

PLD (Vic) Special Projects Grant

A PUBLIC LIBRARIES Division (Victoria) Special Projects Grant of \$11,000 was made to Hawthorn City Library in 1981, on behalf of six public libraries which had come together to discuss their provision of reference services. The libraries concerned are Hawthorn City Library, Moorabbin City Library, Heidelberg Regional Library Service, Oakleigh Public Library, Nunawading Public Library and Dandenong Valley Regional Library Service, and the grant was to cover the salary of a part-time library officer and administrative costs.

On 13 May Ms Barbara Tout commenced work as the Project Officer, to carry out research in the area of reference effectiveness.

Barbara was previously Acting Legal Deposit Officer at the State Library of Victoria, and held positions at Dandenong Valley Regional Library Service, the latest being Deputy Springvale Librarian/Readers Advisor.

As part of her project involves an assessment of what constitutes an adequate reference stock for the six participating libraries, effective use of this stock by staff is seen as important in developing reference services.

In order to evaluate reference services, staff will be asked to participate in tests at the beginning and end of the project.

Barbara will be presenting a report to the PLD on reference services development within the Co-operative at the end of her 12 months' appointment. She hopes that the methods used throughout the project will be suitable for application in any library wishing to investigate their own reference services.

Continuing Education: 1982 Programs

THIS YEAR THE ASSOCIATION will be offering two national programs, both of them focusing on people at work.

The first, 'Librarians and Industrial Relations', will familiarise participants with the growing range of industrial matters that will confront them as the workforce feels the impact of recent economic technological and legislative developments.

As well as discussing the features of Australia's industrial relations systems which are of importance to librarians, the course will explore methods of dealing with problems such as restructuring the workforce to deal with financial and other changes; redeployment and redundancy; negotiating awards and agreements; and handling disputes.

There will also be opportunities to discuss issues which influence employer-employee relations including the exercise of management prerogatives; staff militancy; job demarcation and health and safety.

The two-day program will be of value to all librarians who are involved in industrial relations (voluntarily or involuntarily), but senior librarians, those representing employers or employee associations will find it particularly useful.

Plans are to launch the course in Sydney in late March, and to offer it in other states in April-June.

Librarians who would like the chance to improve their skills in the day to day handling of staff will have the chance to do so later in the year by attending 'Managing People at Work' - a short course which had a successful first run as a NSW Branch/Hunter Valley Group project in 1981.

This two-day workshop deals in a wholly

practical way with staff training, counselling, performance appraisal and the management of complaints and grievances.

The program has a wide appeal but it has been specifically designed to cater for the needs of branch librarians, section heads and librarians in charge of small libraries. It will be offered to all states expressing a firm interest in October-November.

For further information about both programs watch *Incite* no3.

Meryllyn Bryce
CE Officer

New technologies for LAA22

Another speaker at LAA 22 will be Brian Abbey, a non-librarian, who will speak on the special impact of new technologies.

Brian completed an Arts degree specialising in Politics at Monash University in the mid 1960s. He was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Adelaide in 1969. In 1979 he became Chief Projects Officer with the Public Service Association of SA, a position he is relinquishing at the end of 1981 to return to the University of Adelaide.

He has lectured widely on various aspects of technological change and is concerned about the deterioration of public sector services, which include libraries. He maintains that once services are allowed to run down, interest in them declines and they can then be very difficult to upgrade. Any such services turned over to private enterprise will be improved only if they are profit-producing.

Julie Dow and Jennifer Redding

NSW TAFE Conference

THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY Services of the New South Wales Department of Technical and Further Education, held its annual conference 'LIB-TALK' in Sydney on 15-16 December 1981. LIBTALK, a two-day activity, was attended by over 200 librarians, library technicians and library support staff from TAFE Library Services throughout New South Wales.

The first day was a general session which included reports on the overview and progress of TAFE Library Services since the last conference plus an Open Forum; the day culminating in the address given by Dr. Allan Pattison, the recently appointed Director-General of TAFE.

The second day of the LIBTALK conference consisted of a number of workshops on topics which, whilst of specific interest to TAFE library staff, are also of current and ongoing concern to librarians generally. The eight workshops covered areas such as: The role and functions of library technicians; copyright; effective utilisation of staff resources; library services to the disabled; the librarian as educator; community college/joint-use library; college library staff in the work situation; the relocation of Sydney Technical College Library (see *Incite* no7, 15 May 1981 p5).

The recommendation and papers forthcoming from the various workshops are to



Dr. Allan Pattison, Director-General, NSW Dept of TAFE.

be published in the TAFE Library Services publication *Library News*. The current editor of *Library News*, Ms. Julie Sekhon would be willing to answer any further enquiries.

Ross Manley

Forgotten box

Have you forgotten that the LAA has a post office box?

To refresh your memory, it is PO Box M371, Sydney Mail Exchange NSW 2012.

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship of the Library Association of Australia is a distinction which may be conferred on a member who has made a distinguished contribution to the theory or practice of librarianship.

Members and divisions of the Association are reminded that the Board of Education is always prepared to consider recommendations for Fellowships. The Board will be meeting on 25 and 26 March, in July and in October this year.

Regulations B8 to B15 set out the criteria for these awards, and the procedure for making recommendations. Model recommendations, nomination forms and further advice are available from the Association's office.

All recommendations are confidential, and it is essential that individuals being proposed for Fellowships should not be advised.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director