

Public Libraries Conference 1995

Public Libraries — what are they worth? ANA Hotel, Sydney. 12-15 November 1995

Various ALIA, NSW Groups, the Country Public Libraries Association of NSW, the Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (NSW), the Association of Local Government Librarians in NSW and the State Library of NSW, Public Libraries Branch are involved in the organisation of the conference.

This national conference is seen as an opportunity to raise the profile of public libraries within all levels of government, particularly local government, to draw together current issues and developments and steer a future for public libraries into the twenty-first century on a national basis.

Conference theme

Value, both social and economic, of public libraries to the nation. Particular emphasis will be placed on information technology links from local communities to the rest of the world.

Special focus will be placed on the economic worth as well as the more traditional social, cultural and recreational worth of libraries. Libraries, as part of local government, have a cen-

tral role serving the community at this time of technological change.

Program

The conference will target council management and decision-makers.

Day 1: Connections

National developments in the telecommunications and electronic networking industries; Infrastructure (NID) initiatives of the US government; Public libraries and world-wide information network services; Links between public libraries, government and other organisations, including institutions offering open learning programs — how the public can benefit.

Day 2: Quality customer service

Future trends; Benchmarking and best practice; Customer charters — what customers should expect from the public library; Compulsory competitive tendering.

Day 3: Value

Value of cultural services; Value of public libraries to the community; Public libraries — economic issues.

A strategic planning forum will be held on 16 November. A maximum of 20 representatives will be invited from nominations provided by rel-

evant organisations. Post-conference activities include visits to AORA (Children's Literature Research Collection) and to 'Nutcote'.

Steering and other committees

The convenor of the steering committee is Laurie Urane. Sub-committees have been established — finance (convenor: Lindsay Allen); program (convenor: Janette Wright); trade exhibition (convenor: Wendy Chester); and social (convenor: Robyn Ward).

Negotiations to obtain speakers both international and national and for sponsorship are proceeding and will be finalised by March.

For further information please contact Laurie Urane, convenor, Hurstville City Library and Information Service, phone (02) 330 6141, fax (02) 330 6123, or the program convenor, Janette Wright, State Library of NSW, phone (02) 230 1527, fax (02) 230 1615.

The conference organiser is ICMS Australia, phone (02) 241 1478, fax (02) 251 3552. ■



Australian Library and Information Association

Honorary awards

Nominations are now being called for the following honorary awards of the Australian Library and Information Association

HCL ANDERSON AWARD

The General Council may confer the HCL Anderson Award on any person who is a professional member of the Association or who holds an overseas qualification in librarianship or archives, which is recognised as a professional qualification by a library association or archives association in the country concerned, and who has rendered outstanding service to librarianship or the library profession in Australia, or to ALIA, or to the theory or practice of librarianship.

REDMOND BARRY AWARD

The General Council may confer the Redmond Barry Award on any person who is not eligible to be a professional member of the Association and who is not employed in a library, who in the opinion of General Council, has rendered outstanding service to the promotion of a library or libraries, ALIA, the theory or practice of librarianship, or to an associated field such as bibliography.

ELLINOR ARCHER AWARD

The General Council may confer the Ellinor Archer Award on any person employed or who has been employed in libraries, who is not eligible for Associateship of ALIA, who has rendered outstanding service to libraries, the promotion of a library or libraries, the theory or practice of librarianship or to an associated field such as systems, conservations, management or bibliography.

Confidentiality

It is essential that nominees should NOT be aware that they are nominated for an award. Nominations are considered by the Honorary Awards Committee and Council in committee, and details are published only when the nominations are successful.

Divisions of ALIA are particularly asked not to note nominations in their agenda papers or minutes. Disclosure of such details can prejudice a nomination.

Nomination forms

Nomination forms and further information on each of the awards may be obtained from the National Office. Nominations for the HCL Anderson Award, the Redmond Barry Award and Ellinor Archer Award close on 1 February 1995.

Australian Library and Information Association

DUNN & WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

Aim

To provide a library technician with the opportunity to investigate a particular project relating to the practice of library technicians, which will increase his/her professional/occupational experience.

Conditions

- The Scholarship is valued at \$4000 for 1995. Applicants will bear any costs above that amount.
- Available to practicing library technician members of the Library Technicians Section of the Association.
- For the purpose of undertaking a project on an issue of relevance to the development and improvement of the practice of library technicians and/or library and information services in Australia.
- The project may include a study tour, either overseas or interstate, to survey the employment or education of library technicians; professional development to enhance the recipient's role; preparation of a publication; research/investigation in such areas as automation, conservation, technical services in relation to the practice of library technicians.
- The project is to culminate in a report presented in two parts:
 - i) A comprehensive report, suitable for publication as a journal article, forwarded to the National Executive of the Library Technicians Section within 4 months of the project's culmination.
 - ii) The presentation of the 'Dunn & Wilson Oration' at the following National Library Technicians Conference.

Applications

Application forms are available from the Division Support Officer at the ALIA National Office.

This scholarship is jointly sponsored by
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