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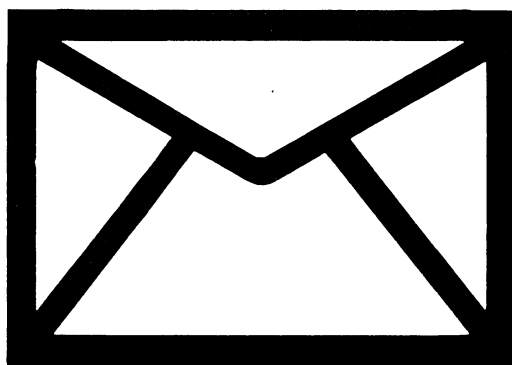
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Binding Standards

While recently browsing through the first issue of the LAA New South Wales Branch Bulletin (No 1, July 1958), I discovered an item which referred to a suggestion made by Miss Spencer that the 'Library Association should approach publishers regarding binding standards'.

Miss Spencer commented on the need for much stronger binding, especially for items in continuous circulation. She also criticised the use of the 'perfect binding' style of binding, stating how ill suited it was to library use.

Included at the end of this short item was a recommendation to approach General Council with the view to establishing a set of publishing standards and in turn passing these on to publishers and booksellers in Australia. To my knowledge no such set of publishing standards has been established, despite the fact that these concerns expressed in 1958 are as relevant today, and perhaps even more so. We no longer have the choice to purchase the 'library binding' as it

Members of the Riverina Regional Group of the LAA were dining with guest speakers Janet Robinson and Russell Doust in Wagga Wagga after the AGM on September 25. By chance the President of the LAA dropped in at the same restaurant, which rounded off a most successful occasion.

was called, which provided a much stronger binding suited for library use. Instead, increasingly we are often able to purchase only the so-called perfect binding, especially with recent imprints.

As this style of binding is supposedly only guaranteed for six uses before it falls apart, and as a librarian who has complained individually to publishers, but to no avail, I wonder if perhaps we should again take up Miss Spencer's suggestion.
Craig Grimison
Canberra College of Advanced Education

AACOBS Working Party alive and well

I refer to a reference in *InCite* volume 3 no 8 (1 October 1982) which seems to suggest that AACOBS has already abolished its Working Party on Systems and Communications. Under the heading DOMSAT in your General Council report, you state that AACOBS and the LAA have agreed to disband the DOMSAT Committee and establish a new joint committee. 'The new committee will combine the functions of the Domsat Committee and the AACOBS Working Party on Systems and Communications.'

It is true that agreement has been given in principle for the formation of a new joint AACOBS/LAA joint committee, possibly somewhat analogous to the Australian Committee on Cataloguing. However readers should be reassured that for the present the AACOBS Working Party on Systems and Communications is alive and well and residing in Denis Richardson and his cohorts. It is only the National Council of AACOBS that can abolish or define terms of reference for a Working Party. That meets next in August 1983.

Robert Sharman
Chairman

AACOBS Standing Committee

Books still the major means of communication

IN OPENING the Frankfurt Book Fair on October 5 Michael Zifcak, President, International Booksellers' Federation, said that although it is generally accepted that the Fair, the largest in the world, is a gathering of book people to buy and sell, 'what we are really doing is spreading culture, disseminating ideas . . . transferring the products of one mind to the minds of others. That we are concerned with culture is demonstrated by the theme of this year's Fair, which is *Religion*'.

Michael Zifcak pointed out that some experts predict that books will be replaced by silicon chips and the terminal will replace the bookshop. 'We all believe *the book* will remain and assert itself even more as a primary means of communication. Other media will take their place alongside books in libraries, schools and homes. It must be remembered that the first printed book was also a significant technological advance.'

He pointed out that the role of the book in the spectrum of communication media may well be affected, but its future is not in doubt. 'It is significant,' he said, 'that the UNESCO World Congress on Books, held in London in June this year, adopted the phrase "The Book in the Future", clearly indicating that the book will exist.' He claimed that if the book did not exist today, amidst all the electronic communication media, it would have to be invented.



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