

Information stops on the highway

Both ACT Branch Council and the ACT Public Library Service (ACT PLS) planned events to publicise library week this year. The excellent posters with their up-to-date theme suggested two avenues of approach: transport and technology.

Consequently Branch organised static displays in two of Canberra's busiest places, at the Jolimont Centre bus station, and at the Canberra Centre, a major shopping mall. At Jolimont we reproduced the *Destination information* poster using realia, several circuit boards, telephones, superseded CD-ROMs and a computer. We mounted enormous signs which could be seen across Canberra's major thoroughfare.

The Canberra Centre display featured a map of Canberra on which 'information stops' along the information highway (local libraries) were marked. While it was being put up one passer-by used it to find where he was going — an information service indeed!

We also included a brochure listing libraries available to the public including a number of gov-

ernment and statutory authority libraries which the public may not have been aware of.

The ACT PLS continued the transport/technology theme, with access to 50 Canberra buses, and also put up posters advertising various activities. Each branch had a program of tours and demonstrations of the technology available to connect the public to information. The very visible bright-yellow mobile library bus was taken to the major shopping malls and spent lunchtime in the park among the tulips and tourists (it was *Floriade* time in Canberra). There was a good deal of interest displayed by passers-by at this 'bringing information to the public'.

The formal launch of ALW was held at the Civic Library branch and featured audio cassettes and large print material aimed at increasing the access of visually disadvantaged people to the services of the public library. We now have big plans to build on this endeavour. In 1995 we hope to make everyone in the ACT aware of Library Week in its new time-slot in May.

Libby Coates

Moving forward with library technicians

This year for the promotion of Australian Library Week the West Australian Library Technician Section decided to utilise ourselves as a potential resource to provide information on skills, career opportunities, experience and capabilities within the workforce.

We organised an open forum *Moving forward with library technicians* and arranged for four of our members to discuss their libraries, position held, duties performed, and the skills needed to perform these duties. They explained how they came to be in these positions, for example promotion, job applications and interviews, or just being in the right place at the right time plus any additional skills they may have had to acquire.

A lively question-time ensued,

from which we identified key areas on which to focus further training and development. Participants were made aware of choices in direction, of sideways moves in career paths (to ultimately move forward), and in general a discussion of library technician issues. Our audience included students, qualified library technicians, some employed — others not, and librarians.

The decision to tap into our own resources as a group proved to be a very beneficial exercise and we may repeat the same format next year, encouraging audience participation to promote a greater awareness of the diversity of library technicians and their involvement in all types of libraries.

Carole Metcalf
President

WA Library Technicians Section



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