

News from the Divisions

VIC BRANCH

Non-book material copying

Branch Council has discussed the draft LAA Statement on 'Copyright of Non-Book Materials'. It was agreed that the present amended Copyright Act would be a more appropriate basis for legislation than the draft guidelines and that the LAA should be requested to lobby to have the current Act amended to cater for all materials irrespective of format.

State Library building

A letter has been received from the Premier's Department recently which states that... 'Construction of a building to house the State Library will be among the programs to be undertaken when the Arts Centre Project is completed'.

The Labor Party has announced that if it gets into power in Victoria the Queen Victoria Hospital, which is adjacent to the present Library building, will be moved to Clayton as was discussed by the Government some years ago. The new State Library would then be built on the old Hospital site.

Branch Council agreed that this would be an extremely convenient site. However, it was noted that there could be objections within the community to the move of the Queen Victoria Hospital as there have been to the use of the Market site.

Branch Council will therefore continue to lobby for a new Library but does not wish to involve itself further in discussions of the site.

State FOI legislation

Branch Council will comment on the proposed Victorian FOI Legislation and will liaise with the Victorian FOI Group. Any comments on the Bill should be forwarded to Ray Price (341 6656) or Virginia De Crespigny (544 8544).

Student representation

The student representative on Branch Council can now be elected by a library school for librarians or by a library technician training school. The school will be determined by rotation.

Public Library funding

The State Task Force on Funding for Public Libraries is providing a series of posters for use in libraries. Further details from Graham Dudley (669 9888). *Doreen Parker*

Photographic register

A register is being compiled to determine the photographic resources of Western Australia. The compilers, Robin South and Paul Malone, say that the survey is not restricted to historical photographs but to any collections in WA.

Registration forms are available from Robin South, Registrar, 102 Beaufort Street, Perth, 6000. Entries close 31 January 1982.

Coober Pedy's library service

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN opal mining town of Coober Pedy is remarkable not only for its stunning gems and all-mod-cons underground lifestyle but also for its school.

On a recent trip, I had the pleasure of meeting Alana Mellor, teacher-librarian at the Coober Pedy Area School. The library serves not only the pupils aged six to 16, but also the varied multi-ethnic community. At the time of my visit to the school, children of all ages were sprawled on beanbags or seated at tables in animated discussion or wandering up to Alana to seek her advice.

Since her arrival four years ago, Alana has catalogued the library's hitherto unrecorded holdings; selected books and magazines 'on loan' from the central system and acquired permanent stock according to needs and funds. She makes two trips a year to the City (Adelaide) Public Library. A third is made by the teacher-aid with whom she maintains the services.

According to Alana, the integration into a Community Library has not only brought adult interest and support to the library, but also to school activities as a whole.

Members of the community are welcome to drop in any time and talk over their information needs. Parents now realise the importance of a well-stocked library and fully support Alana's application for an extension to the building. This would give a much needed 'quiet' study area to teenagers doing projects.

The greatest immediate need is for up-to-date ready-reference books — the *Australian Yearbooks* I saw on the shelves were for 1969 and 1973. On the other hand, Australian encyclopedias and other aspects of Australiana are well catered for.

The day I called, Alana was happily excited at the thought of flying out to Adelaide that afternoon for her book selection trip to Adelaide, well armed with requests from adults and children. She was enthusiastic about the

extension proposals, although not sanguine about their coming to fruition. The plans include a garden area outside the new study section — a change from the barren and stark school surroundings.

When she had gone, I wandered over to a group of eight to 10-year-olds, sitting cross-legged in a circle on the floor. 'Now what is 750?', the teacher-aid asked. Silence. Finally, a little girl put up her hand: 'Painting, Miss,' she said quietly. 'Yes, that's right. You should all have known that by now!' And then the class was over and they all filed out in the good old-fashioned way.

Three cheers for Alana (who also teaches Italian and Science as required) and her teacher-aids who, between them, give priceless personal commitment and warmth to library service, out there among the miners and seekers after fortune from all corners of the earth.

Vera Scherer
Nth Melbourne

Letters

Charging for ILL

It is of interest to read the Victorian 'Branch Council agreed that it is opposed to charging by libraries for inter-library loan transactions'. (*Incite* no18, 16 October).

It would have been instructive to have had a reasoned statement of arguments that led to this agreement. It is easy to be opposed to charging, much as one is opposed to air pollution or wife bashing. It doesn't require much thought.

However, I wonder whether those who oppose charging for ILL have really thought the matter through. With extensive cuts in funding we are in danger of ILL coming to a virtual halt.

One reason is that net lenders will no longer be able to contribute as much as \$85,000 per year (for a large library) for the benefit of other libraries. If they do continue to provide free ILL the cuts have to be made elsewhere and one of the obvious targets is the serial collection. In this case ILL will soon be seriously imperilled, because these same net lenders will no longer have the collections.

Put a little simplistically the choice is between maintained collections and a viable ILL system where the borrowing library bears the cost, and a gradual erosion of collections, which cannot provide the requested ILL although free.

What needs to be considered in this context is the best use made of every library dollar. By charging for ILL by means of a simple voucher system every library will live within its means making the best decision about every dollar in its budget — whether to spend it on an ILL or on a purchase.

We certainly can no longer pretend that ILL is free. It is rather a question of who pays, the lender or the borrower.

Rob Brian
University of New South Wales

NY LOOKING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

IT WILL NOW be possible for librarians trained in other countries to gain certification as professional librarians to enable them to work in New York State's public libraries.

The NY Board of Regents has accepted procedures developed by a Professional Certification Committee designed to admit to practice 'foreign trained librarians whose professional education program is equivalent to programs registered by the Department of Education'.

Explaining the new regulations, a release from the NY State Library comments: 'Previously there had been no means by which librarians educated in other countries but without experience could be granted a certificate allowing them to be employed as public librarians... The new regulation responds to today's needs. In particular, libraries with strong bilingual programs have been in the past unable to hire individuals with the cultural, ethnic and linguistic background most suited for bilingual programs'.

Information on the new certification program is available from E.J. Josey, Chief, Bureau of Specialist Library Services, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230.

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