

Formation of Government Publications Group

A new interest group, the Government Publications Group, has been formed following a meeting of 30 people in Melbourne on July 30. The meeting was organised by the AACOBS (Vic) Sub-committee on Government Publications which undertook to investigate the formation of a group after the one-day meeting of government publications librarians at the LAA Conference in Brisbane last year.

The new group aims to provide a meeting point for those interested in government publications, to promote their collection and use and generally address issues of concern in the area. A formal statement of aims is being developed for discussion at the next meeting.

An organising committee was elected:

Jill Wilson (Chair), State Library of Victoria. (03) 669 9887.

Max Borchardt, CAVAL Ltd. (03) 813 3844.

James Butler, Law Institute of Victoria. (03) 602 3922.

Lyn Lane, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne. (03) 344 4000.

Ian McGregor, Camberwell-Waverley Regional Library. (03) 811 0257.

Stuart Raymond, Deakin University Library. (052) 47 1353.

Gayle Whyte, Monash University Library. (03) 541 2619.

The Committee plans to hold regular meetings offering a variety of activities such as speakers, panel discussions, workshops and visits. It is hoped to attract a wide range of members including librarians, library technicians, information managers and producers of government publications. Affiliation as a Special Interest Group of the LAA is under consideration.

Members are sought both from Victoria and interstate. Anyone interested in joining is invited to contact committee members or send the \$5.00 membership fee (covering membership to June 1986), with name and mailing address, to:

Government Publications Group,
c/- Mrs Jill Wilson,
Government Publications Librarian,
State Library of Victoria,
328 Swanston Street,
Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

EXTERNAL STUDY FOR LIBRARY MEDIA

In 1986, some units in the Associate Diploma in Library Media course will be offered externally for the first time. If demand is sufficiently heavy, further units will be offered in future years.

The Associate Diploma in Library Media is a two-year full-time course for library technicians and those who wish to work as paraprofessionals in information agencies and other organisations using media. It is offered on the College's Nedlands Campus for both full-time and part-time students, and in 1985 some units have been offered to part-time students in the Pilbara through Hedland College. The course is recognised by the Library Association of Australia as a course for library technicians.

Library technicians are expected to be able to work under guidance of professional staff and to maintain library systems, supervise library aides and other support staff, carry out some technical services procedures, provide basic user services, operate and maintain media equipment, and create a range of media and display materials as needed in the library. The Associate Diploma course, therefore, incorporates a wide range of units from the areas of library systems, library resources, media design and production, office procedures, and basic computing.

During the course, students normally undertake four four-week practicum periods

in libraries or other information agencies or resource centres. These periods of work experience enable students to relate the theory and skills learned through the classes or the course materials to a real library situation. Each of the practicum periods is undertaken in a different type of library, so that students are introduced to a range of work environments. Those in very isolated areas may find it necessary to travel to do one or two of the work experience placements.

Entrance requirements for the course are a satisfactory pass in five subjects in the Western Australian Tertiary Admissions Examination (TAE) or equivalent, including a pass in English or English Literature. Mature age students (over the age of 21) who do not have formal qualifications may either complete the Mature-age Matriculation, or the Alternative Test for Adult Admission conducted by the WA Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC).

People seeking further information about the course should contact the Programme Coordinator, Ms Lorraine White, at Nedlands (09) 386 0310.

Coburg goes online

The Coburg Community Library has recently upgraded its services. The Coburg and Campbell Turnbull Libraries have changed to the new service bureau circulation system offered by Computer Library Services of Australia (CLSI), located in their new headquarters in Port Melbourne.

Coburg, who previously used CLSI on a batch processing basis, now use the fully automated Libs 100 online system on a service bureau basis. Over 1000 libraries in Australia, North America, and Europe use the system. Australian libraries using Libs 100 include the Moonee Valley Regional Library Service, the University of Melbourne, and the Sunshine-Melton Regional Library group.

In addition to reducing the total cost of their computer services, the Coburg library is now able to provide readers with immediate access to current circulation and catalogue information.

The City Librarian, Mr Craig Anderson, said that the Coburg database was converted by CLSI, and the system put into operation ahead of schedule. It was only three weeks from the time of tape conversion until the first loan.

An introduction to AUTOMATED LIBRARY SYSTEMS and SERIALS AUTOMATION

(an LAA Continuing Education Seminar)
Launceston, Tasmania
Saturday 2 November, 1985
Seminar leader:

GLENN SANDERS

Information and enrolment details from:
SANDERS INFORMATION
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Telephone (02) 99 2442

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SURFACE TENSION

The ABC has a new radio programme beginning on September 7 at 3.30 p.m. on ABC Radio National.

With a title that on air could sound like a new form of RSI affecting surfboard riders, Surface Tension promises that it 'is a site for discourse and discovery'. The ABC press release says that innovative forms of performance will be presented and they seem likely to live up to this as dance is one of the art forms mentioned, along with poetry, drama, writing and 'audio art'.

The programme intends to 'chart the territory of Australian art', though interestingly, an interview with American playwright Arthur Miller gets star billing for the first programme.

Just in case you were concerned that this all seems too 'deep and meaningful', the ABC says they will also include 'a few comics lampooning cultural convention and "the art world"'

No worries!