

Feedback

Selection subscription strategies systems and storage

Seventy-nine people attended this lively seminar. This good turnout was to be expected. Special libraries spend much of their acquisitions budgets on serials. They face a constantly increasing number of journal titles, with the constant price rises. They need a continuous review of titles — or an unlimited budget. For the readers, serials are a primary source of new information about current problems and events.

With these points in mind, the seminar discussed issues such as the justification of the expenditure; what we need to collect when so many titles are now available through online full text services; how to promote the contents to our users, and whether the serial collection is fully used.

Speakers were: Trevor Wakely (Bureau of Meteorology) on selection and subscription; Maggie Newman (Telecom) on strategies; Anne Newell (BHP) and Kerri Carr (Public Transport Corporation), both on systems; and Philip Kent (CSIRO) on storage. The seminar was supported by a trade exhibition of both serial suppliers and serials systems vendors. Margaret Findlay rounded off the seminar with a general discussion between participants and trade exhibitors about future directions of serials supply.

Our next seminar will be on 'Document delivery: I've found the citation... now to find the item'.

Trevor Wakely
Special Libraries Section
Victorian Group President

ALIA Student Awards in NSW

The Australian Library and Information Association awards prizes to students of library and information science who excel in their studies at various universities and TAFE colleges around Australia.

The awards comprise a certificate, 1 year's membership of ALIA and 1 year's subscription to an ALIA journal.

In NSW, the 1990 Academic Year prizes have been awarded to: Marianne O'Donnell (Mt Druitt Technical College), Robyn Starr (Newcastle Technical College), Janette Roberts (Wollongong College of TAFE), Lynette Keily (University of New South Wales), Linda Whitford (University of Technology, Sydney).

Frances Bluhdorn
NSW Branch President

Information industry leaders meet

Concerted action for 'clever country'

The National Executives of Australia's leading information professions held an historic meeting in Sydney recently as part of a 5-day conference on 'Documenting Modern Society', organised by the Australian Society of Archivists. The participating professional associations represent more than 10 000 information workers and 1000 institutions and included ALIA, the Australian Council of Archives (ACA), the Australian Council of Library and Information Services (ACLIS), the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA), the Medical Records Association of Australia (MRAA) and the Records Management Association of Australia (RMAA). The delegates identified key issues and concerns of interest to both practitioners and their organisations and formally committed their associations to cooperative action to address them.

ALIA President John Levett said, 'Collectively, we manage the information sources and services essential for effective human enterprise. Australia cannot hope to develop its potential as the "Clever Country" unless that job is done well. Selecting, preserving and providing access to vital information in a world awash with huge quantities and forms of recorded material which can be produced, altered or destroyed instantly is an enormous challenge'.

Of particular concern to the delegates was the need for recognised standards. It is not enough to include standards for suitable information



Ann Peterson, lecturer in Archives Administration at UNSW, summing up at the joint meeting. Christopher Coggin, President of ASA, listens attentively.

recording methods and media, standard descriptions and cooperative networks for distribution. We must also make common cause to ensure that the information available effectively and economically. Delegates were also concerned about standards for education: strong professional identity and mutual understanding are critical.

The meeting resolved that each association would develop an effective mechanism within its governing structure at the national and branch levels to ensure joint consultation and cooperation. In this way, as Christopher Coggin, ASA President and Convener of the meeting, put it: 'We can channel our energies more effectively and truly represent the interests of the information industry to the wider community.'

Pre-Book Week extravaganza

Children's and Youth Services Section — Sydney Storytellers Guild

This 5th Annual Joint Pre-Book Week Extravaganza was held at Burwood Library on 25 June, with over 80 people attending. The extravaganza has become an inspiration to those who work with children.

As always, the Storytellers Guild offered exciting presentations of some of the short listed picture books, like Alison Lester's *Magic Beach*

and Jeannette Rowe's *Scallywag*. Puppets were used to bring *My Cat Maisie* by Pamela Allen to life.

CYSS Committee Members joined with Storyteller Guild Members and volunteers from the audience to present Readers Theatre scripts from *Hector and Maggie*, *Boris and Borsch*, *Captain Deadlights Treasure* and *Finders Keepers*.

LIPS: Librarians Initiating Promotions

This group held its second meeting, in June, to discuss ideas and suggestions for this year's program, such as cooperating with neighbouring libraries to present programs and share displays in shopping centres and community houses. It was suggested the emphasis should be on the fact that libraries are free.

Other suggestions focusing particularly on this year's theme 'Thrills and skills at your library' were:

- a crossword involving thriller books;
- skills — do it yourself, home handy person type materials;
- what you can learn from books — car maintenance, typing, flower arranging etc;
- guidelines were given about approaching local papers for coverage of Library Week events.

The general feeling of the meeting was that it will be a lean year for promotional budgets, and most work will have to be done in-house.