

# MORE NEWS ABOUT LAA 22

## Special Study

'Priorities in hard times' is the theme of the University and College Libraries Section special study at LAA 22. Allocation of resources, automation, microforms and co-operative ventures are among the timely issues to be considered and there will be ample opportunity for discussion.

Distinguished speakers include Dr F. Ratcliffe, Cambridge University Librarian; Dorothy Butler, author, bookseller and publisher, Auckland; Patricia Cianciolo, Professor of Children's and Adolescent Literature, Michigan State University; Susan Martin, Director, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Julie Virgo, Executive Secretary, Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association; John Yocklunn, National Librarian, Papua New Guinea; F. Curtis May, Director of Library Services, San Mateo County Office of Education, California and Charles Robinson, Director, Baltimore Public Library.

Tours to a number of S.A. university and college libraries will also be arranged.



Patricia Cianciolo

## Libraries and the Community

*In Baltimore county, we are interested in reading — reading for all purposes — because we feel that reading is a civilizing as well as an indispensable part of modern life. We do not believe in telling people what they should be reading, because we avoid making this kind of value judgment. We rely instead on a policy of supplying to people what they have demonstrated they need and want in their borrowing at our libraries.\**

Do you believe that libraries ought to give priority to books of enduring worth? Are you buying copies of *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*, the current best-seller, even though it has been slated by the critics?

Do you see the public library's task as providing what the public demands? Are circulation figures the best measure of the value of the library to the community? Is it the librarian's role to tell people what they should be reading?

Can you defend the view that the selection of library materials is made for the potential user today and posterity tomorrow? Is it preferable to read something, whatever its quality, rather than not read at all?

These are some of the questions that sprang to my mind when I read articles by and about Charles Robinson, Director of Baltimore County Public Library. He will address a Plenary session of the LAA Conference on the theme *Libraries and the Community*.

He has worked in public libraries since 1953, and under his directorship, the Baltimore County Public Library has become the most successful in USA in terms of book circulation per capita.

He is very articulate in defence of BCPL policies, and on the subject of intellectual freedom, and his lecture should arouse lively reaction.

\* Charles Robinson, 'Debate and Discussion on Public Libraries' *The Sun*, (Baltimore), 12 April, 1980.

Elsie Ahrens

**The adult as learner**  
**Lifelong learning and libraries**  
Adelaide, August '82.

## COUNCILLORS-AT-LARGE

Please note that Linda Beveridge's address for General Council matters is PO Box 1796, Canberra City ACT 2601.

Linda Beveridge will be happy to discuss issues with groups or talk to individuals at a mutually arranged time. She will be in Sydney from 16-17 April for General Council.

Her telephone numbers are: work (062) 66 4798 and home (062) 31 8115.

You, the members of LAA, elected the Councillors-at-large as your representatives on General Council. They are happy to hear from you on any matter that you wish to be brought before the General Council.

John Levett, c/- School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252C, Hobart Tas 7001 is the other Councillor-at-large.

Please contact them!

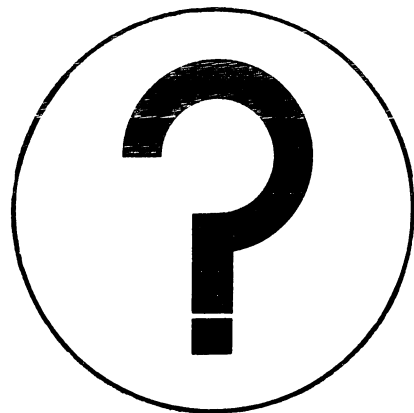
## Library systems now available

RICHMOND MICRO SOFTWARE of Richmond, BC Canada have announced the availability of several extensive Library systems for use with the APPLE 11+ (tm) micro-computer and one or two disc drives.

Each system has been field tested in the programmer's own Library as well as in several other Library environments, and the manufacturers say, should meet the requirements of the most demanding professionals.

There is a Library Ordering System, a Library Cataloguing System, a Library Catalogue Card & Label Production System, a Library Magazine Accessioning System and a Library On-Line Circulation System.

For further information contact Richmond Micro Software, Box 94088, Richmond, BC, Canada V6Y ZAZ.



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Replace the questionmark with a meaningful slogan which identifies with the aims of the  
**22nd L.A.A. Conference**  
to be held in Adelaide, South Australia,  
**August 22-26, 1982.**

The four Conference themes are:

Libraries in a time of economic crisis —  
Networking; who benefits? — Libraries and  
the Community — The social impact of the new  
technologies.

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Send to:— Sheena Grant, Thiele Library,  
Hartley C.A.E., Lorne Ave. Magill 5072 S. Aust.  
**Closing Date: April 1, 1982.**

## Pretty NIPpy!

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS wanted to know about a National Information Policy, but weren't NIPpy enough to ask is contained in an important new publication from the LAA (ACT Branch).

The proceedings of a seminar held on 7-8 December 1981 have now been published and are being distributed through the LAA.

The aim of the seminar was to bring together the various segments of the information community to discuss what each would like from a NIP.

The government sector identified the difficulties and problems associated with formulating an information policy, including industrial and social issues such as technology, structural adjustment, national control, tariffs, management of infrastructure, employment, privacy, access and copyright, and cultural issues.

The private sector were concerned that an information czar should not be created and that neither they nor the public sector should be prevented from taking appropriate initiatives.

The roles of various organisations such as the recently formed Australian Library and Information Council, AACOBS and the LAA in the development of a NIP were also put forward.

To obtain a copy of the papers, contact the LAA Publications Office, 473 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010. The cost is \$9.95 to members, \$11.95 to non-members.