

**LETTERS Cont'd from page 9**

applying operations in most libraries, relatively little additional effort in the libraries applying data should be involved in collecting this additional data.

In costing these operations care should be taken to exclude transactions that are not interlibrary loans proper, eg loans between branches and various campuses of multi-campus institutions. These costs may well be of interest to the institutions concerned but they do not affect the striking of a reasonable fee for services between libraries.

It is likely that costs associated with serial items are different to costs for monographs and other materials. There should be an attempt to differentiate between items with greatly different costs. Perhaps rather than dealing with the problem of defining these various categories it might be better to distinguish between cases where the item in question is actually lent and those cases where a photocopy or other substitute is supplied.

Data should also be collected on the incidence and costs of making and processing requests when the requested item is not supplied. This will allow for a separate fee for unsuccessful requests or absorbing the cost of such requests into the fee for successful requests.

There are some costs that I believe should definitely not be included in the fee for interlibrary loan services. These include the costs of acquiring, cataloguing, curating and storing materials requested on interlibrary loan. Inclusion of these costs could only be justified if a library with the specific role of supplying documents on interlibrary loan.

There are some other costs that could arguably be included in the fee for interlibrary loan service. These include for example, overheads of various types and depreciation of equipment. Methods for calculating, or ignoring, these costs vary widely from library to library and special care would have to be taken in estimating and reporting these costs.

Any estimate of costs will be expensive to obtain and will need to be updated from time to time. This indicates that data should be collected, analysed and reported in terms of cost elements that can be indexed relatively easily, eg cost of labour at various levels, postage, electronic mail, photocopies, fax transmission etc.

If traffic patterns, modes of message transmission and other practices change then another survey would be needed to accurately determine the costs of requesting and supplying documents on interlibrary loan, but in the meantime costs could be updated more easily if the original report of costs is in terms of indexable cost elements.

*Ian Douglas*  
Swinburne Library

**Not avoiding the ILL issue!**

Deakin University's attitude to charging for the interlibrary loan of books is one of imitable opposition. We believe this to be an attack on the principle of resource sharing. In fact, although we are now a net lender, we still do not charge local libraries for photocopies of articles, and we were the last Australian academic library to start charging for photocopies.

I thought our attitude was so well known it would be boring to repeat it, but I now realise that you can never say something worth saying, too often!

*Margaret A. Cameron*  
Chief Librarian

**OBITUARY**  
**Robin Kavanagh**

The death occurred early this year of Robin Kavanagh, Primary Assistant and former teacher-librarian at St John Bosco Primary School, Engadine. Robin's tremendous enthusiasm, creativity and generosity were well known to all those teacher-librarians who attended the Catholic Education Office library courses where she so generously shared her ideas with participants.

She gave so much to the children and the library at St John Bosco School, to any teacher-librarian who sought her help and to many library associated groups such as the

local resource sharing group. Robin was a Committee Member of the LAA School Libraries Section (NSW group) and until shortly before her final illness she was working with other IBBY members to help produce the forthcoming edition of *The New Classics*.

It is therefore very fitting that this publication will be dedicated to Robin, and that the school will have an annual literature award in her memory. Her death at only 43 is a sad loss to her school, to all those teacher-librarians who came in contact with her, and especially to her husband Alan and sons Justin and Stuart.

*Judy Bull*  
Committee Member  
School Libraries Section (NSW Group)

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