

JOINT-USE LIBRARIES — DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT

VIDEO READERS of *Incite* will have followed with interest the correspondence on the pros and cons of joint-use libraries.

The Association's Executive Committee has discussed this issue and has formulated a draft policy statement.

This statement is published here so that you have an opportunity to comment on it, with the result that the policy statement eventually adopted will more accurately reflect the views of members.

Please send your comments on the draft statement to the Executive Director by 8 August 1980.

The LAA is conscious of the controversy which surrounds the issue of joint-use library services. Of special significance is the provision of library facilities shared between an education authority and a municipal authority. National, state and local government authorities, community groups and individuals have issued conflicting statements, have called for increased experimentation and have sought guidance on the matter. The Association therefore issues this statement on joint library services with the special reference to joint services involving educational institutions.

There is strong support for the case that the provision of separate library services is more advantageous to the clientele than the provision of a joint service.

Nevertheless there are occasions when a joint facility is justified as a suitable alternative in cases where library service is otherwise impossible. Small, isolated rural centres with little hope of a public library service because of their size or isolation is a case in point. Genuine community interest in sharing a comprehensive range of resources and facilities at the local level may also justify the provision of a joint library venture. Rapid growth zones of urban areas are often

proposed as ideal ground for school/community libraries because of local council's inability to provide all community facilities in the initial stages of development; in the interests of giving library service to the local community, such temporary arrangements may be supported.

The Association acknowledges that there is growing pressure for the sharing of community facilities, particularly on economic grounds. However, the provision of joint services on the sole grounds of purported cost savings is not supported.

The Association urges that, when considering a joint library service, authorities take the following matters into account:

- * Consultation involving all the bodies involved is essential.
- * There must be agreement of all parties on conditions of provision, financing and use.
- * The site of the institution and the position of the library are critical factors; without ready access to all users the project is in jeopardy.
- * The library should be available to all clients during the institution's operating hours and adequate provision must be made for out-of-hours use, including vacations.

The Association does not offer definitive guidelines on other aspects of joint-use facilities, since local circumstances must dictate varying approaches. Rather it advises that authorities should consider all the implications of these projects, giving special attention to such issues as size of community, library space, staffing, availability of material, integration of collections and financial responsibility.

The Association acknowledges that joint-use libraries exist and that circumstances justify their provision, particularly in serving people who would otherwise be deprived of access and in specific experimental situations. It urges caution in the establishment of projects and thorough consultation prior to

decisions being made. It stresses the need for proper evaluation of experimental schemes, for their documentation and the publication of outcomes. The Association is aware of the conflicting nature of the limited available literature on joint-use schemes and strongly urges authorities to disseminate widely any relevant documentation for the benefit of other interested parties.

Department of Technical
and Further Education

**Associate Librarian
(Administrative
Services)**

Salary: \$25,048 pa

TAFE at present provides post-school education program for more than 250,000 students through its network of 79 colleges within New South Wales. It is continually increasing the range and flexibility of its programs to meet community needs and make TAFE more accessible. There are small to medium-sized library resource centres in 22 metropolitan colleges in Sydney and in 75 country colleges, with the larger library of Sydney Technical College providing a central support service. A central ordering and cataloguing service is provided for all colleges in the State, except those in the Hunter District, by the Technical Services Branch of the Division of Library Services located on the Sydney Technical College campus at Broadway. Total professional and support staff in the Department's Library Services number approximately 240.

Location: Head Office, 323 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Qualifications and experience: Applicants must hold a university degree or equivalent and professional library qualifications; and show an understanding of the changing needs of TAFE libraries in the 1980s. The position requires a librarian with proven managerial and administrative ability at a senior level, effective communication and liaison skills and the ability to maintain good personal relations and promote development of staff. Other qualities needed include drive, flexibility and innovative capacity.

Duties: Responsible to the Head of TAFE Library Services for staffing and personnel administration on a state-wide basis, including recruitment; placement and transfer of staff; staff appraisal and development; maintenance of channels of communication between and with staff; preparation of information, submissions and reports on staffing, personnel administration, library policy, operation and development. The appointee will be required to work closely with the Head of Library Services and two other Associate Librarians, responsible respectively for Reader Services and Technical Services, in the co-ordination and development of Library Services; and be involved in policy formulation and forward planning, necessitating professional co-operation and liaison with other senior departmental officers. In addition, the appointee could be required to deputise at some time in the absence of the Head.

Applications are invited from both males and females. Forms can be obtained by phoning (02) 219 9361 or 219 9324, or by contacting your nearest technical college.

Applications should be forwarded to the Recruitment Section, Department of Technical and Further Education, PO Box 638, Haymarket 2000.

WHAT'S IN . . . contents of Australian librarianship journals

SOCIETY FOR MASS MEDIA AND RESOURCE TECHNOLOGY (SMMART)

Journal, v10, no1, 1980. Edited by Jenni Van Vangeningen and Alma Chinner, Adelaide TAFE, 46 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, SA 5000. Top materials in the secondary school library by *Meredith Fehlmann*; Libraries and literacy by *Sue Shore*; Problems of copyright law and audiovisual material by *Joan Manners*; Dial-a-story by *Regina Slezak*; Project Primedia by *Gillian Sellar*; Multiculturalism: a destination or a journey? by *Don Bailey*; Circuits and the State Library of Tasmania by *Varwick Dunstan*.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, v17, no1, Autumn/March 1980. Edited by Berres Colville, SLAV, Box 280, East Melbourne, Vic 3002.

Five years down the road by *Graham P. Corr*; Multi-ethnic collections: catering for the Jewish adolescent; with bibliography by *Anna Rzożek*; Multicultural characters in Australian fiction; with bibliography by *Sharyn Burgess*; The gifted child and the teacher librarian by *Ann Street*; Selected periodical articles by *Sue Pepper*; Index to Volume 16 1979.

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMIC & RESEARCH LIBRARIES (AARL) v11 no2, June 1980.

Edited by D.H. Borchardt, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Vic 3083. Freedom of Information by *Derek Fielding*; Reference performance in college libraries by *Janine Schmidt*; Australian academic libraries by *Harrison Bryan*; Disabled library users at Monash University by *Pierre Gorman and Don Schauder*; 'Sometimes it is called leadership' by *Glen Sanders*; In memoriam — Richard Blackwell by *D.H. Borchardt*.

ORANA (Journal of School and Children's Librarianship, formerly Children's Libraries Newsletter) v16, no2, May 1980. Edited by Val Watson, 24A Llewellyn St, Oatley, NSW 2223.

'Frothi, Frodo — and Dodo and Odo' by *J.S. Ryan*; Author Study: Alan Garner by *Margaret Kohler*; The Need to Know: teaching the importance and use of information at school by *Terance Brake*; The use of Public Libraries by Children in a Third World Country: the Warri case study by *S.A. Osiobe*; Berry Children's Book Fair a success by *Georgia R. Green*.