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— the retrospective conversion specialists

When you get your new automated system, you'll want to start using it right away. You really don't want to see your old system again. You're already planning all the things you'll be able to do with your new system.

Right so far?

There's just one little snag. How do you get the data you need to run the system INTO the system? Without data, a computer system is like a car without petrol — it won't go!

So how do we make it go?

Many libraries are choosing to have their records converted by **amarc** Data International Pty. Ltd. We have considerable expertise in library conversion projects.

But couldn't we key it ourselves?

Yes, but it may not be desirable. One reason is time. You bought your system to save you time — to do all those routine tasks faster. Keying data in house takes time — lots of time — time you really need to learn your new system and train your staff and users.

Staff resources are another reason. Many libraries simply do not have the staff to do the job in house. Temporary data processors usually wouldn't know a title from a tracing note. Training them can be very time consuming, and the results can't really be checked — often until it's too late to correct mistakes.

Why choose amarc?

- **amarc** key and verify data — to a guaranteed accuracy rate of 99.99%
- **amarc** are experienced — our operators know library data
- **amarc** key it for you fast — in weeks, not months
- **amarc** use microfilm of your cards for the conversion — so there is no disruption to library operations
- **amarc** have professional librarians on their staff to manage your project
- **amarc** have already carried out successful conversions for many libraries

But library records are so complex!

No problem! **amarc** can key —

- Simple cataloguing records
- Records to AUSMARC standard
- Records for loading onto ABN
- Membership files
- In-house files (community information, local history, indexes)
- Records to your specifications
- Australia wide service
- Affordable rates
- Conversion in stages, if required
- Pilot studies/Test keying
- Guaranteed results (ask any of our satisfied customers)

Free your staff to serve your USERS, not your system!

For more information, or an estimate for planning purposes, call Miss Sharon Barnett or Ms Jan Wild on (02) 633 4922.

amarc

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LOST LETTERS FOUND

A chance conversation on a Sydney bus last year brought to light a series of Australia letters, lost for almost fifty years. Written by the poet and scholar John le-Gay Brereton, the 37 letters were presented to the National Library of Australia recently by Mr Roy Smee, c/o Lane Cove, in Sydney.

John le-Gay Brereton, a close friend of Henry Lawson, was the Librarian at Sydney University's Fisher Library and, later, the first Professor of English Literature at that University. The letters were written to Hesse Duncan Hall, an Australian historian who spent most of his life abroad, and apart from a break of five years in the early 1920s span the years 1915 to 1932, when Brereton died.

The letters contain comment on the reaction in Sydney to some of the vital issues of the first World War, including conscription, Archbishop Mannix, Billy Hughes and censorship. Others include descriptions of the founding of the Fellowship of Australian Writers and handwritten or typed versions of some of Brereton's poems.

Early in 1939, Duncan Hall gave the letters to Roy Smee, who was a bushwalking friend and student interested in Brereton's work. At his enlistment in 1940, Mr Smee left the letters with Professor E. Holmes who in turn, in 1942, passed them to a lecturer, A. G. Mitchell, later to be Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University. After his return from active service Mr Smee spent a number of years overseas, and was a delegate to the International Labour Organization and the OECD.

The 1980s found Roy Smee and Professor Mitchell neighbours and acquaintances who occasionally travel into town by bus. During a conversation on one of these journeys last year Professor Mitchell realised that Mr Smee was the owner of the Brereton letters and returned the package to him soon afterwards.

Presenting the letters to the National Library recently, Roy Smee said, 'This story is evidence of how a spark struck in formative years may glow for a lifetime', commenting on his interest in Brereton, kindled first by his high school English teacher, Machin Hall — brother to Duncan Hall.

sion on databases and cooperative information sharing ventures. Alla Kamaralli, the librarian of the Society for Crippled Children, has listed a number of references in *ALN*, *ASLN* and *InCite* from late 1970s to mid-1980s which may be of interest to members of the group. A copy can be obtained from Alla (02) 698 9555 by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to PO Box 10, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012.

On the national scene, an enjoyable breakfast took place at the LAA Conference in Darwin in July where librarians from all over Australia, interested in services to people with disabilities, were able to meet and get to know one another.

The Second National Conference on Information Systems for Disabled People, will be held at the Disability Information & Resource Centre in Adelaide during 2-3 October. The conference will, among other matters of common interest, discuss the recommendations of a working party on the development of standardised terminology and software.

The final Sydney meeting of the group for 1986 will be at the Special Resources Unit of the Department of Education at Parramatta in late October or early November.

Maureen Wet

NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

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It was agreed at the meeting that the organisation of the national co-ordination of the School Libraries Section for 1987-1988 be invested in the School Libraries Sectional Group of NSW and that consideration be given to the formalising of a meeting of Presidents of all School Libraries Sectional Groups and that General Council be approached for funding in the event of the National Section being abolished.

The Section decided to approach the LAA to assist in the mounting of an Australia-wide campaign to ensure that all schools have constant access to the services of a teacher-librarian and felt that the Australia-wide campaign should also include the encouragement of the overall improvement in the level of teacher-librarian qualifications of those persons employed in that capacity.

LISPD

The LISPD (Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities) Special Interest Group has held two successful meetings in Sydney so far this year.

The first, in May, in conjunction with the NSW branch of the LAA, heard a very interesting report by Val Moon (Community Services Librarian of the State Library), on her Churchill Fellowship study tour to the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom. Val described some of the new technology she had seen, and emphasised the librarian's role in making sure it was used to the full advantage of people with disabilities.

The second meeting was held in August, at the NSW Society for Crippled Children. A publications display, a tape-slide presentation and a short video all emphasised different aspects of independent living, and the librarian's role in providing information to promote it. There followed an informal discus-