

Success of OMS Management Institutes

A NUMBER of Australian academic and research libraries participated in a co-operative project in offering two residential Advanced Management Institutes for senior library managers in Sydney (April 11-15) and Melbourne (April 25-29).

They were conducted by the Office of Management Studies (OMS) of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), Washington DC, with Duane Webster, Director, as Leader and Maureen Sullivan (now Head of Personnel, Yale University Library) as Associate. This is the first time that these Institutes have been given outside North America.

Margaret Trask's study leave last year involved a survey of staff development in a number of Australian libraries, followed by participation in OMS activities during her visit to North America. Thanks to her initiatives and the organisational assistance of Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, OMS was approached and Duane Webster agreed to lead the Institutes, with assistance from Maureen Sullivan of Yale University Library, formerly OMS Training Specialist. The pledge of support in nominating staff to attend the Institutes by the Committee of Australian University Librarians (CAUL), the State Librarians' Council (SLC), the National Library and several large College of Advanced Education libraries was an essential element in allowing planning to proceed without any guaranteed source of financial support.

The Institutes represented a landmark in staff development in Australian libraries. They were designed for practising librarians holding senior management positions, and topics studied in-depth included:

1. Organisational diagnosis and change.
2. Executive leadership and decision making.
3. Planning and goal-setting.
4. Building management teams.
5. Communication skills.

The Institutes were presented using OMS formats and content which emphasise management in a library context. OMS is specifically geared to helping academic and research libraries meet changing demands through sound management of available human and physical resources.

Numbers had to be restricted due to the

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?



Professional storyteller Kym Lardner is shown with a member of his audience in the Carnegie Library, Mildura. To find out more, turn to page 4. Photograph by Photo Fella, Mildura, for the Sunraysia Daily Newspaper

nature and presentation of the Institute programs. The success of the Institutes points to the need for continuing to develop links formed with OMS and if possible to enable Australian participation in future programmes relevant to library development in this country.

As a result of the extremely favourable response to the Institutes, a number of participants put forward suggestions of possible means of co-operation in the future. The Advisory Committee formed from CAUL, the State Librarians' Council and other interests, will stay in existence and will seek ways and means of developing possible collaborative links which might be of mutual benefit in making these skills and expertise available to Australian libraries of various types in the future. Possible collaborative links will be evaluated by a small planning group from the Advisory Committee, consisting of Margaret Trask, Head, School of Library and Information Studies, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, Barrie Mitcheson, Institute Librarian, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Eoin Wilkinson, University Librarian, Macquarie University. The group is preparing a report on the Institutes and will look into possible future developments along co-operative lines.

New graduate diploma at Kuring-gai CAE

BEGINNING IN late July 1983, the School of Library and Information Studies at Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education will offer a Graduate Diploma in Information Studies (Child/Young Adult). The course is designed for people who wish to further their knowledge, competency, and skills in services to children and young adults through library and other information agencies.

Units of study, which can be undertaken part-time over a two or three year period, include: child/young adult growth and development, social dynamics, communication, information resources and services, and programme management. In addition to classroom study, course participants will be able to pursue special issues and areas of personal interest by means of seminar programmes, practice study options, and an in-depth individual project.

Applicants for the course should possess a degree or equivalent in a discipline other than librarianship, together with a recog-

nised qualification in librarianship (eg BA, Dip Lib) OR a recognised degree in librarianship (eg BA [Lib Sci]) together with at least two years' experience in a recognised library or information agency.

Further details will be discussed at a Briefing Session at Kuring-gai College on Tuesday, June 7, at 6.00 pm. For additional information and/or application forms contact the School of Library and Information Studies at Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education.

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