

question whether Australia in fact does need an information policy.

This question was also raised by Tony Klingender, General Manager of ACI Computer Services, who was concerned that neither the public nor the private sector should be prevented from taking appropriate initiatives.

Roles

Harrison Bryan, Director-General of the National Library, spoke of the role of libraries in the national information area. He drew an important distinction between policy and planning: ALIC, for which he has great hopes, is involved in the planning process, as are most librarians' initiatives.

The Chairman of AACOBS Standing Committee, Bob Sharman, commented that, like Mark Twain's weather, national information policy was something that 'everybody talks about, but nobody does anything about it'. In AACOBS's case this is not for want of trying: three states (NSW, Victoria and Tasmania) have responded positively to AACOBS draft State Information Policies. However the Commonwealth government has failed to commit itself.

Judith Baskin, incoming Association President, stressed the role of the Association in working for a national information policy 'to ensure a coherent and consistent approach to the provision of information'. She called for the establishment of a consultative body to provide authoritative advice to government on national information policy.

Other issues

A formal seminar dinner was held at the Lakeside Hotel, at which Lindsay Curtis, First Assistant Secretary in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, raised a number of important legal issues relating to any national information policy: privacy, copyright, freedom of information.

On the second day of the seminar the Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Communications spoke of the government's communications policy ('in a

very fluid state'); Barry Jones, MP, told us we needed a national information policy; and Senator David Hamer told us of the information we were already getting from the government.

Major papers came from Ashley Goldsworthy (President of the Australian Computer Society) and Peter Judge (CSIRO). Goldsworthy addressed issues of privacy, transborder data flows, and policy issues that an effective national information policy must consider. He feels 'There has been an almost total concern with economic issues to the complete exclusion of social issues', a balance which must be redressed.

Peter Judge discussed Australia's great dependence on overseas research and overseas data bases, in a paper closely related to his recent VALA keynote address. He called for consideration of planning, co-ordinating and development machinery in Australia for our information industry.

Panel session

Bill Welsh, Harrison Bryan and Ashley Goldsworthy joined together for the concluding session of the seminar. Bill Welsh suggested Australia hasten slowly in an area where so many statements are but 'pious hopes'.

In a motion from the floor, Allan Horton proposed 'that AACOBS convene a meeting of bodies interested in the development of a plan of action to arrive at principles for the creation of a national information policy'.

Much discussion ensued including the suggestion that we should be concentrating not on policies as such but on particular issues. Allan's motion was referred to AACOBS Standing Committee (due to meet the following day), and on this positive note the seminar ended.

Papers to be published

All of the major papers presented at the seminar will be published early in the new year (details will be announced in *Incite*). Proceedings were not tape recorded, so questions and the final panel session will not be able to be included.

Peter Clayton.

LAA and AGs meet yet again

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S Department convened a second meeting on 30 September to discuss further the operation of the new copyright procedures. The Library Association of Australia was represented by Allan Horton and Susan Acutt. Other bodies present included AACOBS, the Copyright Agency and Copyright Council. The aim of the meeting was to discuss matters of principle rather than interpretation and to report on results of the previous meeting.

Definition of 'Educational Institution'

Some uncertainty has arisen about whether libraries at teaching hospitals, which are being asked to make multiple copies available, are in fact eligible to make copies under S53B. It was thought that where those for whom the copies were made were students of a qualified institution, e.g. a university or CAE, copies could be made under S53B(1)(b) and S53B(2)(b). It was pointed out that some students could be those working for postgraduate qualifications of one of the professional colleges and not enrolled at an 'Educational Institution' as defined.

It was agreed that the Department would invite a submission from hospitals following which discussions could take place with the Copyright Council about possible widening of the definition.

The 'double' declaration under S50(7)

Some libraries have received legal advice that, on the wording of this clause, a declaration by the library is required even where neither S50(7)(a) or (b) apply.

The Copyright Council agrees that the clause can be read this way and that if this is the correct interpretation, it is quite an unnecessary requirement.

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LAA'S CONTINUING SAGA

THE LAA HAS HAD a rather long and tedious saga about its office accommodation. As you are aware, for a considerable length of time the Association leased office space in Clarence Street.

The rapidly increasing cost of this exercise led to the decision that we would purchase a property which would provide an excellent insurance against rising costs as well as being able to take advantage of the capital gains accruing in the Sydney property scene.

Members of Head Office who were engaged in the activity of searching for a property quickly came to learn that commercial properties were scarce and expensive.

In July 1978 Standing Committee gave permission to purchase a property. After a period of 24 months a contract was signed in our present property at Elizabeth Street and it was not until 10 months later that the LAA occupied its new premises.

When I took up the position of Executive Director on 20 July the staff had inhabited our office for three months and in that time it quickly became apparent that the accommodation was less than optimal. In fact, the office is so cramped that staff often have to work at home, and wait eagerly for me to be out of the office so that there is another desk

in a relatively quiet area.

The other major problem was the noise level from Elizabeth Street which was tested as being considerably above the acceptable level for office work. This has been rectified to a certain degree by the double glazing of the front windows.

As time progressed the working conditions became worse as other problems presented themselves - for example, lack of ventilation and the heat of the building. There were no fans or awnings: this has been rectified. The basement where our publications are stored has a problem of damp, and generally there is no space for stores. The kitchen is presently overcrowded with boxes of padded bags and a working table for the preparation of the *Copyright Kit*.

The members may well ask why these problems in a building that has been recently purchased. The main reason is a simple underestimation of the space required. Since the contract was signed we have increased our staff with the appointment of the CE Officer. No-one really anticipated the problems created by a small building on three levels: the amount of space we have would be more adequate if on the one level.

Following lengthy discussion and reports the Executive decided that the only alterna-

tive was for the Association to look for other accommodation. At the General Council meeting in November, Council resolved that 'the Executive be given authority to negotiate contracts on alternative accommodation'.

The basic criteria for selection of another building include:

- if possible, buy much more space than is presently required and lease that not used. This will allow room for expansion in the future;
- in the area purchased there must be adequate room for staff, a meeting room/library for Executive meetings, Publications Board meetings, etc.;
- an area where LAA publications can be displayed to prospective purchasers;
- an area where members can be interviewed by the staff and consult any records or publications of the LAA;
- other factors such as accessibility, location, value for money, etc.

The most heartening point at the moment is that Elizabeth Street was purchased for \$162,000 and will be on the market for \$240,000.

It is an excellent buy for an office of seven people, perfect location and many wonderful restaurants to choose from!
Susan Acutt
Executive Director

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The Department will investigate the history of this clause to discover why it was drawn in this way, and will consider whether a change is warranted.

Illustrations

The general situation with illustrations is as follows:

They can be copied under S53B and S53C when they form an integral part of text which is being copied.

A private individual can make a copy provided that the copying fits within the fair dealing provisions of Section 40. There is some doubt how far copies can be made under S40 by librarians acting in their official capacities.

S53B can be used to make a slide for educational purposes.

In other cases permission should probably be sought.

Music

There was discussion about whether an aria is a whole work or part of a work. The consensus was that there was no doubt when the copy was taken from the complete score that an aria was only a part.

Notation on inter-library loans

The Department's view is that in the case of an inter-library loan, it is preferable for the supplying library to make the notation. However, the Act does not specifically state this.

The fact that the date on the notation is not the date of the Declaration is unfortunate.

Copying for remote users

There have been strong representations from Parliamentary librarians for changes to S49 which requires a specific request and Declaration to be submitted in advance signed by the person making the request.

Four possible changes were considered:

- The Librarian, having received a telephone request and satisfied that the user cannot come to the library, might make a declaration to that effect and supply the photocopy;
- there might be a delegation of authority to a third party to sign a request and Declaration;
- there might be a statutory licence for multiple copies, e.g. to supply copies of a document to all members of a committee;
- there might be a special provision for Parliamentarians.

The LAA and AACOBS representatives expressed concern that the granting of special privileges to Parliamentarians, for instance on the lines of S43(2), might mean that the needs of other remote users might not be given sufficient priority in amending the legislation.

It appeared that an amendment might be acceptable to the Copyright Council which would permit the Librarian to make the declaration where a request for a specific item was received from a remote user, provided that there were safeguards against systematic copying.

The Council opposed any change which would permit librarians to make copies in response to topical (i.e. non-specific) requests or anything which would sanction anticipatory copying. Copyright owners did not like the present single copying without royalty but had accepted it. They would not be willing to allow the provision to be widened to a situation where libraries could offer a general information service through provision

of photocopies for which no royalties were paid.

There was general agreement that if an amendment could be made to permit the Librarian to make the declaration in the case of specific requests from remote users, there would be no objection to special arrangements being made under S43 for Parliamentarians.

Criminal Offences

The Department is considering recommending that the defence against various S203 offences might be altered so that it would be sufficient for the officer-in-charge to be able to show that 'he took all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the 'contravention''. In other words, the officer-in-charge would be culpable only for wilful breach of the provisions concerning records.

The implications of removing the criminal conviction provision were also being examined. There were complications because changes would raise questions about where the onus of prosecution lay and the court in which cases would be heard.

Inspection of Declarations

Education authorities have objected to the generality of the right to inspect records because this could mean that one copyright owner could pass on information to another copyright owner that the second copyright owner's rights appeared to have been infringed.

AACOBS had raised the question of industrial espionage through the inspection of declarations held by the libraries of commercial organisations. Privacy issues were also relevant.

It appeared that the right of a copyright owner to inspect all declarations had been inserted to prevent the need for a copyright agency to specify on each occasion all of the copyright owners on whose behalf it was acting. The general search facility also prevented libraries having to file declarations in other than chronological order.

There appeared to be a general consensus that it could be made an offence to disclose wrongfully information gained from inspections. An alternative suggestion, inspection by a neutral party on behalf of copyright owners, appeared impracticable.

The Attorney-General's Department hoped that another meeting would be convened before the end of the year to discuss further areas of concern. The date has not yet been set, so if members have problems of principle that they would like discussed please notify Head Office as soon as possible.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

Results of Elections

FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS for 1982 office bearers for the LAA held in November, the results are as follows:

Vice-President elect: Barrie Mitcheson, 5 Fran Court, Glen Waverley Vic 3150.

General Secretary: Averill Edwards, PO Box 679, Canberra City ACT 2601.

Councillors-at-large: John Levett (until end 1983), c/o School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252C, Hobart Tas 7001; Linda Beveridge (until end 1982), PO Box 679, Canberra City ACT 2601.

We wish them all the best and hope that their work for the LAA is enjoyable and rewarding.

C'wealth pays up

ON 21 DECEMBER Deputy Public Service Arbitrator Booth determined salary increases for Commonwealth Librarians after a lengthy and detailed arbitration on work value grounds.

This was the first occasion on which Commonwealth librarians salaries had been specifically examined since 1964.

The increases were in two parts: 5.6 per cent from 22 November 1980 (in line with other professional groups in the Commonwealth Public Service) and what amounted to a further 10.5 per cent to 14.4 per cent from 17 December 1981. The latter compares with the 10 per cent to 13.2 per cent increases granted to Commonwealth Clerks on 22 December 1981.

Commonwealth librarians salaries are now as follows:

Librarian Class 1: \$14,800; \$15,500; \$16,300; \$17,200; \$18,100; \$18,900; \$19,700;

Librarian Class 2: \$20,500; \$21,100; \$21,800; \$22,500;

Librarian Class 3: \$23,500; \$24,500; \$25,500; \$26,500;

Principal Librarian: \$29,000; \$30,000; \$31,000.

Judith Hill
LAA Industrial Officer

Awards conferred

THE PRESIDENT OF the Library Association of Australia for 1981, Mr James G. Dwyer, announced on 14 December the decision of the Association's General Council to present its highest awards for 1981 to two South Australians.

The HCL Anderson Award for outstanding service by a professional librarian is to be conferred on Miss Phyllis Mander-Jones of Medindie. Miss Mander-Jones, now in her 86th year, served the profession with distinction in Australia and England in the fields of librarianship, archives and bibliography. She is a Fellow of the Library Association of Australia, a member of the Australian Society of Archivists and of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia and has been honoured with an MBE.

The Redmond Barry Award for outstanding service by a lay person to the promotion of libraries and library services is to be conferred on Mr James Allen Crawford of Brighton. Mr Crawford has dedicated many years to community services and public libraries in particular. He has chaired and served on many committees concerned with the planning and implementation of library services, has been Chairman of the Libraries Board of South Australia since 1977 and until recently was Mayor of the City of Brighton. In 1979 he was awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of his dedication to community services.

Both Awards will be presented during the Association's biennial conference in 1982 which coincidentally will be held in Adelaide.

'Meet the author'

DARWIN CITY PUBLIC Library was the venue recently for a 'Meet the Author' evening at which Dr Grahame Webb, one of Australia's foremost authorities on crocodiles, spoke about his book *Numunwari*.

The meeting was made possible by a grant from the Literature Board through the Australian Library Promotion Council, and was a great success.