

News from the Divisions

VIC BRANCH

Where's the terminal?

Victorian members were surprised recently to hear the Premier, Mr Hamer refer to the capacity of the State Library of Victoria to provide computer-based information retrieval services to users. In July 1980, a letter from the Premier's Department to Victorian Branch President, Doreen Parker, stated that the provision of funds to implement the proposal to link the State Library with both AUSINET and MIDAS has not yet been possible. The matter will be considered again in the 1980/81 budget. Until a successful outcome of this consideration, the State Library remains terminal-less.

Careers brochure for Victoria

A sub-committee of Branch Council has been compiling a careers brochure that will describe briefly what library technicians and professional librarians do and what sort of facilities are available in Victoria for library training. The brochures will be available later this month from members of Branch Council.

Increased public library subsidies vital to survival

Victorian Minister for the Arts, Norman Lacy, has been approached by the Victorian Branch in its continuing campaign to raise subsidies to public libraries throughout the state. It is obvious that public libraries are facing an increasingly critical financial situation. Funds last year remained at the level of those for the previous year. Since then, book-prices have continued to rise, and the problem of dwindling funds has been compounded by the recent work-value case which has given raises to library workers. The gloomy prospect of trying to provide adequate services with insufficient funds faces those of us who are preparing annual budgets in the public library sector.

Continuing education

Technilib was the venue for a recent half-day continuing education seminar arranged by Keith Davison on 19 July 1980. Among those topics that emerged as fruitful areas to explore further were the librarian/computerist interface, the need for personnel development courses that familiarise librarians with computer-based systems, and the continuing need for introductory courses. A more detailed report will be released by Keith shortly.

LAA members in isolation

Regional centres in Victoria have been approached as to their definitions of isolation and how it affects them. The Branch Secretary, Ray Price, has written to Ballarat CAE particularly to get its views on how isolation can be overcome. Some suggestions from Branch members included upgrading regional meetings, although we hasten to add that in their existing format they serve a very useful function. However, it may be possible to spread speakers to Branch meetings a little more widely, or alternatively, to arrange for subsidised travel for some members.

Library services for the handicapped

The effects of a highly successful week-long seminar at Melbourne State College are still being felt. Some discussion has centred around the inadequate representation of

handicapped people to the National Advisory Committee. This issue was raised in a recent letter to the Branch by Roy Hirsch, of the Handicapped People's Collective Action Group and had been foreshadowed by Don Schauder's comments on the composition of the National Advisory Committee. For those who would like to contact Roy Hirsch, please write to him care of the above organisation at 6/16 Illawara Road, Hawthorn 3122. He has done a good deal of research into provision for services to the handicapped in various areas.

Leonard Wertheimer, one of the international guest-speakers for the Multicultural Conference will also speak to the Branch on 'Library Services to the Handicapped', on Wednesday, 19 November 1980 at 8pm, in the Seminar Room at the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne.

Joint-use libraries

Replies about education for employment in joint-use libraries have been received from the Branch representative at Gippsland, and from Graham Corr, Head of the Department of Librarianship at Melbourne State College.

Although there is no subject *per se* being provided at Gippsland CAE, subjects relevant to joint-use libraries are discussed in Selection, Acquisitions, and Administration subjects.

Melbourne State College, as a result of previous discussions with the Branch, has organised Joint-Use Libraries as a subject offered this semester on Wednesday evenings 5-8pm. Limited number of places available to librarians as a continuing education program. Further information from the Registrar, 757 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3053, (03) 341 8111.

Manpower study

Barrie Micheson, Vic General Council representative reports that the manpower study questionnaires have been distributed on a random basis to various LAA members. If you have received one, please complete it and return it promptly. The results of the study may come up with some surprises about how librarians view themselves and their environment.

Virginia de Crespigny

ADULT LITERACY

A FEATURE of the General Meeting held on May 5 was mini book reviews of some key books on literacy and on education. These were presented by Committee members and followed by a brief address by Helen Modra on the theory and practice of library liaison with literacy agencies.

Committee meetings are held at least once every two months and it is intended to hold four General meetings this year. The third meeting, on 29 September at Ashburton Public Library (Melbourne) will feature Darryl Dymock of the University of New England, who is the Hon Secretary of the Australian Council for Adult Literacy. Darryl will speak about the fourth national conference of ACAL held in Adelaide August 15-19, and about the present state of, and possible directions for, literacy work in Australia.

Towards the end of the year, the Section Committee hopes to host an informal meeting with both the Community Information Special Interest Group and the Working Group on Multicultural Library Service.

Helen Modra conducted a session on libraries and literacy at the national literacy conference. The relevance of the work of Paulo Freire to the theory and practice of librarianship was emphasised. Section Secretary Linda Stevenson was also present at the conference and was able to contribute greatly to the debate about libraries' and literacy based on her own experiences as Chief

Librarian of the Melbourne City Libraries.

It is pleasing to report that Section membership is now around 260. A comprehensive information letter with nomination forms for Section elections has been posted to all members.

There are two major projects in progress this year. One is the preparation of a package of materials, to be sent free to all members, to help them learn more about literacy and inform them of major literacy activities in Australia. All Committee members are involved in this work.

The second project, which is being undertaken by a sub-committee convened by Linda Stevenson, is to prepare a videotape on library literacy work.

The next Committee meeting will be held in Melbourne on Saturday 27 September. Members who wish to raise any matter are invited to contact the Secretary, 104 Miller St, West Melbourne 3003.

Helen M. Modra

NSW SPECIALS

THE Group held a successful evening on August 5 when over 55 people met at the Bank of NSW, Martin Place, to hear Yvonne Esplin (CSIRO Technical Information and Liaison Officer) describe recent developments in the CSIRONET on-line system. Yvonne illustrated her talk with slides and explained the techniques involved in doing an on-line search.

Robin Shelley-Jones

WA SCHOOL LIBRARIES

WA Young Readers' Book Award

IT is hoped to give a Certificate of Participation to the schools and public libraries who have completed evaluation forms. Forms must reach Mrs N. Hoffman, 83 Ilowes Cres Dianella, WA 6062 by 30 September.

The Awards will be announced at 7pm on 29 October at Mt Lawley CAE, Upper Lecture Theatre.

Each participating school or public library can name two young readers who will be welcome to attend the Award Night. It is assumed that the adult nominating the students will be responsible for them during the evening. Places limited to approx 150 adults and 50 young readers.

Contact: Audrey Foley (09) 295 1116; Sharon Rowell (09) 381 8046, or Judy Hartigan (09) 381 1617.

Those applying by letter may deem themselves successful unless notified otherwise. Country people, please apply immediately. You're very welcome.

Leila Hoffman

INFORMATION SCIENCE

THE rapid growth in online availability of bibliographic data bases has tended to obscure the increasing availability of machine-readable nonbibliographic services. The Information Science Section aims to redress the balance by holding a seminar on 'Numeric and knowledge data bases' at UNSW on 6-7 November 1980.

Speakers include: Mr C. Garrow (CSIRO); Mr P. Shelley (Bureau of Mineral Resources); Dr M. Lawrence (UNSW School of Accountancy); Ms K. Blake (Insearch DIAL Services); Dr J. Busby (Dept of Science); Dr H. Russell, (Vic Dept of Agriculture), and Mr J. Adams (ACI Computer Services).

The meeting will interest primarily those involved in the provision and management of information services. However, end users in a number of the scientific, technological and health disciplines, as well as in the commercial sector, will benefit by the seminar.

A pre-registration form appears elsewhere in this issue.