

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Exchanges of Library Staff to the UK

The Library Association and its International and Comparative Librarianship Group, has established an organisation called LIBEX to help organise exchanges between British librarians and librarians in other countries.

Thus far the scheme has not involved many Australian librarians but its co-ordinator, Tony Hillier, is keen to extend its operations to this country.

Librarians wishing to exchange positions with an overseas librarian (and who have the approval of their employer to do so), simply need to complete an application form giving basic information about their job and their preference for an exchange position. Brief details of jobs for exchange are then published in appropriate professional journals around the world.

For further information about the scheme write to:

Tony Hillier
Co-ordinator LIBEX
College of Librarianship Wales
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS
Wales, Great Britain.

ACTU Adoption Leave Test Case

The hearings of the ACTU's adoption leave test case were completed on June 15, 1985. The ACTU is seeking a flow on of the maternity leave standard of up to 52 weeks unpaid leave to adoptive parents.

The claim has been opposed by the Confederation of Australian Industry which believes that the circumstances surrounding adoption and maternity are quite different.

A full bench of the Australian Conciliation

MEDIANET

Through its film lending division, the National Library of Australia offers a service known as MEDIANET. This remote access film booking service is available nationally through the computing facilities of Central Computing Systems (CCS) in Canberra, and the Telecom Austpac network. MEDIANET enables a user to sign on to the NFL automated circulation control system for the film lending division, and reserve films up to 480 days in advance.

The film lending service is free to the participants, with the costs of freight to be borne by the consignor, but the costs of using CCS computing facilities and costs of telecommunication must be covered. CCS charges a flat

and Arbitration Commission has reserved its decision on the matter.

Revised Occupational Health and Safety Legislation in Victoria

The Victorian Government has introduced a revised Occupational Health and Safety Bill which aims to promote and improve standards of occupational health, safety and welfare.

The bill establishes an Occupational Health and Safety Commission comprising employer, union and 'expert' representatives which is to advise the Government on all aspects of health and safety, recommend regulations and codes of practice and commission research into particular health and safety problems.

It also provides powers for inspectors to enforce the legislation and for the selection of workplace health and safety representatives by employees.

Louise Lansley
Industrial Information
and Research Officer

rate of \$16.00 per hour and a minimum of five hours per month be paid for using MEDIANET even if this amount has not been used. Telecom charges \$5.00 per hour of connect time through AUSTPAC, plus a 13 cent charge for each call made. These costs make the MEDIANET service prohibitive, unless an institution uses it for more than five hours a month. Following approaches by the NFL, CCS agreed to allow users to form a group which would share the same sign-on, but would have a different delivery address for each institution, provided that CCS was only required to send their invoice to one library or an agency.

As might be expected, in Victoria, CAVAL has taken the initiative and established a MEDIANET Users Group which co-ordinates the billing from CCS and arranges the training of operators in its various member libraries. To date there are seven participating libraries including one multi-campus institution.

Success has been varied. The documentation made available to the NFL and subsequently to the users has been badly prepared and due to lack of resources the NFL is unable to improve it. CAVAL has prepared new manuals which to date have proven successful. Many of the difficulties associated with MEDIANET are due to a very unfriendly software package which can leave the novice in a dilemma about where to go and what to do next. The staff at the NFL are only too willing to be of service, and the support they offer in part compensates for the shortcomings of the system. It is despite these shortcomings that users of MEDIANET can see obvious advantages in the facility, such as speed of service and the immediacy of information. Librarians operating in real time situations will appreciate the importance of those.

Max W. Borchardt

Library Co-ordinator, CAVAL

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