

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNCIL

General Council held its last meeting in 1984 at LAA House on 7 and 8 December. The agenda for the meeting is printed in *InCite* Vol. 5, No. 20, 30 November 1984.

A resolution was passed at the 1984 Annual Meeting of the Association asking Council to publish all its resolutions in *InCite*. Some of these simply note or receive a report, and it was felt that this would not be particularly informative or interesting to members. Council has decided to publish resolutions in reports of its activities, and to prepare these reports in as attractive and readable format as possible. So we would like views on this, the first such report. If you like further information on any of the divisions or items mentioned, please contact the Executive Director or your General Councillor. A list of Councillors for 1985 appears in this issue of *InCite*.

Library funding and lobbying

Library funding is to be the Association's top priority for 1985 (GC 214/84) with a campaign co-ordinated by the Executive Director. AACOBS supports the need for a coordinated and unified lobbying effort, and is to work with the Association. A small working party (Warren Horton, Tonia Walker, the Executive Director and the Industrial Information and Research Officer, Louise Lansley) is collecting material and drawing up a campaign strategy. Funding is expected to be secured in 1986, rather than in the initial year, and Council has asked the working party to bring forward detailed proposals and discuss them at its March meeting (GC 212/84).

Database of Australian libraries

The Association is to undertake a joint project with ACI Computer Services to create a database of Australian libraries. As a first step the *Directory of Special Libraries in Australia* is to be mounted on AUSINET. A three year project is being negotiated with ACICS, the Association sharing revenue and retaining ownership of the database. (GC 190/84)

Information Scientists and the LAA

At its August meeting Council requested the Industrial Information and Research Officer, Ian Cree, the NSW General Councillor, to examine the feasibility of the Association undertaking a short survey of information scientists to identify people in the wider information industry who might be attracted to join the Association or a similar body. Their report examines the difficulties of defining information scientists, and of choosing a suitable method of surveying such a group. Others are being done and these could provide useful information to the LAA. Council decided not to undertake a survey at least until the Corporate Plan & Review Committee has submitted its report, and asked that Committee to investigate ways of attracting people in the information fields to join the Association. (GC 194/84)

Work level standards

At its August meeting Council saw the finalisation of work level standards as a priority, and the Working Party on Work Level Standards to prepare a final draft document. Two areas are as yet unresolved — levels of responsibility for library technicians, and the criteria for examples of each of the work levels

described. Some divisions were concerned that their comments may not have been considered in preparation of the document. These issues are to be clarified for the March Council meeting, and Sections will be asked to provide specific examples for the various levels. (GC 200/84)

Volunteer workers in libraries

Delys Newman, Northern Territory Councillor, has prepared a new draft statement on volunteer workers in libraries, and a set of guidelines for the use of such workers. These are being circulated to divisions for comment and consideration at Council's March meeting. (GC 201/84)

1984 AGM resolutions

All resolutions passed at general meetings must be ratified by General Council to become effective. Four resolutions were passed at the 1984 AGM (see report *InCite* Vol. 5, No. 19).

• Award for contemporary Australian literature

Council saw a number of problems with such an award. There are already several for contemporary literature, so it is likely to be difficult to attract sponsorship. An award would need to be very well promoted to generate interest. Council resolved not to initiate such an award, but to suggest that an award might be considered in conjunction with the Association's 50th anniversary in 1987. (GC 203/84)

• IFLA 1988 — publication of information

Full details of the proposed cost and the likely effect of the IFLA conference on the 1988 LAA conference were sought by the end of 1984. Council agrees that as much information as possible should be provided to members, and on an ongoing basis. As planning is in the preliminary stages, however, and the format of the conference and availability of sponsorship is not yet known, it is difficult to provide very meaningful figures.

Council resolved to 'reaffirm its commitment to providing the membership with regular reports on a continuing basis, including on the programming, organisation, financial and other implications of the IFLA conference to the Association, and the likely effect of the IFLA conference on the 1988 national conference.' (GC 204/84) A substantial report on planning for the conference is being prepared by the IFLA 1988 Conference Committee, and will appear shortly in *InCite*.

• Confidentiality of membership records

As requested by the AGM, the Executive Director has prepared a report on confidentiality of membership records, including recording and dissemination of personal details. Divisions are to be reminded that it is Association policy that such details may not be passed to third parties by way of mailing labels or lists. Future conference/exhibition organisers will be required to publish a warning that data provided by registrants may be disclosed. (GC 243/84) The Executive Director's report is to be published in *InCite* and circulated to all divisions.

• Publication of Council resolutions

See note at start of this report.

Code of professional ethics

A revised draft code was considered by Council, following consideration of comments by divisions. This draft is to be circulated again for comment by 30 April, and a final draft will be presented to Council in August. (GC 207/84)

Australian Federal Libraries Council

Progress is now being made towards the establishment of this Council. Terms of reference, membership and a 1985 work program are being developed in consultation with the Department of Home Affairs and Environment. Council thanked Jenny Gleeson for the part she has played in bringing this to fruition. (GC 208/84)

Freedom of speech

At the suggestion of the ACT Branch, Council has agreed to establish a working party to monitor developments in matters relating to freedom of speech and other intellectual freedoms. The Branch is to nominate someone to carry out this role for the Association. (GC 210/84)

Senate Select Committee on Video Material

The Association is to make a submission to the Committee, which is examining a range of issues related to importation, production and distribution of violent, pornographic and obscene material. (GC 218/84)

1985 budget and special grants

Allocations to divisions will be increased in the 1985 budget by more than 18%. The budget forecasts income of \$953,400, and a corresponding level of expenditure. (GC 222/84) Five recoupable special grants have been approved — for conferences of the Special Libraries, Library Technicians and Cataloguers Sections, a resource booklet for the Status of Women in Librarianship Special Interest Group, and a new edition of *Directory of Library Suppliers* (Acquisitions Section). An application for funding for the Medical Libraries Section conference is still under consideration. (GC 223 & 225/84)

ALJ Editor

John Levett has been reappointed as Editor of the *Australian Library Journal*, for a term yet to be agreed. (GC 229/84)

Publications Board

The Board has reviewed its membership terms of reference and operations at Council's request. The Board will comprise the Executive Director, President and Publications Officer (all ex-officio) plus six members, most of whom preferably will come from one geographical area. (GC 230/84)

The Board proposes that service items such as the *Handbook* and Conference *Proceedings* not be included in the Board's budget, and that it should allow it to generate modest profits.