

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education held the first of its 1986 meetings on 10 and 11 April. This report covers the major items considered at that meeting.

Corporate Plan report

The Board discussed the sections of the report relating to its activities — the Association's aims and objectives, membership categories, education, CE and workforce issues.

The Board has no strong views on the name, and feels Library and Information Services Association of Australia is suitable. Discussion of the proposed objectives covered concerns about library technicians, and whether status and standards should be included. The Board proposes alternatives to the Review Committee clauses (ii) and (iii).

The Review proposed that the Board embark on a publicity program to inform the membership of its activities (Rec. 31). The Board agrees that it should be more visible to members and potential members and hopes to achieve this by the following:

- Attending Branch Council meetings after the Board meets, or as suggested by Branches;
- Board members offering to speak to Branches or Regional Groups at one meeting each year;
- more frequent reporting of Board activities in *Incite*;
- developing a more active communication link with the Education for Librarianship Section;
- inviting library schools to be involved when Board members visit the Branches or Regional Groups;
- continuing the annual meetings with library educators.

The Board supports the recommendation that a Continuing Education Officer be appointed, though it would not expect the costs of the position to be covered fully for some years at least. It would not see that officer organising the production and distribution of courses in video and other formats, rather 'simulating' such activities as suggested by the Review.

The Board believes there should be a separate membership category for library technicians, with a lower fee than for professional members.

The Board is drawing up a detailed program to implement the changes proposed for admission to Associateship, i.e. widening the eligibility criteria and introducing a currency component.

ISAA Manager of the Year

The Board believes that the Association should do more to promote library management in the profession, and that one means of doing this would be for the General Council to introduce a 'Manager of the Year' award. The Board believes that it may be possible to obtain sponsorship for an award, and it would be willing to seek such sponsorship. It has asked General Council to endorse this proposal at its June meeting.

Workforce matters

The Board advised Council last year that it is willing to take responsibility for advising on some aspects of workforce matters, in conjunction with the Industrial Information and

Research Officer. A workforce sub-committee of the Board was suggested. However, after further discussion the Board is of the view that workforce matters should be considered by the full Board, and that the Board's main role would be to monitor the supply of and demand for library and information workers. It has established a working group (the Chairman, Janette Wright, Eric Wainwright and the Industrial Information and Research Officer) to examine what information is needed, what can be obtained, and what use can be made of it. The working group was also asked to consider the need for an update of the Bourne, Hill, Mitcheson study. The working group has made recommendations to Council on the collection of workforce data, and further details will be given in the next Board report.

Revision of LAA policy statements on workforce matters

The Board has reviewed the revised draft of the *Statement on Professional Appointments*, and the statement on *The Roles of Librarians and Library Technicians*. It considered that it is confusing to have two statements on substantially similar matters, and that these and the preamble to the *Work Level Guidelines* should be reviewed and a single statement prepared. This statement has been drafted and submitted to Council for endorsement.

The Australian Traineeship System

Library clerical assistants are being appointed in the Commonwealth and some state public services under the Australian Traineeship System. Some difficulties are emerging with the trainees in regard to the supervision required, and the periods of time that are required to be spent on training outside the library.

Helen O'Brien and the Industrial Information and Research Officer are drawing up guidelines on the work to be performed by trainees, their training and its relation to library technician qualifications. The Board will monitor the Australian Traineeship System and modify its guidelines as required.

Course recognition Complementary studies in library and information science courses

It has been Association policy to require that undergraduate awards include studies over three years in library and information science and another discipline. However, the LAA Education Policy Statements Nos. 4 — *Recognition of First Award Courses: Professional Level*, and 6 — *Courses in Teacher-Librarianship*, adopted in 1982 specify studies in a discipline other than library and information science, but do not indicate a particular period of study.

Undergraduate courses which do not include a second disciplinary study over three years are now being developed and offered by schools.

The Board acknowledges this development, and considers that such courses can meet the Association's requirements for recognition provided certain sequential studies are included. It has proposed to Council that the Association's educational policy statements be interpreted as requiring that courses at undergraduate level include an integrated program of study with library and information science (and education in teacher-librarianship courses) as (a) major discipline(s) within that program. This proposed change in interpretation of the policy has been supported by a majority of library schools.

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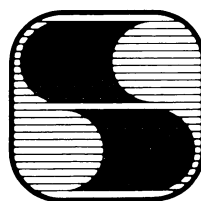


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**BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Course recognition schedule for 1986

Courses at the following institutions are being assessed this year —

- Canberra College of Advanced Education
- Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education
- South Australian College of Advanced Education
- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
- Queensland TAFE
- Victorian TAFE.

Melbourne CAE has asked the Board to defer the scheduled assessment of its courses to 1987 to fit in with assessment by the Victorian Post Secondary Education Commission. The Board has agreed to this request.

Continuing education

A report by the Continuing Education Committee Chair, Marianne Broadbent, appeared in *InCite* No. 8 of 23 May.

Meeting with library educators

The Board is meeting with library educators on 29 June. Items for discussion include course design and complementary studies, post basic courses, single subject enrolments, reporting on the destinations of graduates and 'LAA approved' CE courses.

Further information on any of the items in this report may be obtained from the Board Chairman, Moira MacKinnon (03) 669 9821, or Sue Phillips (008) 22 1481. The Board's next meeting will be held at LAA House on 24 and 25 July.

Sue Phillips
Secretary
Board of Education

Libraries of Sydney is an up-to-date, comprehensive listing that is invaluable not only as an interlending tool but also as a public directory. Available now from the LAA, \$15.00 to members, \$22.50 to non-members. Add \$1.50 for postage.

— IYP GRANTS —

Forty-nine International Year of Peace Resource Centre grants have been made by the LAA. The grants of \$500 each have gone to public libraries throughout Australia to establish resource collections relating to peace, disarmament, and human rights issues. Each library has also received 2 lists of resources, one to an approximate value of \$500, and the second covering a more extensive range of materials for those libraries which may already have some materials in this area. Both lists are to be sent to all applicants, whether they receive a grant or not.

The number of applications received by the Association has been disappointing, with only 10 applications from NSW libraries to 1 June, and 4 from Queensland libraries. 70 grants are available, with 22 of these for NSW and 11 for

Queensland. It would appear that Victorian are the most active in the areas that are the focus of the International Year, as there has been a lot of interest from metropolitan and country libraries in Victoria. All available grants for the remaining states have been paid.

The LAA has received \$15,000 of the \$35,000 made available for the grants by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The remaining \$25,000 is expected to be forwarded by the end of June, and the balance of the grants will be awarded shortly afterwards.

So those NSW and Queensland libraries that would like to develop a basic collection of IYP materials, and have not applied for a grant still have an opportunity to do so. Application forms are available from Sue Phillips at the LAA, phone (008) 22 1481. *Sue Phillips*
Assistant Executive Director

**STATE LIBRARIAN,
TASMANIA**

Recent letters in *InCite* have drawn attention to the advertisement for the position of Tasmanian State Librarian and the omission of library qualifications as a pre-requisite of the job. Readers will note that the position has been re-advertised in this issue of *InCite*. This has occurred because the original advertisement did not allow readers of *InCite* enough time to respond to the call for applications.

The Executive Director has written two letters to the Tasmanian Minister for Education regarding the omission of library qualifications from the job. The second of these appears at right.

All job advertisements for *InCite* are checked with the Industrial Information and Research Officer before publication. This does not necessarily mean that library qualifications must be required in the advertisement but does mean that the Industrial Information and Research Officer has the opportunity to follow up the issue with the employing body.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

Now in stock! *Graphics II*, the follow-up to the highly successful *Graphics for Teacher Librarians*. Get yours before they run out! \$4 LAA members, \$7 non-members, 70c postage from LAA House.

Dear Mr. Rae,

You have misinterpreted my letter of 7 May.

The purpose of my letter was not to give you support for the omission of professional library qualifications in the advertisement. Our support was meant to indicate our agreement with your recognition that the position of State Librarian required a person of the highest calibre, with qualities that only a professional librarian could demonstrate.

The Association's *Statement on Professional Appointments* (enclosed) states quite categorically the Association's position in relation to the appointment of librarians, and that is that they must hold qualifications of a standard to be admitted as a professional member of the Association.

I was not at all surprised that Tasmanian librarians took exception to the advertisement, particularly as I understand that you have neither replied to their letters nor agreed to discuss the matter with them.

Your letter concerned me in its implication that a librarian might not have the required knowledge of technology and information systems and services that is necessary. Librarians are leading the nation in information technology, systems and services and were pioneers in using technology to provide better information services. Indeed, librarians are the only persons with the professional qualifications and expertise to develop and maintain library and information services.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Adams
Executive Director



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