

# Letters

## AAUCS 'respected'

I read Ms Hart's reaction (Roving Report - a 'streaker', *Incite*, no 17, 20 October) to the Borchardt/Horton 'spoof' on their trip through Indonesia with some sympathy.

It would have been easy to misunderstand the tone of the article if one did not know of the valuable work being done in librarianship relations with Southeast Asia by the AAUCS consultants.

However, Ms Hart can be assured that the librarians of Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia who directly benefit from the advice and practical help of the Universities Co-operative Service are well aware of the deep respect and appreciation that Dietrich Borchardt and Allan Horton have for the way our colleagues there are coping with very difficult problems.

*T. Rungkat*  
Ballarat CAE and former  
AAUCS lecturer in Indonesia

## Index for slides

Our library has a large slide collection, part of which is made up of *Art in America on slides*.

Each issue of slides corresponds to an issue of the journal, and the only way of retrieving these slides is with a specific reference from the journal. This method is not very satisfactory and an index is needed for the slides.

Before I undertake this task I would like to hear from anyone who has already done so, or is doing so.

*Frances O'Neal*  
Adelaide College of the Arts and Education  
Holbrooks Road, Underdale, SA 5032

## PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

### MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

### ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF COLLECTIONS

Position No. 81E/21 \$18,113 - \$20,747

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Essential: An appropriate degree or diploma.

Desirable: Appropriate experience in Museum or Library Registration/Cataloguing.

**DUTIES:** Assist Registrar with receipt of all items acquired by the Museum; recording and cataloguing of all items in the Museum's possession; assigning items to appropriate security storage or display areas; maintaining computer cataloguing records; liaison with curatorial staff on collections; supervision of cataloguers and other staff. Assist the Systems Officer with specific special projects.

**LOCATION:** Redfern initially.

**INQUIRIES:** (02) 699 9822 Ext. 302 (Mr. G. Davis).

Equality of employment is Public Service Board policy. Applications are invited regardless of applicants' race, sex or marital status.

Applications are to be sent to the Staff Clerk Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, 659-695 Harris Street, Ultimo 2007 by 27th November, 1981.

## Royal Blind Society article 'misleading'

The page one article in *Incite* 2 October 1981 headed 'Library for the blind under threat' refers to the alleged inadequacy of funding by the New South Wales Government for the library services to the blind provided by the Royal Blind Society. The General Manager of the Society, Mr Laurence also refers to a higher level of funding in Victoria.

While I do not wish to dispute the very great need for adequate library services to disabled people, including the blind, the picture painted by Mr Laurence is somewhat misleading. The whole thrust of his argument is 'that almost every sighted person enjoys ready access to a public library. The RBS seeks the same status as that of Government funded free libraries'.

The timing of Mr Laurence's *Incite* statement is not clear, but in the first days of September this year, well before the publication date, the Premier, Mr Wran, gave the Royal Blind Society an assurance that, commencing in 1981-82, it would receive an annual grant for its library services equal to one percent of the total funds appropriated by the Government for per capita grants to public library services throughout the State. This will be this year of the order of \$60,000.

The Society's estimate of the number of blind people who use or may need to use its library services is 6500. If the Society's library service was a public library as defined in the New South Wales Library Act, the per capita

subsidy at the present rate of \$1.20 would have been only \$7800.

Mr Laurence also draws a comparison with the Victorian Government's grant of \$187,000 to the Braille and Talking Book Library in that State but omits to point out that, according to the Victorian Public Libraries Division, 'this library will accept referrals from public libraries for all print-handicapped persons, these being not only the visually handicapped but the physically handicapped unable to handle books'.

Finally, it must be pointed out that many public libraries in New South Wales already provide spoken word audio tapes which are used extensively by print-handicapped people: these include in some instances the RBS talking books which may now, as Mr Laurence points out, be purchased from the Society. A substantial part of the funds for the purchase of these audio tapes comes from the Government's 'Special Grants' to public libraries.

*R.F. Doust*  
State Librarian of NSW

Jan Smark from the Braille and Talking Book Library in Victoria has informed us that the Liberal Government in that State has given three percent of the total State Library Funding to BTBL. The allocation for 1981/82 will be \$378,000. This will enable the Library to serve all types of handicapped people.

## Free home library service

**H**URSTVILLE/ROCKDALE Councils in NSW are now running a Home Library Service which is free of charge and has been set up to service those people who are incapacitated, and therefore unable to borrow personally from Council's libraries.

The Home Library Service Officer calls on new borrowers to discuss their reading interests and selects the books accordingly, which are then delivered and the returns collected fortnightly (or as arranged) on a set day.

The Home Library Service has its own book stock, but the entire facilities of the Library and Information Service are available to borrowers. 450 Hear-a-Book titles as well as C77 cassette players are available for loan to the blind and partially sighted. Borrowers may also use the cassette collection - this includes classical, folk, ethnic and modern music, poetry and plays and the Information and Reference Service is available through the Home Library Service.

As this is the International Year of the Disabled Person, the Home Library Service has produced a much needed and varied amount of information (in large print as well as on cassette), that incapacitated and housebound would otherwise be unaware of. This is a service that the Home Library Service hopes to continue.

A quarterly magazine called *Time Span* is also printed (again in large type), with articles such as book reviews, poetry, local history, letters and articles of comment from borrowers etc. This proved to be extremely popular with all the borrowers and is free of charge.

Recently, the Home Library Service received a State Government grant of \$20,000 to improve its service. The grant will be spent on tapes for the blind and reading aids for the partially sighted.

*Beth McEachran*



## LAA 22 DRAFT PROGRAM AND TOURS

**P**LANNING FOR LAA 22 is now well underway, and the next issue of *Incite* will give tours information and a preliminary draft program showing session topics and speakers, where the latter have been confirmed.

There will be four plenary sessions:

The Opening Address, 'Libraries in a time of economic crisis' will be delivered by Professor Don Stranks, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide;

'Networking' by Susan Martin of John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA;

'Libraries and the community' by Charles Robinson, Baltimore County Public Library, USA, and;

The social impact of the new technologies' by Brian Abbey of the South Australian Public Service Association.

Other speakers have been chosen from diverse backgrounds and many non-librarians will feature in the program.

*Julie Dow*