

..... News from the Divisions

SPECIAL LIBRARIES PROMOTION TASK FORCE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Report on the first six months' activities

A committee including both businesspeople and librarians was formed and the first meeting was held in October 1985. It was decided that our target audience should be small but contact intense. We also decided that, to a large extent, the benefits to be promoted should concentrate on the more traditional library skills.

South Australian libraries are the subject of a major review by the government and it seemed that the Task Force could make a significant contribution to this review as well as achieving its main objectives of making the State's business and commercial sectors aware of the benefits of libraries as sources of information.

To do this we decided to contact a group of businesses and to interview those in the organisation most concerned with the gathering of information. The results of this survey should then be summarised and analysed and reported back to the organisations concerned. Of course, we hope to find ways in which library skills will benefit the organisation but the results will, in any case, be of considerable interest.

At this stage, a group of interviewers has met and target companies have been assigned. The initial contact has been made with a group of about twenty major South Australian companies which do not currently have libraries. There has been some response to the initial contact although no interviews have yet been conducted. It is too early yet to know whether it will be necessary to expand the initial list of sample companies.

The interviews with companies are a major part of the Task Force's plans but arrangements have also been made to talk to a meeting of the Institution of Engineers, Australia in September and to the Royal Australian Chemical Institute in February 1987 (the RACI arranges its programme in the November of the

preceding year). A short article has been distributed to local journals but, despite a commitment to print it by one journal, it has not yet appeared.

The Task Force in this state is, then, undertaking some major research which will be of considerable interest for future decision making and it is also making a concerted effort to make contact with a wide variety of potential users of special libraries. I would like to thank all the people who are helping in this work by giving their time, their experience and their skills. The next six months promise to be even more demanding, but potentially more rewarding as the seeds planted in these first six months bear fruit.

Lynne Carmichael

Convenor, Special Libraries Promotion Task Force, SA

ACT BRANCH

Winter Dinner

The Winter Dinner of the ACT Branch was held at the Lobby Restaurant on 16 July. Fifty-two members and friends were present to hear two speakers on the advertised topic of 'Self-Government and ACT Libraries'. Unfortunately, as the first speaker, Sue Craven (member of the former ACT House of Assembly) explained, self-government for the ACT was recently prevented by the inability of Federal politicians to agree to an acceptable method for ACT voters to choose their local representatives. Nevertheless, she provided a revealing summary of the history of the move towards self-government.

The second speaker, the Hon Mr Justice Rae Else-Mitchell (Chairman of the Canberra Public Library Service Advisory Council and recipient of the 1986 Redmond Barry Award) spoke about the history of the CPLS and formally released the CPLS Development Plan. The basic thrust of the Plan is that whether or not the ACT obtains self-government, the CPLS should be developed along the lines of a State Library, with the same autonomy and services that the State Libraries in other capital cities provide.



Improved facilities recommended in the Plan include the construction of a major Central Library building and the acquisition of an automated system such as is installed in large local government libraries in the suburbs of Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

Also during the dinner, LAA prizes were presented to three recent graduates of Canberra TAFE College and Canberra CAE — Margaret Barrett, Kathryn Hitchings and Suzann Jedryk. The presentation was made by the Association's newest Fellow and ACT Continuing Education Officer, John Brudenell.

The next dinner will be held on 2 October when LAA President Ian McCallum will be the guest speaker.

AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE ON CATALOGUING

The Cataloguers Section wants to hear from members who are interested in serving on the Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC) for a three-year term 1987-1989.

ACOC is the principal forum for discussion of Australian cataloguing policy and practice. It brings together the major agencies with an interest in cataloguing: the National Library of Australia, AACOBS and the LAA. One of ACOC's key roles is to represent the Australian viewpoint to international bodies involved in developing cataloguing rules and policies. As such, it is the Australian point of contact with the Joint Steering Committee on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules. One of the members of ACOC is chosen to represent Australia on the Joint Steering Committee.

ACOC is closely involved in the formation of national cataloguing policies. It chooses one of its members to represent the 'Australian cataloguing community' on the Standards Committee of the Australian Bibliographic Network, and fosters the exchange of information about cataloguing activities in Australia.

The LAA has three representatives on ACOC. One representative is appointed each year (for a three year term) by LAA General Council. A nomination will be forwarded to the General Council by the National Executive of the Cataloguers Section. To be eligible to be nominated as an LAA representative, you must be a financial member of the LAA.

If you are interested in serving on the Committee, please write to the National Secretary of the Section at the following address:

Mrs Ruthi Urbach
c/- ASCIS
449 Swanston St, Melbourne
Vic. 3000

Your nomination should reach the Secretary by 5.00 pm on 26 September 1986. Further inquiries may be directed to the Secretary by telephone on (03) 663 2866. If necessary, an election amongst members of the Cataloguing Section will be conducted in order to determine the nominee.

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NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

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UCLS NSW

Audiovisual aids in Reader Education

The UCLS (NSW) two-day seminar on 'The Use of AV in Reader Education', first held in June 1985, was so popular that a repeat has been organised for Friday 21 and Saturday 22 November 1986. The seminar emphasises the use of audiovisual aids such as film, video and tape-slide.

Examples of AV aids from interested libraries will be shown, analysed and assessed with later sessions providing opportunities to script and shoot a short video which will be seen and assessed by members of the seminar. Sessions will be held by Geoffrey Atherden of the Sydney College of the Arts, who has experience in making training films. This hands-on approach proved a chastening but most productive experience for those who attended last year's session.

The seminar will be held at the Sydney College of the Arts, White Bay Campus. For more details see *Happenings* or contact John Cummings of the Information Resources Centre, Sydney College of the Arts on (02) 692 0266.

PS. If your Institution has made a film, video or tape-slide for reader education, and you are prepared to subject it to the pitiless scrutiny of your peers, please contact John Cummings (02) 692 0266, so that the necessary arrangements can be made. We may not be able to view every contribution but a selection will be made before the seminar, and for that reason we would like to have the examples as soon as possible.

**LIBRARY TECHNICIANS
NSW GROUP**

NSW Library Technicians held a committee meeting on Monday 18 August at Sutherland Public Library. Reports were given on successful promotional meets with students of TAFE, university librarians being briefed on the work of technicians, future meeting on restructuring a course, how a committee member is getting together an application for a special grant to compile a bibliography, and a start was made on nominations for the 1987 Committee.

The LAA Draft Statement on Job-Sharing was discussed and it was decided there was nothing to add or subtract. We have been invited to meet with NSW members of the Library Technicians National Executive next week, 29 August. Finally, the LAA promotional video was viewed. It was disappointing library technicians were mentioned but briefly.

J. Walker
Hon. Secretary

NSW BRANCH COUNCIL

The NSW Branch Council held its second Saturday meeting for 1986 on 19 July. The NSW Branch schedules a meeting of Branch Council on a Saturday in February and July each year to enable representatives of non-metropolitan regional groups to attend. It was a pleasure to welcome representatives from the Regional Groups active in New South Wales; Gary Jones for the Hunter, Edward Reid-Smith for the Riverina, John Shipp for the Illawarra and Craig Grimison for New England.

Pat Ward, Secretary, Action Committee on Local Government Records, discussed with the meeting the increasing demands being placed on local history librarians and the need for an emphasis on training and continuing education programmes for local history librarians. Branch Council will co-ordinate a review into

the education needs of local history librarian. Anyone interested should contact Faye Lawrence, Woollahra Public Library (02) 327 781 for more details.

The meeting discussed the problems of providing access to continuing education activities for country members. Branch attempts this year to test the feasibility of mounting a continuing education seminar in country region have foundered on low estimates of attendance coupled with fees which would have to be set higher than members appear to be willing to pay. Branch Council decided to provide an opportunity for some country members to attend a continuing education activity in Sydney by offering a subsidised rate. A separate notice has appeared in *InCite* (25/8/86) giving details.

The NSW Branch will host a dinner to meet the LAA President, Ian McCallum, on Friday 10 October, 1986; watch *Happenings* for details.

Janet Robinson
Vice President
NSW Branch

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<p>Interested in joining the LAA?</p> <p>Take advantage of the special rates now in force. Complete form below for further information.</p> <p>Please send membership application form to</p> <p>Name</p> <p>Address</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

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CONSERVE THEM ALL MY DAYS

by Karl G. Schmude*

The prospect of disaster visiting a library — most often in the form of fire or flood — is no longer felt to be remote as reports of calamities have become increasingly common.

A recent example was a fire at the Los Angeles Public Library, which destroyed 400,000 books. A further 700,000 of the 2.1 million collection were damaged by water.

For Australian librarians, however, the most telling sign of the vulnerability of their collections was probably the near-disastrous fire at the National Library in March 1985. This event highlighted the urgent need for libraries to make comprehensive arrangements for disaster control, in particular the preparation of a contingency plan.

Such a plan covers three main areas:

- *Prevention*, which involves inspecting the library building in detail with a view to reducing the possibility of accidents. Special circumstances which deserve attention include the protection of material in transit or during periods of building alteration.
- *Response*, which embraces such activities as a program of educating library staff and the creation of a list of available supplies and facilities in the event of an emergency. (Last year the State Library of NSW initiated the compilation of such a list to cover various institutions, reflecting the desirability of co-operative support when required.) This part of the written plan also enumerates the first steps to be taken in coping with a disaster, so that spontaneous actions will be avoided that may later prove to have been counter-productive.
- *Recovery*, which relates to the processes of salvage and restoration, addressing such issues as the appropriate treatment of damaged materials and the re-establishment of library services.

The details of a disaster plan will finally correspond to the features and needs of an indi-

vidual library, but each plan is likely to contain the following kinds of information (as the guidelines drawn up by the Illinois Co-operative Conservation Program in America suggest):

1. A list of telephone numbers (home as well as office) of (a) library administrators, (b) members of the library's Disaster Group (who share responsibility for immediate response to a disaster and later salvage operations), (c) appropriate maintenance and security personnel, and (d) fire and police departments, relevant advisory groups (such as a conservation centre), and regional facilities (eg firms with freezing plants).
2. A detailed building plan, specifying the location of such features as electrical boxes, air-control systems (heating, ventilating, etc), and fire extinguishers. This plan, together with the entire Disaster Plan, should be brought to the attention of the local fire brigade, accompanied by an explanation of the special vulnerability of library materials.
3. A list of emergency equipment and supplies, such as fans, plastic milk crates and unprinted newsprint.
4. Availability of commercial freezing and cold storage facilities for holding damaged materials until salvage arrangements are made.
5. A list of procedures to follow at the time of an emergency, covering the handling of priority collections and of different types of library materials. There should also be a statement of things *not* to do, such as attempting to separate wet pages or heating water-soaked books to dry them.
6. A list of potential volunteers to help in the event of a disaster.

A final word on library disasters may be left to the organisers of the Illinois Program:

'We will do all we can to assist you.
We can do *more* if you are prepared!' — (*Illinois Libraries*, Vol.67, October 1985, pp.719-723.)

*Karl G. Schmude is University Librarian at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW.

An article about the NSW State Library Disaster Plan is on page one of this issue of *InCite*.

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LOCAL STUDIES SECTION

Local Studies Librarians North Shore (Sydney) Group is initiating an application to form a Local Studies Section of the LAA. The submission must be supported by 100 signatures of professional and/or library technician members of the LAA who are resident in a majority of States and/or Territories.

As a matter of urgency, if you are interested in becoming part of this application, please contact Margaret Wyatt at Kuring-gai Municipal Library, 265 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield 2070 to obtain the relevant documentation. It is hoped to present the application to the LAA Council meeting in November 1986.

In addition the group welcomes any contribution which analyses the nature of local studies librarianship and/or the advantages of forming a Local Studies Section. The group particularly welcomes the involvement of librarians and libraries outside the Sydney region.

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Call for Nominations for Division Officers for 1987

Special Libraries Section Victorian Group: Nominations are called for President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; and Committee Members (7). Nominations are to be sent to Janet Kelly, 39 Newry Street, North Fitzroy, 3068, by 30 October 1986. (Please use nomination forms distributed with *InCite*.)

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