



Data processing group

For some time, a small group of data processing librarians have been meeting regularly. The librarians come from organisations which have data processing departments as part of their structure, or from those which make and/or sell hardware and software.

The purpose of these meetings is to share ideas, to assist in problem solving, and to provide an opportunity for general discussion. The meetings are usually held every six weeks at host libraries. Those attending need have no professional qualifications: the only criterion is that they work in a data processing environment.

The next meeting is to be held on August 1 at Commonwealth Bank. We would like anyone who is interested to join us. Please contact Glenda Mestern at 238 5330.

Below is a list of the group's objectives.

NEW SOUTH WALES DATA PROCESSING LIBRARIANS' GROUP

I *Name* NSW DP Librarians' Group

II *Objectives*

1. To serve as a forum for the presentation of ideas, information and issues relevant to DP libraries.
2. To develop relationships with other libraries in NSW for the purpose of inter-library loans and other resource sharing, as appropriate.

III *Membership* Membership is open to all working in DP libraries.

IV *Meeting*

1. Meeting will be held at six-weekly intervals at host libraries.
2. The representative of one organisation will act as host and be responsible for that meeting. The representative will act as chair-person for that meeting.
3. The next host organisation will be selected at the current meeting. The representative of that organisation will be secretary for the current meeting.

Prue Mercer
Senior Librarian (Systems)

From your General Councillor at Large

The LAA sends to all general councillors at the start of their terms a short document called *Procedures relating to council meetings and the role of Councillors*. Where amongst others I am given the following task.

To monitor developments within the Association and to raise issues and matters of widespread concern at meetings of Council.

This duty is central to my being on council as it gives members an avenue outside the more formal branch and sectional structure of the association to make their comments heard at General Council.

If I am to achieve this I need to receive your comments in time for them to be considered at a General Council meeting. The next General Council meeting is on the 9th and 10th of August and the deadline for items to be placed on the Agenda is the 9th of July.

I look forward to hearing from you.

David Clark General Councillor at Large
c/- Queanbeyan City Library
PO Box 90 Queanbeyan NSW 2620

A different view

In his review of *New options for librarians* (*InCite*, v.6 no.7, p.10) Mr Sanders makes a number of quite unsubstantiated, and I believe inaccurate, statements about schools of librarianship. I should like to take up a little space to set the record straight.

It is asserted that '... library schools report that the majority of their graduates find employment outside libraries'. I can state quite categorically that this is not true of RMIT nor, I believe, is it true of Australian schools generally. My own school does report each year to our Course Advisory Committee on the employment of our graduates, but the findings in these reports are quite contrary to the situation asserted by Mr Sanders. Nor, I suggest, will he find evidence to support his assertion in the published results of the surveys conducted by Maxine Rochester. So what is the objective evidence for this sweeping assertion?

Mr Sanders also refers to the alleged downgrading in American library of library and information science of 'traditional areas such as reference skills and subject analysis' and to their '... pathetic attempts to teach computing and management.' Australia, it is confidently asserted, is no different. Again, one asks: on what objective evidence is the sweeping assertion made?

At a time when the knowledge base of library and information science is expanding, all schools face the dilemma of adjusting the curriculum to accommodate that extended knowledge base into a finite course. Quite properly, different schools emphasize different aspects and RMIT continues to place significant emphasis on subject analysis.

It is worth pointing out that library schools are highly accountable. They are subject to accreditation not only by the LAA but also by state authorities on whose panels there will usually be a significant professional representation. The extent of external scrutiny is much greater than applies to most libraries.

It is unfortunate that Mr Sanders should have used your review column for his unsubstantiated allegations. However, since he did so, I trust you will permit me space in your column for this response and Mr Sanders space in which either to moderate those allegations or to produce the objective evidence to support them.

Michael J. Ramsden
Department of Librarianship RMIT

Commonwealth Assistance to Public Libraries Campaign

The National Co-ordinating Committee of the Federal Funding for Public Libraries Campaign held its second meeting on June 15, 1985 and amongst other matters, decided that the campaign should change its name to Commonwealth Assistance to Public Libraries (CAPL) as Commonwealth Government support for public libraries can take a variety of forms.

Research for the campaign is well under way and the committee decided that rather than focus on a number of target areas at once, the campaign should concentrate on one target area at a time. The first to be pursued in relation to the campaign will be library services to multicultural groups and Aborigines. At a later date the campaign will move on to cover:

- The disabled and the aged
- Services to rural areas
- The unemployed.

A submission to be sent to the Federal Government will be finalised by the end of August and state campaign co-ordinating committees are currently being formed. These will begin lobbying various government groups immediately after the submission has been finalised.

If you wish to become actively involved in the Campaign for Commonwealth Assistance for Public Libraries, contact Louise Lansley on (02) 692 9233 for the name of your state campaign co-ordinator.

Slogan Competition

The National Co-ordinating Committee for the Commonwealth Assistance for Public Libraries Campaign has decided to extend the deadline for entries in its slogan competition until July 31, 1985. Entries will be judged at a meeting of state campaign co-ordinators on August 7, 1985.

The campaign is to focus initially on public library services to multicultural groups and Aborigines, so this theme may also be incorporated into the campaign slogan if desired.

The Committee has already received a large number of very good entries which will be judged on August 7 in conjunction with any new entries received by July 31.

The competition is open to all LAA members and don't forget that the prize is \$200. Send entries to: Slogan Competition, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo 2007.

City of Tea Tree Gully

CHIEF LIBRARIAN

(re-advertised)

Salary — Negotiable from \$27,366

The Tea Tree Gully Library, which is located north-east of Adelaide, South Australia, is expected to be expanded substantially in the near future and there is a possibility that it will be combined with a proposed TAFE College Library and be managed as a joint community facility. It is anticipated that a branch library will be needed to service Golden Grove within 5-10 years.

The Chief Librarian will be required to manage these facilities, be involved in the planning, developing and staffing of the expanded facilities.

Applications are therefore sought from tertiary qualified Librarians with Associate Membership of the Library Association of Australia. Experience in managing a public library and the desire and ability to undertake the above tasks are essential.

Conditions of employment will be in accordance with the Municipal Officers (SA) General Conditions Award and preference will be given to members of the MOA or to applicants willing to join.

For further information and a copy of the job description, please contact David Bird on (08) 264 2355 during normal office hours.

Both men and women are invited to submit an application in writing to: **D.J. Bird, Personnel Manager, City of Tea Tree Gully, 1020 North East Road, Modbury, SA 5092, by July 26th, 1985.**

R.C.S. Hunter,
City Manager.