

The Board of Education

Anne Hazell, Board of Education Chair, reports on the Board's busy program of activities in 1992

THE FIRST MEETING of the Board of Education in 1992 was held at ALIA House on 12–14 February. Some of the issues that the Board will address during the year are listed below.

At its October 1991 meeting, the Board decided to recommend to General Council that a campaign should be undertaken aimed at improving the quality of recruitment to the profession, based on the findings of the report, *Australia's workforce in the year 2001* (DEET 1991). A second objective should be to widen the public perception of librarianship to include other areas of the information industry. The major target of the campaign should be career counsellors in secondary schools and institutions of higher education.

Australia's workforce in the year 2001 shows that librarianship is in the first cluster of 20 occupations identified as projected growth areas in the period 1991–2001. These occupations are not only favoured by changes in industry structure but they are also expected to increase their occupational share.

This proposal will be circulated to the Divisions for comment, and then discussed at the July meeting of General Council.

Chair's visits to library schools

Since the beginning of 1992 the Board of Education Chair has visited University of Technology Sydney at Kuring-gai, University of NSW, Launceston CTAFE and the University of Hobart. Topics discussed have been:

Competency Standards

Most TAFE colleges accept the need to design curriculum and assessment to meet competency standards, but are still concerned about pre-service professional courses.

Export of education

Full fee paying students from overseas, particularly from South East Asia, are already studying in many library schools. At least one school offers a course in partnership with an off-shore institution. Most other schools are waiting to see the effects of the current investigations of the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee on their institutions before going further into these ventures.

The role of library schools in continuing education

Many schools express interest in offering more continuing education programs but feel hampered by lack of staff. In one successful case, a separate unit has been established to teach short courses on library automation.

Credit transfer

In the past, credit transfer has been dealt with differently by different institutions. Greater consistency should occur in the future, following a South Australian pilot project on credit transfer and a forthcoming national project in 1992. Almost all professional schools report a steady trickle of applicants who have completed library technician qualifications, so that more consistency will be welcome.

Information management courses

The amalgamation of the generalist and teacher-librarianship schools at the University of South Australia has prompted discussion on whether all information science students might undertake a number of the same core subjects. Another university plans to offer a joint major in records management with the Office Management lecturers in 1993. A TAFE college is negotiating

with another institution on the teaching of records management for paraprofessionals.

Additional issues raised by the schools have concerned the role of ALIA in the recognition of higher degrees, relationships with practitioners and the job market for graduates.

The Board has written to library and information schools underlining the need for cataloguers with Asian language expertise, as identified in the Garnaut, Ingerson, Jones and Ross Reports.

Training and development

The T & D database was launched during the March General Council meeting. The training and development package, *Automating a small library*, and the assessment module for *Stopping the rot* and *Preserving our Heritage* were launched at the same time. Details of these were given in *inCite* 3, p14 and p20.

The first of the 1992 national Branch and Regional Group T & D teleconferences took place early in March.

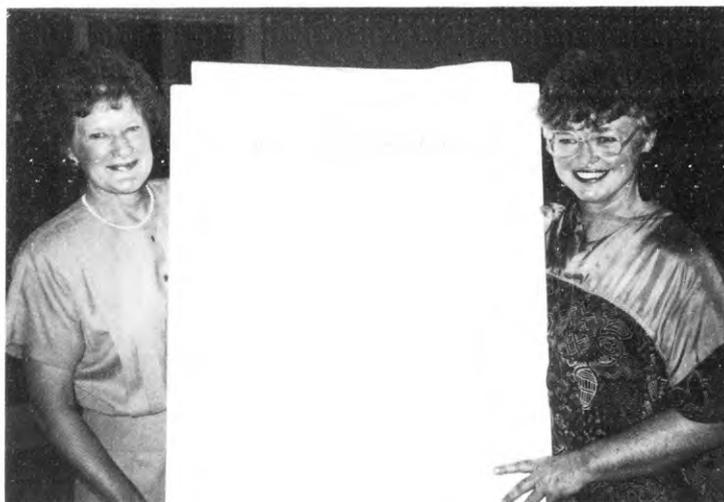
Licence to practise

Following recommendations from the 1991 ELISS Conference, the Board has established a working group to review and recommend on ALIA policy on licence to practise. The ELISS National Section will undertake the first phase of the project and will produce a discussion paper for the June meeting of the Board, taking into account

- current policy
- relevant issues from both the employment and education sectors which may have implications for licence to practise over the next decade
- comparison with other professions and library associations
- proposals previously canvassed within the profession as elements of licence to practise, eg. criteria for professional membership.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Board will begin on Sunday 31 May. A facilitator will work with Board members on the Review, followed by an ordinary meeting on 1/2 June. Deadline for the agenda papers is 4 May.



A smiling Jennifer Evans, President of the Victorian Group of ELISS, and Carol Kenchington, ALIA T & D Officer, hold a giant printout of the T & D database. Jennifer had just launched this database at the same function at which Anne Hazell launched the T & D packages.