, colleges education centres, the State Reference Library, the Northern Territory University Library and some government departmental libraries with a union catalogue, circulation control, periodicals management, acquisitions, interlibrary loans etc.

The network is a practical example of how traditionally isolated areas of Australia refuse to be disadvantaged by the tyranny of distance. Advanced technology provides access to local, interstate and international library and information services.



\$84m upgrade for Hong Kong libraries

Your peripatetic Editor has just returned from a lightning foray into China. While stopping overnight in Hong Kong he saw the following story in the *South China Morning Post* (12.9.90):

The Regional Services Department intends to spend \$84 million (about \$14 million Australian) upgrading and streamlining its library services with computers over the next 7 years.

The council's Recreation and Culture Select Committee meeting was told yesterday that a mainframe computer would be installed at the department's new headquarters in Sha Tin and would be connected to 220 terminals at libraries throughout the territory.

It is encouraging to see that in spite of all the momentous political and economic events currently concerning them, the Hong Kong authorities still find time and resources to spare for the important things of life.



UCRLS and the Victorian Certificate of Education

On 15 August the UCRLS Victorian Group organised a meeting, chaired by its President Taisoo Watson, with representatives from the Victorian Department of Education and the Library Services Unit of the Ministry of Arts, to discuss the possible impact on tertiary and post secondary libraries of students undertaking the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). The meeting attracted over 60 members from the university, college and tafe libraries. There were three speakers. Judith Peppard from the Library Services Unit spoke first, explaining the role of the Unit in this matter. She pointed out that the Libraries Board of Victoria, which the Library Services Unit services, has no policy on this matter, but there was a view that publicly funded bodies generally had a responsibility to support activities of the public.

Barbara Bugg from the Department of Education spoke about the evolution of the VCE, explaining the structure of the curriculum and outlining some of the courses which would be offered. With the proposed changes, it would appear that there will be a more comprehensive education offered to secondary students in their final years. Compulsory units will include studies in the sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities, so that students will not have to make career decisions after only 4 years of secondary education, as was the case previously.

What impact will this have on tertiary and post secondary libraries? As Ms Bugg pointed out, there is now a greater emphasis

on using resources both from the school and from the community. In certain disciplines e.g. history, and Australian studies, there will be a greater demand for library resources such as those in tertiary and post secondary library collections. Ms Bugg stressed that it was intended that students and teachers should use school resources wherever possible, and as collections of first resort. But school libraries were often not open during the evenings or on weekends, so that academic libraries would be the obvious first choice of many VCE students.

VCE had been planned over several years, and the economic woes which are currently affecting Victoria had not been anticipated at the outset. If circumstances had been different, there would have been ample resources available to facilitate the transition to VCE.

The third speaker was Christine Maher from La Trobe University, representing the CAVAL Reference Interest Group. She briefly outlined the concerns the CAVAL community had with the onset of VCE. CAVAL libraries were perceived as primary targets for VCE students seeking resource materials. This had been confirmed by a number of recent surveys. A survey conducted by CAVAL, and administered at all CAVAL libraries, suggested that approximately 10 per cent of all reference desk enquiries came from secondary school students. Another survey, at Monash University, indicated that over weekends 46 per cent of all library users were

secondary school students. The experience of reference staff supports this perception.

The lively discussion that followed confirmed the concerns of tertiary and post secondary libraries about the impact of VCE students on the services they provide to their immediate clientele. There was a general feeling that while the academic libraries would like to help VCE students they were not funded adequately to support VCE courses, which should be the responsibility of the school libraries.

There were no formal resolutions from the meeting. However it was agreed that the impact of the VCE needed close monitoring. Further meetings of this kind would be a useful way of keeping people informed and promoting constructive discussion.



Augusta

Augusta begins its second volume with an issue devoted to articles on AUSTROM, the Smart Library Card, VALA activities and Electronic Linkages.

Augusta is edited by Barry McIntyre and Sandra Oxley at RMIT, and is mailed free of cost to libraries and information centres. Stories and news are invited. Contact the editors on (03) 660 3053 or 660 3062; fax (03) 663 2764 (RMIT).



Home Library Service Group meets

On 27 July 1990, the 'working committee' of the Home Library Service (HLS) Group met for the first time at the State Library of NSW.

The Group was formed in early June, at a meeting of interested HLS workers, held at Hurstville Municipal Library. A committee of eight was elected to steer the group through its first year, with a brief to arrange formalities such as a name, constitution and objectives and to schedule and plan the content of a series of meetings.

Discussion of objectives at the working committee meeting focused on heightening the profile of home library services, information sharing and mutual support.

Activities suggested for the group include quarterly meetings at different venues, to enable librarians to see how other home library services operate, regular speakers, a circular to those interested who cannot attend meetings and discussion of common issues, such as statistics and use of volunteers.

The next meeting of the HLS Group will be at the State Library of NSW — an introduction to the Special Needs Service.

For more information, please contact Ann Naidoo, Convener, Home Library Service Group, c/- Hurstville Municipal Library.



Children's Book Council

The ACT Branch of the Children's Book Council will hold their 26th annual conference writing and illustrating for children on Saturday, 20 October at the University of Canberra. Speakers are Allan Baillie, Alison Lester, Margaret Wild and Walter McVitty.

Further details from Dr Belle Alderman, (06) 252 2062, Margaret Stone (06) 252 2312 or Lynn Fletcher (06) 281 3292 (H).

Enrolment fees: \$35 students; \$45 CBC members; \$55 others.



The Cancer Help Source Book

by Christine Henderson and Angela Raymond

Since the story of how this book came to be written appeared in *inCite* (Vol. 11, No. 12, p. 5) there have been enquiries for more information: This revised 1990 edition was published by Simon Schuster Australian Pty Ltd, 7 Grosvenor Place, Brookvale, NSW 2100. ISBN 0 7318 0142 3. Cost \$12.95.



National Advisory Committee on Library Services for People with Disabilities

Statement on interlibrary loan and book reservation charges

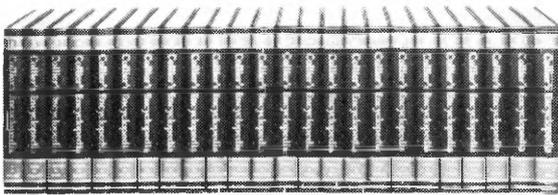
It is becoming a general practice in many libraries to charge users for book reservations and, in some instances, any fees incurred for interlibrary loans. Library materials suitable for people with disabilities, such as alternative format materials are relatively scarce and libraries have to rely heavily on interlibrary loans to adequately serve readers with disabilities.

The National Advisory Committee on Library Services for People with Disabilities believes that extensive interlibrary loan activities of library materials for people with disabilities should take place between libraries of all kinds at local, state and national levels, in order to give people in need of these materials as equal access to information as is given to other citizens.

Due to the scarcity of materials, the Committee recommends that libraries exempt people in need of alternative format materials from charges for book reservations and interlibrary loans.

COLLIER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

1990 Edition



Published by the Macmillan Educational Company, New York

1990 EDITION NOW AVAILABLE

- SPECIAL LIBRARY PRICE
- SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES can benefit from our Educational Purchase Plan
- TRADE IN your old multi-volume set of encyclopedias for an additional discount

For further information and a colour brochure, contact:

C M PROFESSIONAL & LIBRARY SERVICES PTY LTD

17 Bridge Street, Pymble, NSW 2073
PO Box 830 Tel: (02) 449 7712

Fax: (02) 449 7350

SOLE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY DISTRIBUTORS

Announcing the first Dewey Abridged Edition in ten years

- One volume prepares you for the 1990s
- Every page is clearer and more instructive
- One system organizes the information of the future
- Abridged Edition 12 fits on your desk and in your budget

One book contains essential updates to guide classification of new knowledge using the Dewey Decimal System. You'll also find practical advice to help you integrate the decade's new subjects into your current holdings.

Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification Edition 12

One volume

Permanent paper and buckram covers

ISBN 0-910608-42-3

\$US75.00 \$A93.50

Also still available...

DDC 20

Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index. Edition 20

ISBN 0-910608-37-7

Four volumes \$A385.50

Distributed in Australia & New Zealand at the U.S. publisher's list price by

DA BOOKS & JOURNALS

648 Whitehorse Road
P O Box 163
Mitcham Vic 3132 Australia
Telephone (03) 872 4555
Telex: 37911
Fax: (03) 873 5679