



THE METCALFE MEDALLION

JOHN METCALFE was responsible for establishing the basis of the profession of librarianship in Australia and was the dominating influence in the profession in this country until his retirement in the 1960s. John Metcalfe the man and his contribution to librarianship and library education are commemorated by the Library Association of Australia through the Metcalfe Medallion, an award created in 1982.

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, submitted by a student undertaking a first award course in librarianship or archives administration.

Students are invited to submit entries for the 1986 award. These should be pieces of work of publishable standard — there is no specified length.

A panel of several distinguished members of the profession will select the winning entry, which it is anticipated will be published in the *Australian Library Journal* or another suitable publication by the Association. The Association reserves the right not to make an award in any year.

Entries should be placed in a sealed envelope, marked only with the title of the work. This envelope, together with a covering letter indicating the title and the identity of the writer, should be sent to the LAA office. The outer envelope should be marked 'Metcalfe Medallion'.

There must be no identification on the entries themselves, and only one may be submitted by each entrant.

Send entries to:

Assistant Executive Director,
Library Association of Australia,
376 Jones Street,
Ultimo NSW 2007

Entries close 31 December 1985

For further information contact Sue Phillips, Assistant Executive Director, at the LAA Head Office (02) 692 9233.

CEAC for CLANN

On April 17 1985, Dorothy Peake and Owen Carter, Directors of CLANN, signed a contract worth \$1,500,000 with the Canadian Company, Geac Computers, for the supply of an integrated library system.

Configured to support initially 200 simultaneous terminals, the new system will provide online public access to local and union holdings with loan status, circulation, audio-visual bookings and dial-up community access for CLANN member libraries in phase 1. Other software modules including inter-library loan management will be utilized in phase 2.

The Geac library system was developed five years ago in Canada and is now used in over 100 libraries and library systems in the world including MIT, 10 London boroughs, Southbank Polytechnic, Biblioteque Nationale and a multitude of universities, including Princeton, Yale, Boston, Glasgow, etc.

The system is easily expandable by the addition of processors and the largest installations have circulation figures in the millions. Smaller systems include those at Anchorage Alaska, the Legislative Library of Ontario, and the Canadian Department of Agriculture.

The Tender and Evaluation process took nine months and proceeded on five fronts. There was an initial software evaluation whereby the systems were demonstrated and compared against detailed specifications set out in a questionnaire prepared by librarians from the CLANN libraries. From this, five systems were further evaluated. Two consultants were employed: one investigated the networking capabilities, terminal access and systems linking aspects of the system while the second reviewed the system expandability, the operating software and the performance of the system. Only three of the systems were recommended by both consultants.

Concurrently, the Companies involved in the tender for each of the five systems were evaluated by Directors of CLANN and the Executive Director, with respect to their track record, support for the system and its further development, maintenance and understanding of network requirements. Finally, all five tenders were fully costed both with respect to initial and ongoing costs. The Geac proposal came out ahead on all five counts. In particular, Geac scored well on software and future expansion of the system. The Directors were also impressed by Geac Computer Corporation's commitment to future developments.

Not only was the software continuously being enhanced but there was also a commitment to researching the likely needs of libraries in the wider information context, five years ahead.

In addition, Geac developed the OSI protocols so that the Geac library system could transfer and receive data from other commercially available systems. Canada leads the world in this area and Geac is at the forefront. On October 22, 1984, the CLANN Board of Directors resolved to enter into contract negotiations with Geac Computer Corporation.

CLANN developed an implementation schedule which was stated in the tender document. To date, the computer has been delivered, commissioned and installed in the CLANN office in Riley Street, Surry Hills. The data load from the CLANN file is being tested and the detailed loan requirements of all the CLANN libraries are being formulated into a matrix for loading into the System.

CLANN will be putting in a network of point-to-point DDS and Datel Telecom lines. About half of these will require multiplexing, although the Geac system allows up to four terminals to operate off one port without any multiplexing equipment at all.

The majority of the funds for central computer and software came from a NSW Higher Education Board grant which had been approved by the Principals of the Colleges of Advanced Education in NSW. The remainder of the central system funding requirements are to be met by a loan from Westpac. The terminals and multiplexors are to be purchased by the libraries themselves. The system will be available to all CLANN members on a fee per transaction basis in much the same way as the CLANN cataloguing system was managed. The libraries had had costing information for some two years to assist them in preparing their Administration for the new system and most libraries have begun to budget for the development.

Everything is proceeding within budget and to schedule.

Rona Wade, Clann Ltd

Be careful what you say ...

Responsibility in the Provision of Information is the title of a seminar being organised by the North Queensland Regional Group of the LAA.

The seminar is about duty of care in giving information or advice to the public. Many organisations in society, both public and private, exist in order to give information or advice to people.

Professional groups understand in general the importance of exercising all reasonable care and diligence when giving information to the public. Many, especially those working in the area of information supply have had their perceptions of the importance of duty of care sharpened as a result of the case *Shaddock and Associates v. Parramatta City Council* (1981). This particular case put beyond doubt that government instrumentalities may be liable in damages for economic loss sustained by a person who may act on advice negligently given by persons working in those instrumentalities.

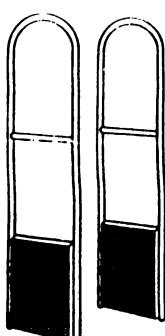
The seminar leader will be John Levett, Head, School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania. The morning session will deal with the general issue of duty of care for information workers in the context of the perspectives of other professional groups.

The afternoon session will specifically focus on legal responsibility in information supply and its implications for those who work in libraries and related information agencies.

For more information contact the Secretary, LAA (North Queensland Regional Group), Library, James Cook University, Townsville, Q. 4811.

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