

## IFLA and finance

I see in *American Libraries*, October 1985, p. 615 that the 1985 IFLA Conference in Chicago cost approximately US\$500,000 (\$A750,000) and produced a loss of around US\$15,000 (A\$18,000–A\$22,000).

The 1984 LAA Annual General Meeting resolved that the membership be provided with full details of the proposed cost to the Association of the 1988 IFLA Conference, and General Council in December 1984 resolved 'to reaffirm its commitment to providing the membership with regular reports on a continuing basis including . . . financial and other implications of the IFLA Conference to the Association'.

In view of the Chicago experience may I be so bold as to enquire when the membership is to be given some meaningful financial information on IFLA 1988?

Neil A Radford  
University Librarian  
University of Sydney

## The membership list

I wish to add my voice to that of Creina Dawson in your issue of 6th December. Like her, if I have any reason to believe that my name and address have been provided by the Library Association to ANY other organisation, I shall resign.

I find it extraordinary that an organisation presumably concerned with issues of individual liberty and the ethics of providing information should even contemplate so gross an infringement of the privacy of its members.

Juliet Flesch

I would like to reply to the comments of Creina Dawson (6 December 1985) and Juliet Flesch on the possibility of the LAA selling its membership list.

The proposal now before General Council allows for a member's privacy to be safeguarded. Members would have the option when joining and renewing membership to be excluded from the list and all mailings would be undertaken by the LAA. No information would be provided to the organisations concerned, and material to be mailed would be vetted.

The LAA receives numerous enquiries from commercial bodies wishing to pay for our mailing list, and this could be a useful source of income for the LAA — income that would assist in reducing the proportion of our revenue that needs to be raised from membership fees. If the LAA is to improve and extend the services it offers, it needs to find additional sources of income, and has been doing so in recent years through conferences, continuing education, publications, and careful investment of its cash reserves. Many other bodies, including the American Library Association, have found it profitable to sell their mailing lists.

It is possible to mail only to those who ask to be on the list, and many people wish to be. A lot of interesting and useful information comes through my letter-box as well as a lot that I simply throw away.

Members have been asked to indicate their preferences on the current renewal forms, and the responses will be a guide to General Council when it considers the issue at its March meeting.

Sue Phillips  
Acting Executive Director

## Censorship

In this continuing debate, I could reply to Dr Bridgstock's letter, critiquing each statement, showing how by emotive expostulation, distortion and sweeping generalisation, he has sought to discredit his critics and *Ex Nihilo*. However, rather than further embarrass Dr Bridgstock, and bore *InCite* readers, I now consider it best to debate with Dr Bridgstock privately.

I would however, like to thank Dr Bridgstock for illustrating so clearly my original claim that censorship is occurring, due to personal bias, especially in relation to aspects of our heritage. This appears to be happening in most segments of our modern society, and librarians are under pressure, both internally and externally, to exercise censorship also.

As all persons have some bias, and everyone's knowledge is incomplete, it is inevitable that some form of censorship will take place each time an acquisitions decision is made. It is the librarian's duty however, to place the needs of library clientele above personal bias, and to seek to give as wide a range of views as is possible on each topic — especially on those of a controversial nature — within the ever

present restrictions of finance, space and reader requirements. It is certainly not professional to use libraries and library funds to force any one particular view upon borrowers, or to censor out contrary views, solely on the grounds of one's personal bias.

Surely the aim of all learning is to arrive at truth, and truth is often clarified by the challenge of various views and insights. In a democracy, librarians must have faith in the *adult* reader's ability to formulate his/her own conclusions. We infringe on his/her rights if we do otherwise.

Freedom and democracy were hard won and each generation has the responsibility to preserve it; this is not achieved by dictatorial methods.

V. L. Williams

## You have to laugh — or do you?

Everyone is entitled to her sense of humour including Timothy James Byron (*InCite*, 22 November, 1985). However in deciding that the strong reaction to the Harper's Bazaar advertisement was the result of a lack of humour in his 'female colleagues', Mr Byron displays a lack of understanding of the issue and of the importance of stereotypes.

Stereotypes are dangerous. Once established they become accepted as known facts. Public attitudes form in response to the stereotype rather than to individual relevant factors. If such images are presented in a manner considered amusing, and therefore harmless the effect is insidious and more dangerous. Indeed, jokes have been a most effective form of propaganda in establishing negative stereotypes of minority groups, isolating them and reducing their political power. (Consider joke about Jews, homosexuals, blacks, wives, etc.)

The advertisement in question can probably be attacked as sexist. More importantly for the LAA, it contains implied images of librarians. It should be a matter of concern to all librarians, even the fun-loving Mr Byron, that there is any exploitable public perception of how a librarian looks.

The promulgation of such images is not trivial; it can, through stereotyping, negatively affect community attitudes to our profession and to the importance of our work.

When you think about it, it's not really very funny.

Jan Maslen

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**The important issues**

wonder if we over-reacted to the *Harpers Bazaar* advertisement. It certainly stirred up a lot of letters and phone calls resulted. It was not the most important issue facing the profession in 1985 and to achieve a sense of balance I suggest that all of us who talked and wrote letters about *Harpers Bazaar* should now spend proportionately more time doing something about:

- the changed federal FOI rules
- the cessation of federal funding for school libraries after 1985
- the need for a national information policy
- Commonwealth assistance for public libraries, etc.


For many similar issues where widespread political pressure will improve or protect library services.

John Brudenell  
November 19, 1985

**The name of the game**

Having worked in a library with no books and currently being employed in Community Information, I find the term 'Librarian' to be inaccurate. I refer to myself as an Informologist in the profession of Informology.

Ann Brennan  
Albury



IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
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**Dates:** 9, 10, 11 April 1986

**Cost:** \$110

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**\*UPDATE YOUR SKILLS!**

**Conferences Coming Up**  
**AMPLA Tenth Annual Conference**

The Australian Mining and Petroleum Law Association will be conducting a conference at the Regent Hotel, Melbourne between 9-12 July 1986 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Association. A special feature of the Conference will be an address by Professor Geoffrey Blainey on the contribution made by mining to Victorian society. For applications and further information contact AMPLA, 160 Owen St Melbourne. (03) 67 2544.

**The New Information Professionals**

The Singapore/Malaysia Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists has invited a panel of experts from Malaysia, Singapore and elsewhere to discuss innovations and developments in areas of information technology related to the book trade, the media, publishing, information and data management at a conference to be held in Singapore from 4-6 September 1986.

Jointly organised by the Singapore Library Association and the Persatuan Perpustakaan Malaysia, the keynote address will be given by James Thompson, Librarian of the University of Reading. The congress will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Orchard Rd, Singapore. Registration S\$180/US\$90 and will be limited to 200 participants.

For further information contact: Ms Lim Kek Hwa, Secretary Singapore/Malaysia Congress C/- National Library, Stanford Rd Singapore 0617. Tel: 331 9671. Tlx: RS 26620.

**WILLIAMSON AWARD IN INFORMATION SCIENCE**

The 1985 Robert D Williamson Award has been won by Hans J. Zwillenberg. The Award which he won from 10 others considered by the Committee acknowledges his contribution to the development of Information Science in Australia.

Important steps in this country's information science development were achieved by Hans' involvement in ADSATIS (Australian Defence Scientific and Technical Information Service), in the Defence Information Exchange Agreement between Australia, the US and the UK, and, with Barbara McDonough from the Defence Group Libraries, his organising of Australia's first exercise in resource sharing.

Hans produced a Directory of Information Sources for Industry and also worked on the industry information network, preparing the first directory of computer-based information services available to the public in Australia.

In the National Library he became the Director, Technology and set up the Australian Industry Information Network Liaison Committee.

Hans' activities have ranged beyond his profession. As well as conferences and meetings associated with information science he has also developed his keen interest in military history.

The cash award of \$550, plus a framed Certificate were presented to Hans by Mrs Enid Williamson at the VALA Conference Dinner held at the Melbourne Town House in November 1985.

**ABA LIBRARY SUPPLY GROUPS**

A meeting at Tullamarine last month led to the formation of a new group within the ABA. It is seen by the ABA as an extension of the work of the Book Trade Committee.

There appeared to be a need to develop the industry and to establish a ready means of identifying reputable suppliers. It is hoped that subscription agents will also join; it was felt that one organisation would best serve all interests.

Standards for membership were written into the constitution, and the ABA executive approval will be sought. Membership will thus assure customers and suppliers that minimum standards are being met.

The objectives of the group are:

- 1.) The promotion and lawful protection of the interests of Library Suppliers and the setting of professional standards which are included in the constitution in order to ensure members meet the required standards.
- 2.) The provision of facilities to aid in gathering, analysing and disseminating information affecting the library supply trade and a rational forum for discussion.
3. Liaising with other associations, in particular the LAA and ABPA, with a view to improving communication standards and business practices in Australia.

Bill Mason of Mason's Book Centre has been appointed Chairman, Andy Dakers of James Bennett Pty Ltd, Secretary, Richard Young of SA Express Books, Treasurer, and the fourth member of the executive is Nick Krins of DA Books.


**1935...**

The Munn-Pitt Report: "As a whole, Australia was better provided with local libraries in 1880 than it is today..."

It now remains for those who believe in the necessity for an adequate library system to see to it that the results of this Survey are kept prominently before the Australian people.

**1985...**

Hon. Gough Whitlam, A.C., Q.C.:  
Munn-Pitt: 50 years on — progress made, opportunities missed.



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