

The year in review

We were overwhelmed by the response received, following our call to all branches and special interest groups to provide a summary of achievements made and the activities held throughout 1994. The next 6 pages outline what many have said was a very active and successful year, with prospects or even greater activity next year. A big thank you to all who responded so quickly — and best wishes to all for 1995!

TAFE Section (NSW)

TAFE library staff has been very busy this year. Consequently the committee organised one activity before time got away from us. On 2 June we held a networking dinner at the Vista Cafe in Ultimo. The guest speaker was Pamela Murray-Jones, the marketing

manager from OTEN (Open Training and Education Network). The theme of the speech was marketing and libraries. The combination of a well-presented speech, very good food, meeting with colleagues and making new friends resulted in an enjoyable evening.

A second activity with Mr Body Language — Alan Pease — was planned for November. Unfortunately Alan was unavailable when the preferred venue was free. The committee plans to organise this activity early in the new year.

*Kelly Callaghan
President
NSW TAFE Section*

Victorian Branch

What a year it has been! Victorian Branch has been exceptionally busy focussing on three strategic areas: professional practices and standards; lobbying and promotion; and services to members.

1994 will long be remembered as the year of the competency standards. The Branch is well aware of the possible impacts on library services and standards of the amalgamations of Victorian local government authorities so has maintained a watching brief. We secured a private meeting with the Chair of the Local Government Board and provided relevant information.

Our greatest triumph this year was gaining the re-affirmation, in Parliament that free library services were to remain in the condition for government subsidies for public libraries.

We worked closely with ACLIS: we held joint professional meetings; organised a joint seminar; maintained a joint lobbying working party; and jointly sponsored a *School libraries lobbying kit* and a *Staff exchange kit*.

A joint submission with the Geelong Regional

Group was made to the Geelong 2010 Taskforce for the establishment of an information precinct in the Geelong CBD.

The Branch's mentoring scheme, with over 60 mentoring pairs, has had its first birthday. An evaluation of the scheme is in progress. We reintroduced the Branch newsletter *BranchOut* so that we could keep our members informed of our activities.

The Branch organised many professional activities,

with a range of topics: the Internet, continuing professional development, copyright, quality services in libraries, ALIA and reminisces of a committed library user.

Almost all sections and regional groups regularly send a representative to the Branch Council meetings, with a useful exchange of information taking place.

*Sue McKnight
President
Victoria Branch*

Public Libraries Section (Vic)

The year started with the very successful National Public Libraries Conference *Trading in futures*. President Rob Blacker attended meetings of the Libraries Board of Victoria's Public Libraries Advisory Committee. A watching brief was held on Council amalgamations and the impact of compulsory competitive tendering. The PLS Committee was very pleased with the changed ALIA *Statement on free library services to all*. It also commended the National Office's lobbying campaign at the Federal level for the inclusion of public libraries in the electronic network distribution of information. The PLS newsletter was published regularly. In the latter part of the year the Section organised two seminars (on networking and enterprise bargaining). A state-wide promotion of a reading competition is planned to coincide with Library Week in 1995.

*Jane King
Treasurer, Public Libraries Section Victoria*

North Queensland Regional Group

The North Queensland Regional Group experienced a busy year in both Townsville and Cairns.

Continuing education activities included an evening of electronic access and a day of seminars and workshops entitled *The quest for quality: implementing quality principles in libraries*. The group also supported seminars on copyright and the library competency standards development project. Townsville was especially fortunate to host the Queensland Chief Public Librarians' Conference and the Australian Society of Archivists Annual Conference: ALIA members were encouraged to participate in both events. All activities were very successful and well-attended by members.

Communication with members has been a priority this year. An open forum in July discussed strategic planning for the division. Action plans covering leadership, advocacy and members' services have been devised in response to ideas gathered at the forum. The group also continues to produce a regional newsletter, *InformALIA*.

Australian Library Week celebrations concluded activities for the year.

*Richard Sayers
InformALIA editor*

Health Libraries Section (NSW and National)

1994 has been a challenging year for the Health libraries Section in NSW. As well as undertaking the usual tasks of arranging meetings and compiling newsletters we were involved in running the National Section and planning for the *Synergy in Sydney* Specials, Health and Law Librarians Conference.

A hardworking sub-committee has completed its work on the revision of the *National minimum standards for hospital libraries*. This document will be published in the near future and should become an important tool for health librarians in the planning and implementation of their services. A call for papers went out in October for the *Synergy in Sydney* conference and section members are working diligently on various committees involved in planning this important national event.

The state and national executives have been meeting together on a regular basis to co-ordinate events, discuss policies and issues and even to formulate a proposal to IFLA to host the Eighth International Congress of Medical Librarianship in Sydney during 2000, the year of the Sydney Olympics. Newsletters have been distributed to members Australia-wide.

The state executive has also produced three newsletters as well as organising four general meetings at various locations throughout the year. The topics of discussion with guest speakers have been: competencies, serials management, document delivery and OZLINE, focusing on the FAMILY Database for health librarians.

As it is the conference year itself, 1995 promises to be just as busy and demanding for the Health Libraries Section.

Graham Spooner
President, NSW Health Libraries Section

Children and Youth Services Section (Vic)

During 1994 we conducted three events. Our first was the AGM in March, where Jill Kitson, book reviewer, broadcaster and controversial critic of young adult literature gave a thought-provoking talk. The second event was our annual CBC Judges Talk in August. Fortunately Virginia Lowe stepped in when Ann Grieves fell sick. Thank you, Virginia. The major event of the year was a one-day seminar held at MLC entitled *Byte into the future*. Its aim was to explore the trends in technology and the effects on children's services in public libraries. An extremely informative, interesting and stimulating day.

Terry May
President, CYSS Victoria

Far North Coast Regional Group

New libraries have been a feature of 1994, with one meeting held at the new Ballina Public Library and another at the new TAFE library at Wollongbar. The year's speakers included Jill Gribble and Dorothy Southwell (former public librarians), Jean Bailey (President, Library Technicians Section) and Brian Cook, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Information Services) at Griffith University. Another highlight has been the formation of a Library Technician's sub-group which is attracting an enthusiastic group of people, most of whom have qualified as Library Technicians in the last few years through the TAFE Library Practice Course.

Sue Cullen
President, Far North Coast Regional Group

TOGETHER
we can solve your
information needs.



FERNTREE
COMPUTER CORPORATION

Library Management
Systems

OCELOT & Voyager

Online Information
Databases

AUSINET, ASC, FT
Profile, I/PLUS Direct

Ferntree Computer
Corporation Limited
A.C.N. 006 995 893

Melbourne: (03) 562 7028
Free Call: (008) 33 5067
Fax: (03) 543 3671

Box 42, RMDC, Clayton, VIC. 3169

Seasons Greetings from James Bennett



James Bennett

Phone (02) 982 2122 Freecall 1 800 226 784
Freecall Fax 1 800 808 292

Public Libraries Section (NSW)

Activities have centred mainly on topical issues — award restructuring and enterprise agreements, job satisfaction/job redesign, marketing, networking and competency standards. The two recent seminars on the Hunter Community Net and Internet and public libraries, and the Richard Naylor seminar on Wellington City Net and strategies for Internetworking communities, emphasised the importance of local government and other networking arrangements.

The practical *Introduction to displays*, both

at basic and advanced levels, have been very popular. A very pleasant evening was spent with Peter Corris talking about and discussing his writing.

We are looking to have more joint activities with other sections in 1995 and to increase our active committee by the addition of a number of keen people from different types of jobs in public libraries. Please contact me on (02) 710 0353 or fax (02 710 0597 for more information.

Diana Oliver
Secretary, Public Libraries Section (NSW)

University, College and Research Libraries Section (WA)

UCRLS WA's major activity is the provision of opportunities for members and others to meet and maintain contact with each other, and to keep abreast of developments in libraries and information services. To this end it has, in 1994, conducted forums on library systems procurement and migration, provision of library services to Open Learning students, development and operation of a reserve room collection of electronic documents, use of a multimedia package to teach information research skills, and acquisition of information in an electronic age. This last event, co-sponsored with ALIA (WA) T&D Committee, was conducted as a full-day seminar and was extremely successful.

Other activities included: a member survey, which identified AARNet and the Internet as the area of greatest interest; a formal response to the proposed closure of Curtin University's School of Information and Library Studies; comment on the draft competency standards; and representation on ALIA (WA) Branch Coun-

cil and the IETC, and other groups as appropriate.

Sue Dowling
Secretary, UCRLS WA

Disabilities Interest Group

1994 has been a very productive year. Membership of the Committee has increased during the year, and it is now representative of a wide range of different types of libraries.

The first stage of work on the draft standards for libraries providing services to people with disabilities is nearing completion, and these will soon be ready to distribute for comment. The first issue of a DIG newsletter was distributed to all members in October, and response to this initiative has been very positive. The next issue of the newsletter will be distributed in February 1995, and will include details of a series of seminars to be held during 1995.

Linley Wallis
Convenor
Disabilities Interest Group

Tasmanian Branch

Virginia Walsh was the guest speaker at the new members dinner in March which saw 13 new members join up.

1994 was very much a year for information technology issues with various Internet demonstrations and seminars being held, including a talk by Bill Linklater, ALIA President, to a full-house in Hobart on the subject of information networks and the Internet.

Following various discussions during the year on the draft Competency Standards a very successful and valuable workshop was held in October at Ross with Margaret Thurstans. The workshop

provided an opportunity for library section people from across Tasmania to get together and examine and review the draft competencies as part of the verification stage.

A low light of the year was a review recommendation to close the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of Tasmania, which will mean that anyone in Tasmania wishing to undertake a graduate or undergraduate course in librarianship will have to do so externally or travel to the mainland.

Peter Conlon
President
Tasmania Branch

NT Branch

The NT Branch Council has given priority to attracting people to the Territory and thus decrease our sense of isolation and to advance professional development of members. The year saw two special institutes conducted by ALMA — a visit from Paul Evans Peters, our inclusion in John Ober's national round of visits, and a visit from Jan Lyall of the National Preservation Office. All events were successful in various ways with attendances of up to 40 or 50 members. Close cooperation with ACLIS (NT) continued with production of three joint newsletters throughout the year and some joint lobbying activity in the lead-up to the Territory elections. Competency standards, discussions on free library service, and admission of Library Technicians to Fellowships evidenced strong opinions and debate amongst the NT membership. Although membership numbers have remained relatively static across the year there is some increase in new memberships as we approach the close of the year. It is anticipated that this trend may continue as prospective NT members become more aware of the role of the Association in representing their interests in the current climate of change and challenge to the profession and some of its basic principles.

Ross Barrett
President, NT Branch

Children's and Youth Services Section (WA)

The WA Group of CYSS organised a variety of activities for members in 1994. These included a theatre party to *Two weeks with Queen*, a play based on the book by Morris Gleitzman; a Readers Theatre workshop, presented jointly with the Storytelling Guild of WA and featuring books short-listed for Children's Book Council Awards, and a seminar entitled *Books for boys*. The second edition of

the section's *Survival guide* which provides information to librarians new to children's library work in WA, will be published late 1994. This year members have been concerned about the threat to the future of Curtin University School of Library and Information Studies and changes to ALIA's *Statement on free library services to all*.

Val Noake
President, CYSS WA

Health Libraries Section (SA)

Members of the section met regularly during 1994 enabling continued networking and exchange of information about ALIA matters. Other concerns to HLS members such as restructuring of health services in SA, and the introduction of Casemix, in particular the implications for health libraries, have been high on the section's agenda. Collaboration with the Special Libraries Section (SA) allowed the section to provide members with a wider selection of functions and resources. Functions included Marie Manning speaking about the State Library's community information projects; a visit to the State Library by Health, Special and Law librarians; and a Casemix presentation by Onno van der Wel of the SA Health Commission Casemix unit.

Projects for 1994 included marketing of the *Directory of hardware and software use in health and special libraries in South Australia* (a joint project with Specials); an update of the *Directory of health libraries in South Australia*; an update of HLS SA mailing lists and targeting lapsed members or non-members to promote the benefits of joining ALIA and the SA Health Libraries Section; and a free one-month trail of OCLC First Search Service organised by DA, to offer members the opportunity to try the OCLC First Search Service.

Juliet Marconi
President, Health Libraries
Section SA

Library Technicians Section (Nat)

The most important item for the national group in 1994 has been a review, which focussed on the structure of the group especially as it relates to the major issues facing library technicians, and the brief to make recommendations where changes were required. The response to the call for submissions was negligible with only one response from an individual member.

In light of this poor reaction, a discussion paper was circulated to the Presidents of all State/Territory groups and to regional sub-committees. This discussion paper sought to establish whether members

supported the maintenance of the national group. Four well-considered responses were received from three groups and one individual, however I believe that the national group still has not been given a clear mandate to continue. A teleconference of State/Territory presidents organised by Julie Boyd (Vice-President) and facilitated by Jennefer Nicholson was held on 22 November. For consideration at the teleconference was the submission, the responses to the discussion paper and a document from Kerry Smith (WA General Councillor/Library Techni-

cian portfolio) about constitutional implications of restructuring the group.

Jean Bailey
President, ALIA Library
Technicians Section

Cataloguers' Section (Vic)

This group had an active year in 1994. The small committee organised two skills workshops, a round table and two addresses. In June a one-day workshop on music cataloguing run by Rachel Salmond attracted much interest, as did the two half-day workshops on US MARC organised and run by Cheryl Schauder and Clara Ichlov in October-November. Something different was the round table on interactive media, convened by Leonie Bourke, to bring together the problems and ideas of cataloguers involved in the area. Of the talks, one was a presentation by Dianna McClellan of her 1993 Cataloguers' Conference paper, the other was an address by Penny Mercer on Subject Access on OPACs at RMIT. Throughout the year the committee kept the membership informed by means of flyers and mailouts.

Jenny Todd
Secretary
Cataloguers Section (Vic)

Central Australian Group

Despite its isolation, Alice Springs is a vibrant community serviced by many different types of libraries and information centres. This variety is reflected in the ALIA membership, which is comprised of special librarians, public librarians, and library technicians, whose wide ranges of interests, experience and expertise ensure varied monthly meetings and lively exchanges of ideas.

The exuberance of the Alice Springs community was obvious at the library quiz night held during Library Week in a local high school hall. The evening was organised jointly by the staff of the public library and SLANT (School Library Association of the Northern Territory) and about 150 people pitted minds, wits and general knowledge against each other. A local radio announcer competed the hilarious and successful night, which proved to be a very worthwhile fund-raiser for those organisations. Also taking place in the town at that time was the Masters Games, a highly-successful sporting and social occasion for 'mature' athletes, and some people took the opportunity to exercise both mind and body on the same evening. Such dedication is to be admired, especially as it contributed to the celebration of Library Week 1994 in the centre.

Carol Leesong
President, Central Australian Group

NEWSPAPERS WANTED

The Argus
Age Herald
The Sun
The Post
PHOTOPLAYER

- Bound volumes or single issues 1840 to 1980, including major overseas titles (eg. London Times)
- Also popular MAGAZINES (e.g. Life, Look, Women's Weekly, etc.) to 1970

PAPER WORLD

Phone: Alan Waters (03) 826 8866
(Member of the Ephemera Society of Australia)
Located in Chapel Street Bazaar:
217 Chapel Street, Prahran, Vic 3181

image IITM INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Image II provides complete information management for corporate and government information centres and special libraries

- Online catalogue & other databases
- Comprehensive searching (with pull down menus)
- Acquisitions
- Circulation
- Serials control
- Communications
- Images & graphics
- Multi authority files
- Report generation
- Full integration of modules

Contec Data Systems (Aust) Pty Ltd
A.C.N. 055 235 857
P.O. Box 1570, Tuggeranong ACT 2901
Phone/Fax (06) 231 6923
P.O. Box 289, Neutral Bay NSW 2089
Phone 015 483 504



School Libraries Section (National)

Eight delegates from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia held meetings by teleconference in 1994. This trial format has enabled our section to present a national perspective on a number of important issues.

We endorsed the role statement for teacher li-

brarians in the ASLA/ALIA publications *Learning for the future: Developing information services in Australian schools*, and produced a shorter statement for lobbying purposes.

A statement is being prepared for ALIA requesting that school libraries be included in any statements or submissions concerning

access and equity in the use of information services utilising the national telecommunication system. Within schools, we can provide opportunities for students, teachers and community members to obtain access to information and to learn how to use it critically and creatively.

Margaret Chapple
President, School Libraries
Section

Education for Library and Information Services Section

The major issues and activities for ELISS in 1994 have related to continuing education for the profession, the competency standards and library school closures. The Section conducted two seminars of continuing education themes.

The first was a joint ELISS/Victorian branch seminar in June was well-attended by members of the profession eager to hear from two speakers on the theme of continuing education — the ELISS committee expects to conduct a follow-up seminar in 1995 on planning for continu-

ing education.

The second, a seminar on education and continuing education was held in conjunction with the NZLIA/ALIA Joint Conference in September. The ELISS committee discussed and made comments on the *Draft competency standards*. ELISS is very pleased that the content and timeliness of the Section journal *ELIS:A* has improved significantly in 1994, due largely to the hard work of the editor, Maxine Rochester.

Cathy Miller
President, ELISS

Health Libraries Section (Tas)

The Sir John Ramsay Memorial Library held its 50th anniversary celebrations in April. These included a lecture and workshop on recent developments in medical information technology presented by Brenda McConchie of AIMA which most branch members attended.

The Branch has had two meetings in 1994. On 24 June, the invited speaker was Steven Page of the Education Division of Page Medical. At our meeting on 31 October Kathy Saurine and Andy Smithies presented feedback on the Wellington Conference.

Several of our libraries achieved the long-awaited goal of becoming members of GRATISNET for the first time in 1994, and staff of the Department of Community and Health Services libraries have been involved in workplace reform.

Karen Carson
President,
Health Libraries Section, Tasmania

Local Studies Section (SA)

The section met bi-monthly and this year looked at ways to increase the number of members attending meetings. To this end, a special meeting was held where all interested persons were invited to attend and put forward suggestions for the direction of the section. Some suggestions were to link meetings with CLASA meetings, and to run workshops on subjects such as profile-raising and fundraising.

The section visited a couple of Collections; and was addressed by Angela Sloane, the Aboriginal Projects Officer from the State Library, and by Sue Mildred, Family History Librarian at the State Library, who both gave valuable knowledge on the material and expertise available. This year has also seen the appointment of Cheryl Dalling, replacing Tania Milanko as Local History and Community Liaison Officer at the State Library of SA.

Pam Low
Secretary, Local Studies
Section, SA Branch

School Libraries Section (WA)

Much of our year has been spent planning and conducting professional development sessions for our members and for the school library community in Western Australia. In conjunction with the two other school library professional associations in Western Australia we organised a conference in June. This was attended by teacher-librarians from all over the state and was considered a great success. In addition to this conference we have organised evening seminars on accessing the Internet for schools, resourcing the library, and the role of the teacher-librarian.

We wrote submissions to enquiries dealing with resourcing in primary and country schools, the Broadbanding Expert Services Group, the further directions of the Curtin University Library School, and have had input into the State Competencies' working party.

The Western Australian Young Readers' Book Award, run in conjunction with the Services to Children and Young People's Group, recently completed the year with the announcement of *Looking for Alibrandi* and *Unbearable* as the winning titles for secondary and primary students respectively.

In all it has been a busy and eventful year. Next year promises to be even busier as we have applied for a \$50 000 DEET grant to run a professional development project.

Philippa Ryan
President, School Libraries'
Section WA

ACT Branch

This year the ACT Branch developed an ambitious range of strategies at a Branch level to achieve goals identified within ALIA's *Strategic plan*. The most significant achievements amongst these have been the development of a close working relationship with ACLIS-ACT through joint seminars and workshops contributing to the competency standards development process, provision of AARNet-awareness sessions for members through

collaboration with the Australian National University and the University of Canberra, and investigation of the provision of AARNet access for all ACT members (the next *inCite* will reveal more!). The achievements of the Branch would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Branch Council members. Thanks to you all.

Linda O'Brien
President
ACT Branch

ACT Cataloguers Group

Highlights of the year included a very well attended demonstration of CatSkill by Mary Mortimer. CatSkill is an interactive online cataloguing teacher, now installed at the National Library.

Other sessions of note were a visit to the library of the National Museum at Mitchell; talks by Julia Trainor (NIBD Management, ABN) on ABN, ACOC and the Standards Committee; *Teaching cataloguing* by Carol Denehy (NLA); round-table discussion on Occupational Overuse Syndrome (OOS); and a visit to the ISSN agency at the National Library.

Christina Rowe
Secretary, ACT Cataloguers Group

Library Technicians (WA)

Exciting and motivating! What a great year this has been for WA Library Technicians, both socially and professionally.

With two representatives on Branch Council, library technicians have been active on the various committees for training and development, mentoring, public affairs, and also on sub-committees for strategic planning and the public records proposal. We have representatives on the library sub-committee for Arts Training Australia (IETC), and on the government libraries network working party. We have also been involved in the Curtin Library School focus groups and the information collection workshops for the library competency standards. We have endeavoured not merely to just touch base on these issues but to cross the home plate.

Highlights of the year have been a visit to the Parliamentary Library, organising a workshop for technicians encompassing interview techniques and resume writing, and combining with cataloguers for a panel discussion on 'technicians as cataloguers'.

For library week we held an open forum on career opportunities and the role of library technicians.

This year through our various workshops and meetings we have identified key areas for future professional development for technicians and we will be addressing these issues through workshops to be organised for next year.

We are all looking forward to a stimulating and positive year ahead.

Carole Metcalf
President, WA Library
Technicians Section

ACQUISITIONS EASIER & FASTER!

BookFast[®] is an innovative, fully computerised information service developed by B.H. Walshe & Son (Booksellers-Library Suppliers).

BookFast[®] aims at providing both librarians and professionals with new and forthcoming publishing information on books, cassettes and CD-ROMs.

By simply recording your subjects of interests, a carefully-selected, comprehensive list of publishing extracts specific to your requirement will be posted to you six weekly. (80% of titles are in stock at time of mailing.)

If you'd like to receive this free and valuable information service, please phone us on (03) 350 3722 or (008) 333 431 for Victoria country and interstate.

B.H. Walshe & Son
7 Lewis Street Coburg VIC 3058 Australia
A proudly Australian company

BookFast Information Services

INMAGIC[®] Plus[™]

Trimagic Software Pty Ltd will be exhibiting at Online & On Disc from 31 Jan - 2 Feb 1995.

Come along and see INMAGIC Plus, the #1 Textbase system worldwide. At booth 56 in the Exhibition Area we will be demonstrating:

- * Scanning colour or black & white documents/photographs
- * Integrating images with a textbase
- * Text management for library & general records applications
- * Using a bulletin board system with INMAGIC

Trimagic Software Pty Ltd

PO Box 600
ROSEVILLE NSW 2069
Ph: (02) 413 1799 Fx: (02) 413 1710