

Fire destroys library

InCite readers may recall reading the account of the launching of John Cook's book *Readings in Australian Librarianship III: School Librarianship*. It was an extremely pleasant occasion, held in the library of Ultimo Public School, which is just across the road from the LAA office.

But last weekend there was a break-in at the school, and the intruders set fire to the library. The school principal, Mr Bob Laverder, said that repeated requests have been made to the Department of Education to increase security at the school, which has suffered break-ins at the rate of one every three weeks.

The children, apart from experiencing frequent disruptions to their education while earlier break-ins were dealt with, have now lost their library, a further disadvantage in their school life. The P & C Association have decided to ask Mr Pat Hills MP for increased security at the school, a visit from a security adviser and an extra teacher to make the library functional again.

Cataloguing and new technology



Margaret Irvine demonstrates the Victorian Department of Agriculture's online catalogue AVID to Jean Geue at the Seminar on Cataloguing and New Technology.

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When Margaret Irvine flew from Melbourne to Canberra to speak at the ACT Cataloguers' Section Seminar on Cataloguing and New Technology on 23rd of May, she didn't need to bring any bulky samples of the Department of Agriculture's catalogue. She needed only her password, which allowed her to access her own catalogue from 600 kilometres away.

Called AVID by those on first name terms with it, the Department of Agriculture's cata-

logue is held on the Ausinet Que file. Margaret was able to demonstrate it on a terminal provided at the Seminar site by ACI Computer Services.

AVID is an inspiringly successful departure from the traditional catalogue. It has left behind LCSH, instead using the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau's Thesaurus, supplemented by APAIS and MeSH. It has also thumbed its nose at the Gospel of MARC, and has the luxury of keyword retrieval from any part of the entry.

The Seminar, held at Burgmann College on the ANU campus, was opened by Ian McCallum, who gave some entertaining and practical advice to librarians who deal with computer salespersons. His paper, entitled 'Wanna buy a big wooden horse? Let me see inside it first', included a list of questions librarians should ask themselves *before* they begin to question the salesperson. To the delight of the audience, Ian concluded with a dictionary of Dataprocessingspeak, a warning list of phrases used by unscrupulous salespersons. Some of his definitions were:

I'll be truthful with you

I'm going to lie but I'll make it difficult to spot.

There are no hidden costs or charges

For those aspects of the service mentioned, we've given you the costs at today's rates.

You've made a good business decision

This will be profitable for us.

Other speakers at the Seminar were: Doreen Parker on 'Planning for new technology'; Valerie Richardson on 'Videodisks and library catalogues'; Gordon Undy on 'Austpac and library dataprocessing'; Carole Inkster on 'Work flowing — aims and realities in technical services areas'; Sandra Pink and Sue McGregor on 'Ergonomics in the working environment' and 'Redesign of the National Library Cataloguing Section'; and Graham Dudley on 'Choosing a turnkey system for a public or medium sized library'. Available papers will be published in the September issue of *Cataloguing Australia*.

Linda Groom

TO ALL UNEMPLOYED LIBRARIANS

Have you registered with the CES? Remember that you should do so, even if you are not applying for unemployment benefits.

As reports in earlier issues of *InCite* have shown, because people are not registering, an inaccurate idea exists of the number of unemployed librarians.

This has effects that are more widespread than may be at first apparent. As well as the obvious one of making the employment situation for librarians appear rosier than it really is, it means that when an employer seeks to employ a librarian on a temporary basis, perhaps to replace a member of staff absent on special leave, an approach to the CES is unsuccessful. And yet to employ someone in this way would be convenient and prompt, and eminently suitable in some circumstances.

And, perhaps even more important, it means that when an employer applies for special funding for a project that would employ a librarian on a short term basis, and give useful additional training in so doing, this application is refused on the grounds that there are no registered librarians listed.

Things like this are happening too often and mean opportunities lost.

So, if you are unemployed, register with the CES now!

A TEACHER-LIBRARIAN'S NEWSLETTER:

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