

► describing is one unfortunate consequence of the award restructuring process in the Australian Public Service. Library Technicians fought long and hard to be recognised as technical officers but this was one fight that was lost and they were classified as Administrative Service Officers. As a result there have been recurring difficulties with recruiting and retaining suitably qualified and experienced library technicians. I would certainly support your call for a greater awareness among special librarians and administrators in government departments of the consequences their staffing decisions have for library technicians.

Sacrificial Lambs?

In *inCite 5* both Bev Kirby and Jan Gaebler make well-intentioned but, alas, platitudinous contributions to the debate about library advocacy. Jan comments that 'advocacy campaigns concerning segments of the whole have had *much* success in this country'. Wishful thinking, Jan. Where's your evidence?

The reality in 1992 is that those who determine the funding of our school, TAFE, University, public and special libraries have, overall, no greater sensitivity to the importance of what libraries provide than they had in 1982, 1972 or 1962.

As the CPAs demonstrated, the solution in our media dominated culture is simple, if distasteful to some. I don't need to spell out what a CPA is—everyone knows because

- they identified what they wanted to sell, and to whom
- they put **MONEY** into selling it.

Meanwhile we—a group of professionals and organisations by no means the country's most impoverished—flutter around the advocacy flame, never quite bold enough to grasp it.

The best exposure libraries now get on prime-time television is as a backdrop to a whispered conversation about mum's lamb roast.

It really is time we stop selling ourselves to ourselves, and gather the funds to tell Australia what libraries and librarians are about—straight.

Alan Bundy
University of South Australia

Is the date stamp obsolete?

In response to the letter, *Date stamp your serials!* in *inCite 5*.

In a damages case in 1988 in Perth I argued that the Inter Library Loan system, even forty years ago, provided access to published items irrespective of their date of receipt in Australia.

The two critical dates are the date of publication and the date that a citation appears in a standard indexing publication.

The date of receipt of a paper copy is becoming even less relevant with the increasing and prompt availability of electronic full text journals from the on-line vendors and in CD-ROM format. If not available electronically, telefacsimile can ensure receipt of a copy within hours of identifying its existence.

Increasing competition amongst producers of contents page services and amongst producers of indexing and abstracting services combined with the capacity for key word searching of the electronic full text services is also reducing the time between publication and the date when the article can be identified in a subject search.

So don't tell the lawyers that we are still using date stamps, tell them how fast we can really get information, if asked.

Anne Batt
Medical Librarian ■

Who's Where

Melanie Lazarow is the new Reader Education Librarian at the University of Melbourne. After extensive experience in the Sydney public library world, she took up a position of tutor and then lecturer at the Kuringai College of Advanced Education (now university of Technology, Sydney). Melanie will coordinate



Melanie Lazarow

Reader Education services so as to make the library's two and a half million item collection as accessible as possible to its users. Prior to this appointment Melanie was a Senior Information Librarian at Melbourne University.

Philip Keane has been appointed to the position of Associate Librarian (Technical Services) at the University of Tasmania. Philip was formerly Manager of the ABN Unit at Adelaide TAFE. He has a science degree, and majored in computing and information systems in his postgraduate librarianship studies. He completed an MBA in 1990, with a thesis on the skills necessary for front line customer service staff. His prior experience in Technical Services began at the Australian National University, in the Acquisitions and Cataloguing sections, and at the Department of Health in Canberra. He then worked on the staff of ABN for three years before moving to the Adelaide TAFE as a central adviser to the TAFE network of libraries which employed more than 100 staff. He has taught library studies at the University of South Australia, and also business studies at Adelaide College. ■

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