

Front Line



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should be easier to achieve in Tasmania where the library community is relatively small and the same faces tend to keep turning up in different contexts and wearing different hats (or does this happen everywhere because there is only a fairly small core of motivated and active people?). Certainly in Tasmania there is usually a considerable amount of cross-pollination between the State executives of ALIA, TTLA (Tasmanian Teacher-Librarians Association) and ACLIS. The surprising thing is that active cooperation between these bodies is a comparatively recent phenomenon.

(Tasmanian Branch) and TTLA were suddenly confronted last year by the grim realities of the CRESAP review and worked closely and effectively together to ensure that the voice of librarians and teacher-librarians was strongly heard. In 1991 still closer lines have been established. Recognising the need for a more regular and timely information sheet for the local scene and realising that there was only a small overlap between our respective memberships (something ALIA is trying to change for the future), the two groups are now producing a joint monthly newsletter, appropriately called *Link*, which reaches, and allows input from, a larger number within the profession. A number of joint meetings are being held during the year and a joint lobbying campaign has been mounted on behalf of teacher-librarians, whose numbers have been decimated in the work force in recent years and whose place has been taken in some cases by teachers without any additional library qualifications. Both groups view this as a serious industrial issue and a dialogue has been opened with the Department of Education and the Arts and the Minister responsible.

Whether it be in the workplace, at gatherings of library workers or in the pages of *inCite*, the present tough economic times are never far from people's thoughts. The reality is very much with us and while the problems posed offer no easy solutions, it might be instructive to look at some coping mechanisms which are being used to temper their adverse effects. Better communication, wider consultation and more effective cooperation are goals which should be attainable within and between our various professional bodies. They are also goals to strive after amid the politics, economics and more complex practicalities of the workplace.

It might be imagined that these goals

Better communication, wider consultation and more effective cooperation are goals which should be attainable

Starting out with joint social activities (such as very pleasant Christmas dinners together), ALIA

Meanwhile, the Tasmanian State Committee for ACLIS has listed cooperation with ALIA as a priority for

continued next page...

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1991 and has agreed to publicise itself and its activities via *Link*. A joint ALIA/ACLIS Conspectus training workshop presented by Margaret Henty has been organised for 8-9 August.

So far, so good, but what about the practicalities of the workplace? In the wake of CRESAP, ALIA (Tasmanian Branch) has been keeping a watching brief on the Department of Education and the Arts and its implementation of the review's recommendations. The Branch is concerned that the Department is not consultative and this is nowhere more apparent than in the restructuring process which is currently taking place at the State Library of Tasmania. We believe that the Department must consult and involve people with library expertise *before* implementing decisions and a lobbying campaign has been mounted by the Branch and TTLA to press home this point.

We also feel that we could work with the Department in a cooperative way to help minimise the disruption and effect on morale caused by whatever changes are implemented. Looking at the new administrative arrangements in a more

positive light, they could be used to great advantage if the Department can be persuaded to take some of our ideas on board. Being responsible for school libraries, government libraries and the State Library Service, the Minister for Education and the Arts is in a unique position to take the initiative in developing a program of cooperation and resource sharing between all the libraries under his umbrella. ALIA (Tasmanian Branch) and TTLA would be only too pleased to work in consultation with the Department to promote and support such a program.

As for the sort of cooperation envisaged, there is no shortage of ideas on the local scene. The Tasmanian State Committee for ACLIS has identified areas of cooperation as part of its 1991 action plan and has set up a Serials Subcommittee to work towards producing a union list of serials holdings for Tasmanian libraries and creating a mechanism for alerting other libraries when cancellations are being considered. A further list of ideas was produced at a recent ALIA/TTLA meeting at which Christine Crocker spoke about the work of AIMA (Australian Information Management Association) and gave people the opportunity to think about

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some of the ways in which the various sectors of libraries could work together more closely in Tasmania. As newly-elected Chair of the ACLIS State Committee Christine has already foreshadowed using some of the ideas as a blue-print for possible action by ACLIS and ALIA and Tasmanian Branch will be following this up with interest.

Finally, to return to the important question of communication, we need, as a profession, to establish a higher profile in the general community and to provide library workers with greater access and more opportunities for input to the local Branch of their Association. Tasmanian Branch is confident that establishing a local presence for ALIA in Tasmania in 1992 will be an important step towards realising these goals. □

Recycling those books and journals

Many librarians and individuals have resources which become surplus to their needs through weeding collections, purchasing microform/disc copies or changing collection priorities. The Australian Centre for Publications Acquired for Development (ACPAD) has established a service to distribute information resources from Australia to tertiary libraries in the Asia/Pacific region.

Established 8 years ago, ACPAD distributes approximately 2200 cartons of resources per year to over 50 institutions. Funds are provided by AIDAB, through the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges (IDP), to meet the costs of sorting, listing, shipping and entry. Most material received by ACPAD is listed and offered overseas. This procedure allows overseas libraries to determine their requirements and select the most appropriate titles — ACPAD emphasises the importance of the recipients choosing what they need. This program aims to supplement on a continuing basis library collections in countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines.

Irregular shipments are also sent to

other countries, such as India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Burma and China.

Donors include Australian tertiary institutions, business houses, professional societies, libraries and individuals. For example, the recent shipment to Vietnam contained 100 cartons of medical books and journals collected from hospital libraries, universities and medical professionals.

The type of resources most needed are:

- resources suitable for tertiary/technical study and/or research collections;
- publications, microforms and audiovisual resources in good condition;
- journals, preferably in runs of at least 2 years;
- monographs in all disciplines (published in the last 10 years);
- reference books of all types, including directories, dictionaries, abstracts and indexes;
- resources with content of an international nature (content too specific to Australia is not suitable).

ACPAD does not regularly supply hardware, but several libraries have asked for small portable cassette players and

microfiche readers.

If you would like more information about ACPAD or have some surplus resources, contact Sue Halbwirth or Annita George on (06) 285 8222 or write to ACPAD, GPO Box 2006, Canberra, ACT 2601.

Sue Halbwirth
Manager

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