

# NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Recruitment of librarians from overseas

The Association has recently written to the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs expressing concern at the number of senior library positions that are advertised overseas at the same time as they are advertised in Australia. The concern is that the overseas advertisements are placed before the Australian market has been tested. The following reply has been received from the Department:

Dear Ms Adams

The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has asked me to thank you for your letter of 13 April 1987 concerning the recruitment of librarians from overseas.

It must be stressed at the outset that the Government is firmly committed to the principle that Australian residents should have priority for all Australian job vacancies. Government policy on skilled migration requires that priority be given to domestic education and training action to meet the future skill requirements of the Australian labour market. Resort to overseas recruitment is made only when local sources of supply cannot match labour market demand.

Under the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) there is provision for the recruitment by employers of highly skilled workers from overseas when vacancies cannot be filled from the Australian labour market or from local training arrangements. Employers wishing to make use of the scheme are required to demonstrate they have been unsuccessful in their attempts to find a local suitable applicant for the vacancy, and they are willing to enhance the overall skills of the Australian labour force by employing local graduates. ENS policy provisions are specifically designed to protect the job opportunities of Australian residents, at the same time facilitating overseas recruitment when labour market circumstances genuinely warrant it.

Notwithstanding the above, under certain circumstances the position of chief librarian at a recognised tertiary institution may be regarded as an academic, rather than a general appointment. Under special arrangements for senior academic appointments, tertiary institutions are not obliged to fulfil the requirements normally applying to other categories of workers being recruited under the ENS. This policy is intended to ensure that tertiary institutions are free to appoint the best staff available, with consequent benefits to Australian educational standards. Accordingly the usual labour market considerations do not apply.

As a matter of interest, our data indicates that employer nominations do not constitute a significant source of overseas librarians. Only two have entered Australia in this fashion in the last three fiscal years. Seventy entered in the same period in other categories, mainly as spouses and brothers and sisters of Australian residents.

J. R. Tuchin  
Migrant Entry Branch

## Medianet

Ever wondered how the LAA distributes press releases to the media? For the past three years the LAA has subscribed to the AAP Medianet service. The service allows press releases to be distributed via the AAP wire service to newspapers, radio and TV stations throughout Australia and coverage is both metropolitan and regional. Distribution can be made on an Australia-wide basis or can be localised to a state or metropolitan area depending on the relevance of the release. For the past 12 months the LAA has made the service available to Branches of the Association who have used it to issue releases of a more local nature.

Also available through Medianet is an international distribution through Associated Press of America, Agence France Presse, Reuters, NZ Press Association and AAP.

The system is simple to operate. Releases are transmitted to AAP via fax and simply quote a user number. They are then distributed according to the user's instructions.

A few of the recent releases have covered

National Information Policy, National Language Policy, Sylvia Webb's visit, and the H.C.L. Anderson Awards. Further information and AAP contact numbers in each state are available from Branch Secretaries or from Head Office.

## IFLA Brighton 1987

If you are an Aussie attending the Brighton IFLA Conference don't forget that you are invited to attend the Australian caucus on Saturday, 15 August at 18:30 in the York meeting room in the Hotel Metropole.

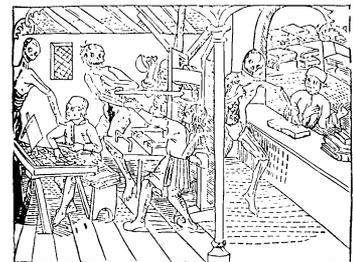
The purpose of the caucus is to discuss the business of IFLA prior to the IFLA Council meeting, and to have a bit of a social get together.

The LAA will, of course, be having a stand at the exhibition to promote next year's conference. For the uninitiated it is IFLA standard practice for the host association to provide a free stand for the next year's host for publicity purposes. At the Australian stand the LAA's 50th Anniversary will be commemorated at a party on Tuesday, 18 August at 2.30 pm. All Australian delegates are welcome to attend, and Mr K. J. Stewart, Agent-General for NSW, has been invited. Friends of Australian delegates are also welcome to sample a true taste of Australia.

## LAA Publications Section

The Publications Section of the Association has been reorganised. Ms Kathy Husselbee has been appointed Publications Manager and will oversee the production of *InCite* as well as the production and marketing of the LAA's wide range of monograph publications. Tanya Vojsk has been appointed as Publications Assistant. Kathy is the person to get in touch with about advertising and editorial in *InCite* advice about divisional publications assistance with Publications Board matters new publications etc.

Ms Brenda Pittard will continue to work for the Association — *ALJ*, *ASLN* and *Orana* will be co-ordinated by her on a contract basis at least until the end of 1987. Brenda is the contact person for advertising in these publications. Brenda has worked full-time for the LAA for over five years and has now decided to use her publishing talents to branch into the wider publishing world. We wish her every success.



Jenny Adams  
Director

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## Welcome Tanya!

Tanya Vojsk has been appointed to the LAA's Head Office staff as Publications Assistant. Over the last year Tanya has been employed as a Research Assistant at Macarthur Institute of Higher Education. Previous to this she worked in Sutherland Shire Council's Public Relations Department working as Publications/Relief Press Officer. Tanya has also completed part time study courses on typography and design. Tanya will assist with *InCite*, inhouse publications, advertisements etc and will act as Minutes Secretary to the ALJ Editorial Board and the Publications Board. Tanya is the person to contact for Happenings entries in *InCite* and for placing inserts in this publication.