

# News from the Divisions

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION (WA GROUP)

**Report of meetings for 1982:** Eight meetings were held during 1982, with those on ABN/WALN held early in the year, 'Not Enough Staff . . .' held May '82, and the Parliamentary Library and Access to WA Government Publications held in June 1982, reported earlier. The following meetings concluded a busy and informative year for the Group:

**Computer based indexing system for photographs, August 3:** Woodside Offshore Petroleum Information Services again showed itself a leader in special librarianship. The innovative system shown for indexing photographs and other a-v material was impressive. It was easy to understand and had possibilities for implementation elsewhere, including conversion to a manual system — no mean feat in this age of technology!

A delightful evening with the accent on fun was held on August 17. Two films 'Will You Answer Me True?' starring John Cleese, and 'The Tennis Match' provided excellent comedy as well as some telling points about different aspects of people at work.

**Department of Education, W.J. Rooney Library and Information Analysis Centre, September 22:** This meeting took place at the space-age look premises of the WA Department of Education. Discussion included the problem of moving a library that is part of a large organisation, and consequently some unique features of libraries which tend to be ignored by planners. The products of

the Centre drew envious sighs from people who could not produce such excellent in-house information dissemination services.

**WAIT/Special Libraries Section Joint Seminar:** October 30 saw the culmination of a unique venture for WA Special Libraries with problems and with neither time nor staff to attend to them. Some Library Studies students at WAIT undertook the study of three such problems: implementation of computerisation; circulation system; and the evaluation of a new cataloguing system. The students presented their results at this seminar, and 'host' librarians commented on the usefulness of the students' work. It is hoped that the project will be run again next year.

**Annual General Meeting and WALN, November 24:** President Bruce Bott summarised our activities for the year and introduced the new Committee. The year then ended the way it started with further discussion on the WA Library Network by Mr Tony Barley, representative from the State Government. Those present were delighted to note that much progress had been made.

*Judy Morrissey*  
Publicity Officer (1982)

## NSW ONLINE USERS' GROUP

About 25 members attended the final meeting for 1982 of the NSW Online Users' Group. The following Committee members were elected for 1983: Pamela Johnstone, Pamela Leuzinger and Lorraine Manning as Convenors, Rita Marshall as Secretary and Deidre Irwin as Treasurer.

Sue Keyes presented a most interesting introduction to the newly created water database, Streamline. Streamline, mounted on Austinet, is currently a trial database with approximately 130 records. Streamline aims to cover Australian information relating to all aspects of water and wastewater. The bringing together of nationwide information on such an important natural resource can be seen to be of great importance. It is anticipated that the file will cost \$50/hour to search.

## WA Cadetship scheme ends

AS IT IS considered to have outlived its usefulness, the Cadetship Scheme for librarians has been abolished by the Library Board of Western Australia.

Cadets were first employed by the Board in 1971, and used to spend the first year of their appointment working at the Board, before studying full time at the WA Institute of Technology.

Semester breaks were spent working in the different divisions of the board. On graduation the cadets had a moral obligation though no legal commitment, to return to the service of the Board.

Changes in the social and economic conditions in Australia and the firm establishment of under-graduate and post-graduate courses at WAIT led to the reassessment of the scheme, which is now seen as limiting the number of positions available to graduates.

The cost of producing a cadet was \$22,429 in 1977 and has now risen to \$36,122. It was originally anticipated that the cost would be offset by the service returned by the cadet in the first three years of an initial post-graduate appointment, but this has not been the case, with several cadets leaving during or immediately after completing their studies.



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for Library  
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The Library Association of Australia.

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## Guidelines for Library Services to External Students

These guidelines are offered as a preliminary statement on services to external students, for future evaluation and revision. They have been prepared for the guidance of those responsible for the provision of library services to students studying externally throughout Australia.

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