

News from the Divisions

VICTORIAN BRANCH

THREE meetings have been held by the Branch so far this year. The first was the Annual General Meeting held early in March and the highlight was the showing of the film *The Speaker* which provoked some very lively discussion about censorship of material for both adults and children. One result of this is that the Branch, in conjunction with the Children's Libraries Section, is planning a meeting on the censorship of children's materials later in the year.

The second Branch meeting, organised at short notice, coincided with the visit of Phillip McNiff the Librarian at Boston Public Library, who is consultant for the new State Library building. Mr McNiff and his wife, who is Librarian Designate for Harvard College Library, spoke about new developments in North American libraries.

The third meeting was addressed by members of the LAA Technicians Section and Gordon Bower on the subject 'What can the LAA do for library technicians?' Victoria is one of the states which does not yet have a technician's section.

The major points made included: an Australia-wide library-based body is able to give representation on wage tribunals especially where relativity with other library workers is in question. The LAA is best able to assess and approve courses and to give portability to qualifications as a national body. The LAA is able to provide a forum for technicians in which they can meet library professionals and vice-versa.

All meetings have been recorded and copies can be provided by sending two blank C-60 cassettes to Meg Cameron at Deakin University Library.

The Branch has a theme of 'Safety' for the next two meetings, with the safety of VDU's the subject of a meeting at the end of May, and fire safety of libraries is the subject of a meeting being planned for July. *Ray Price*

Registration lectures

ADDITIONAL lectures are available for Registration candidates in the following subjects:

Paper 201 (*Reference work: materials and methods*). Lecturer: Angela Hardman; Time: Tuesday, 5-6pm, started 29 April; Place: 5th Floor Library Branch Kay House, 449 Swanston St, Melbourne.

Paper 203E (*Library organisation and management: school libraries*). Lecturer: Angela Hardman; Time: Tuesday, 6-7pm, started 29 April; Place: 5th Floor Library Branch Kay House, 449 Swanston St, Melbourne.

Paper 403 (*Library administration*). Lecturer: Gordon Dadswell; Time: Wednesday, 7.30-9.30pm, started 16 April; Place: Seminar Room, LCV.

Further enquiries to Jane La Scala (03) 669 9937, or c/o PLD, LCV, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne.

NSW SPECIALS

A JOINT meeting with the Library Technicians Group, attended by 30 people, was held on 28 April at TUTA (Trade Union Training Authority). Ian Stubbin (Health Commission Hospitals Librarian) and Joan Parker (Librarian, Roche Products) spoke on the role of the library technician in special libraries relating this general theme to specific experiences within their own library structure. *Robin Shelley-Jones*

ACT ONLINE USERS

ON 18 April the ACT On-Line Users' Group and the ANZAAS National Science Forum joined forces to host a birthday lunch for MIDAS.

Mr Brian Callaghan, Senior Marketing Officer of the Overseas Telecommunication Commission (OTC), was the guest of honour and speaker. His theme: 'MIDAS is One: Where do we stand and where are we going?'

MIDAS has shown an impressive 10 percent per month growth rate during the past year, and last month had 1100 connect hours' use. Interestingly, only three quarters of this use was for information retrieval purposes, the remainder being 'corporate use' which OTC sees as the big growth area for MIDAS in the future. Indeed, use is expected to continue to develop at about eight percent per month in the next 12 months.

MIDAS already reaches Canada as well as the USA; it is expected to extend to some European countries during 1980 and to Japan in 1981. Moreover, it is likely to become a two-way link during 1980, making Australian data bases available on-line to overseas searchers and increasing its versatility to corporate users in areas of finance, stock control, freight and so on. OTC may also be using MIDAS as the communications channel for the international PRESTEL market trial due to start soon.

Between them MIDAS, MEDLINE, AU-SINET and CSIRONET are showing a rate of use which puts Australia (per head of population) ahead of Europe in the on-line stakes and only a couple of years behind the USA (12 months ago I should have said five years behind). *Peter J. Judge*

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH

THE NT Branch Council has made formal application to General Council for the 1990 Biennial Conference, or earlier if possible, to be held in Darwin.

The NT Branch feels the time is overdue for the Association to recognise the existence of Darwin and the increasing range of library activities and progress to be found in the Territory generally.

The Northern Territory Branch Council cites as evidence of such progress new public libraries in Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine, the beginning of a State Library service, the first moves towards university and special libraries unique to the Territory just to mention a few. *Bruce Turner*

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Are UCLS and TAFE compatible?

UCLS has the second largest membership of the LAA Sections. The School Librarians Section being the largest.

UCLS Section membership has dropped over the past year or so and is now around 1500, despite a growth in the number of librarians in the TAFE sector. It would be interesting to know what proportion of the membership now work in TAFE libraries. One hears talk of a breakaway movement of this group because of indifference from university and CAE librarians.

Maybe the TAFE librarians have a case: although UCLS has done some useful work in the past decade there is little evidence of attention to the TAFE area apart from the seminar at Newcastle in 1979, the Proceedings of which have not yet been published.

The survey that Ted Flowers and Tony Brown did for the Kangan Committee in 1973 was not carried out under the UCLS banner.

And although the TAFE library situation is healthier than it was it could hardly be described as satisfactory.

The apparent lack of attention is, of course, not surprising. Distance, the federal system, limited resources and local pressure all contribute to a dissipation of enthusiasm and increase the difficulty of actually achieving anything concrete, particularly within a limited time scale.

On the other hand it would, to say the least, be a pity for a split to develop without the problem being properly identified and shown to be insoluble.

If there is a charge to be answered then let it be put, using this column as the means.

Colin Cayless President, UCLS

WA SPECIALS

THE Special Libraries Section WA Group is to compile a Directory of Special Libraries in Western Australia to be available early 1981. \$300 has been allocated as a recoupable loan from the WA Branch to assist in this project.

The group is interested in total demand for the proposed publication. Contact: P. Bloomfield, Treasurer, Special Libraries Section WA Group, Library Board of Western Australia, 102 Beaufort Street, Perth, WA 6000.

West Trade Centre

The Group recently visited the West Trade Centre opened mid April 1980.

Firms and organisations pay a joining fee of \$150 and an annual subscription of \$250. Individually itemised products or product ranges, service skills or expertise cost \$5 for each group of 10 items and descriptive details about each item cost \$2 per 70 characters.

Anyone can contact the Centre to gain free access to the information stored on computer.

Special Library Section members were most interested in this new addition to accessing information about commercial activity in Western Australia. *Peter Bloomfield*

ACT BRANCH

1980 is proving the year of change for the ACT, if only in the turnaround of office-bearers as library workloads become heavier with fewer staff.

Readers will already know that Michael Evans was followed as President by Averill Edwards, and that Dermid McGrath took up the reins upon Liz Cook's resignation as Treasurer. Now Dermid has succumbed to work pressures, and once again we are looking for a Treasurer.

A one-day seminar was held in Canberra in late March on COM cataloguing and it proved very successful. A report will follow as soon as possible on these pages.

Three functions coming soon which may interest readers are:

1 *Freedom of Information Forum* to be held at the NLA from 9.30-5.30 on Saturday, 5 July. The keynote speaker will be Professor Jack Richardson, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, and an exciting list of speakers will follow.

2 *Political policies for libraries* will be held at the NLA at 7.30 pm on 18 June. Representatives of the Liberal, Labor and Democrat parties will speak about their policies.

3 Brenda Gerrie will be speaking to the ACT Online Users Group on *Education for online information retrieval* at 5.15 pm on 19 June. The location has not been decided so if anyone is interested please contact Jean Geue (062) 72 5432.

Send all contributions of ACT news to Charles Ironside, Woden College of TAFE, PO Box 666, Woden, 2606. Phone (062) 95 3976.