— the bottom line

Last issue I had a bit of a whinge about the whingers in our midst. It concerns me that some members appear to be shooting themselves in the feet, then blaming the LAA for supplying the gun and claiming the costs of hospitalisation. Such antics are of course silly. Only one person can be responsible for a self-inflicted injury.

This issue I'm delighted to write about much more positive aspects of belonging to the Association. At the request of the South Australian Branch I recently visited Adelaide to meet with the workers — we've seen what happens to presidents isolated in palaces. Anne Harris and Alan Bundy organised an excellent itinerary which took me to special, school, public, CAE and TAFE libraries.

It was great. I've come away with a new sense of pride in the accomplishments of our colleagues; regardless of constrained resources, the people shine through. A little bloody perhaps, but definitely unbowed. Whether it was a high school library based literature programme, a grand plan for a public library automated network, or a discussion on funding for library materials in nurse education, positive outlooks and constructive attitudes prevailed. It was certainly no coincidence that all the librarians I visited enjoyed the respect and therefore the suppor of their organisational masters. And it wa clear that this trust in their professionalisr was earned, not granted. Quantifiable sei vices to identified consumers made th difference.

It's generally reckoned that about 40% o the people with access to library services ac tually use them. If we are to enjoy the pres tige and political clout we so richly deserve and be heard in the current favourable cli mate for serious consideration of a nationa information plan (read funding for libraries) my guess is that we'll have to bring this figur to at least 60% by 1990. SA might be ther already. Thanks for the eye-opener.

Ian McCallun
Presiden

1985 F.A. SHARR MEDAL

The 1985 F.A. Sharr Medal has been awarded to Mark Bickerton, who completed the three-year Diploma of Teaching (Teacher Librarianship) course at the Western Australian College of Advanced Education last year.

This medal is awarded annually by the Western Australian Branch Council of the Library Association of Australia to a graduate from a professional course in librarianship in the west. Candidates for the award are assessed on, among other things, academic performance; knowledge of current issues in librarianship and information science; participation in campus, professional, and community activities; and demonstrated potential for contributing to the development of the profession in Western Australia.

Mark has been active on a number of committees, including the College's Nedlands Campus Committee, the WACAE Student Guild, the Executive of the School Libraries Section (WA Group) of the Library Association of Australia, and the OLISS Committee on online information services for schools. In January this year he received an appointment as teacher librarian at Willerton Senior High School in Perth.

His medal was presented at a Branch Council dinner at the new Alexander Library Building in Perth on Tuesday, 25 March.

Dr L. Anne Clyde
Head
Department of Library Studies
WACAE

Directory of Special Libraries

As most people are aware, the gathering o data for the 7th edition is well under way. / decision must now be made as to whether it i again produced in loose-leaf form or whethe a bound edition is preferred. It was foun with the 6th edition that most people ordere a folder as well as the contents and for thi reason it is supposed that a bound editio would be more suitable. Before making a fina decision we'd like YOUR comments.

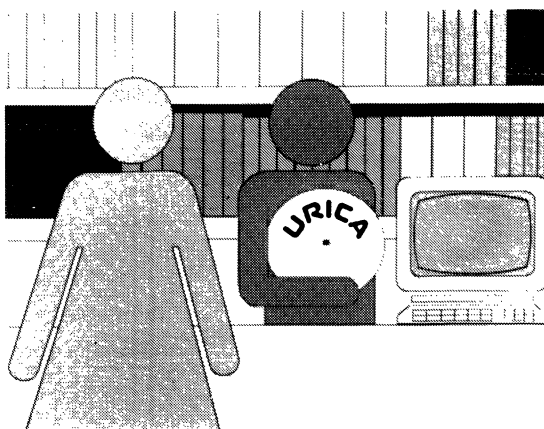Please write to Brenda Pittard, Publication Officer, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSV 2007.