

## BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

The Board of Education held its final meeting for 1984 on 1 and 2 November, and a number of items which will be of interest to members were on the agenda.

### Association policies on professional membership

The Board has been considering several issues which relate to Associateship — the link between Associateship and recognition of courses, extended courses, revalidation of qualifications and advanced categories of professional membership.

At present a qualification awarded in 1965, and recognised by the Association at that time confers eligibility for Associateship, and there is no requirement that the holder has taken any measures to remain professionally up-to-date.

The Board believes that the eligibility and currency components of Associateship need to be revised, and that holders of librarianship awards gained more than five years ago, for example, might be required to provide evidence of professional understanding and competence equivalent to that expected of graduates of currently recognised courses.

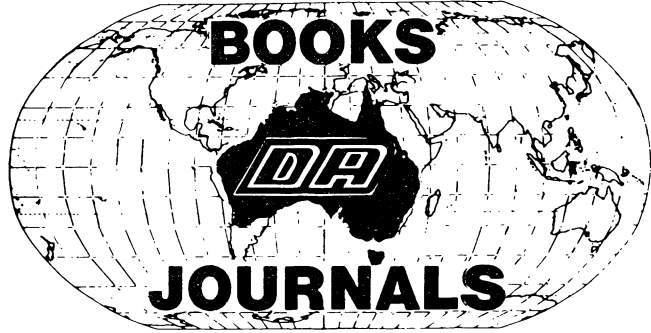
Discussion papers on these issues are expected to be prepared, and circulated for comment.

### LAA's future role in assessment of courses

It has been suggested that the Association might work with state higher education boards to assess courses, rather than undertaking independent assessments. A recent conjoint visit to Western Australian CAE with the Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission has provided an opportunity for the Board to examine this proposal.

Some points needing to be considered include differing assessment criteria, the composition of visiting panels, the effect on the school, and the fact that state accreditation is being phased out in favour of self-assessment by institutions in many states. Ian Miller, convener of the Course Recognition Committee, is preparing a paper on conjoint visits, and input is to be sought from higher education boards and schools of librarianship.

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### Course recognition

Assessment visits have been made in 1984 to the South Australian Department of TAFE, Western Australian Institute of Technology, Western Australian College of Advanced Education, Perth Technical College and Queensland Institute of Technology.

The Library Technician Certificate course conducted by the SA Department of TAFE has been recognised until 1990. Reports on courses offered by the other institutions listed are being considered by General Council at its December meeting. A visit to Riverina College of Advanced Education took place on 3 and 4 December and the report of that visit will be presented to the first 1985 meeting.

Recognition of the Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship awarded by Brisbane College of Advanced Education has been extended to December 1985.

### LAA Study Grant Awards

A separate report on the 1984 awards appears elsewhere in this issue.

### Metcalfe Medallion

All students in first professional or library

technician courses are reminded that applications for the Metcalfe Medallion close on 31 December 1984. The award is for the most outstanding essay or other piece of work on any topic in the areas of librarianship, information science or archives administration. It is anticipated that the winning entry will be published by the Association. The Board looks forward to receiving entries from students in all states for this prestigious award.

### Meeting with library educators

A meeting was held between Board members, heads of library schools and members of the New Zealand Library Association Education Committee during the Brisbane conference. Topics for discussion included continuing education (new procedures), course recognition in information studies, library technicians (course curriculum design and role in workforce) and librarians-in-residence.

The meeting provided a useful opportunity for exchange of information and to acquaint educators with current concerns and interests of the Board. More input from schools would be welcome, and the Education for Librarianship Section has offered to co-ordinate input for future meetings.

### Library technicians — their place in libraries

A paper by David Clark on problems experienced by library technicians in developing a career path was considered by General Council in August. The paper was referred to the Board for consideration.

Mr Clark believes that technicians who wish to become librarians have no advantage over unqualified applicants for places in library science courses. The Board has pointed out that status may be granted in a number of ways such as exemption from units or areas of study on the basis of demonstrated competency.

The Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission is considering developing programs for groups with particular needs, and has asked colleges and universities how they can accommodate such groups by transfers, advanced standing and other methods. Transfers between TAFE and other institutions is one area of investigation. The Board is to seek similar details from institutions and will ask schools for information about any methods used to grant status for technician studies.

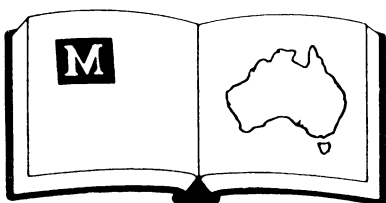
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