



the front line

In this issue we welcome our Director-designate, Ms Sue Kosse, who will take up her position at the beginning of November (see page 7). Sue comes to us from James Cook University, Townsville, where she is presently Manager of Online Reference Services. She is also Secretary of the LAA's North Queensland Regional Group.

Sue's varied experience and skills, which include management and public relations, together with her commitment to the needs of users — a feature of much of her professional life — equip her to assume the LAA's top management position at a critical time in the Association's history. In offering our congratulations on her appointment we also offer our support in the vital work she will be undertaking on behalf of all members.

National Information Policy was again the theme of discussions I led recently with groups of interested and enthusiastic members in Launceston and Hobart. Interest in the topic had been heightened by Tasmanian Premier Robin Gray's proposal to change the funding basis of Tasmanian public libraries. Under this proposal a greater proportion of the state's library budget would be raised from local government — a lift of 16 percent to 40 percent of total funding. Association members led by Tasmanian Branch President, Jill Adamski, and Branch Secretary, Christine Frey, and by Robyn McKenzie and Nella Pickup from the

Tasmanian Northern Areas Regional Group are concerned that this not be taken as an opportunity to diminish support for the vital services provided, and have issued a challenging press release to support their plea.

The Trask Report into children's library services in Tasmania acknowledges the steady decline in children's services since the early 1970s, and the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board has noted in its latest annual report that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Tasmanian State Library to maintain its services to the public. Amongst other things, the library now opens for only two hours during the weekend. Comparative weekend opening hours show state libraries in Melbourne and Sydney opening for 16 hours, with opening times in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth 11.5, 10.5 and 7 hours respectively.

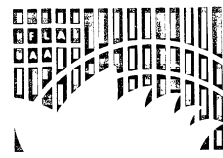
Although there are important structural differences between Tasmania and the mainland states in the funding of public library services, nevertheless Tasmania serves as a useful microcosm of the total Australian scene in demonstrating the need to ensure that high quality library services are promoted constantly and effectively. In discussions with the newly appointed Tasmanian State Librarian, Warwick Dunstan, it is clear that he and his staff are striving to meet this imperative.

The promotion and marketing of library services is not the preserve of only those who find themselves in difficult and threatening situations. It is a major challenge being recognised increasingly by members of the Association throughout Australia.

The Executive Committee and Council certainly have this matter very much at heart as you will know from repeated references in this column and elsewhere. At the Executive and Council meetings being held at the time this

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IFLA 88, I'll be there —



Beverly P. Lynch

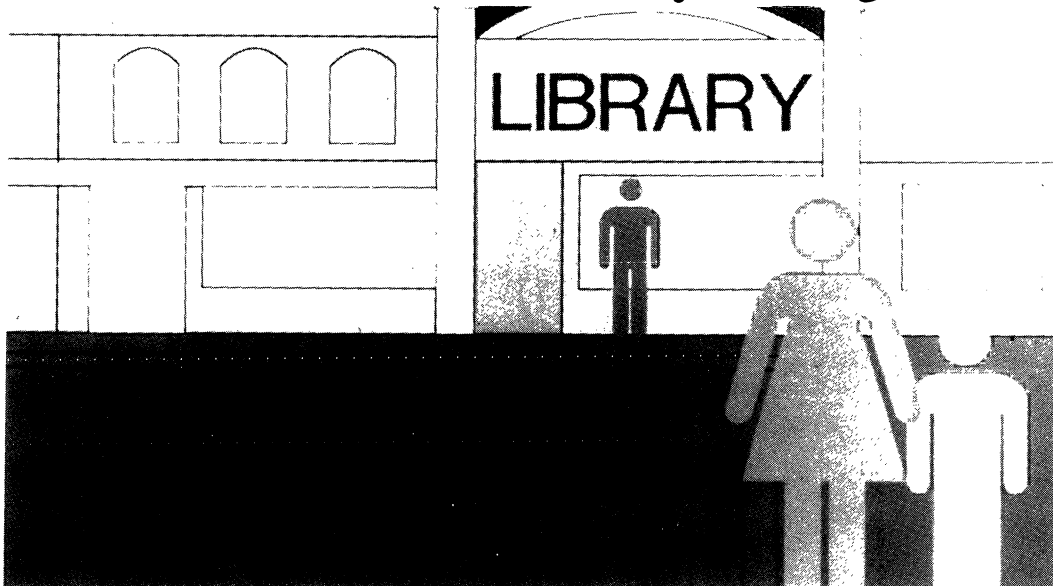


IFLA in Sydney! I'll be there — to continue the development of IFLA standards for university libraries around the world; to meet with colleagues working in university and research

libraries in order to consider matters of mutual interest; to enjoy the hospitality of Australian librarians; to visit this remarkable, vibrant country during its Bicentennial year; to meet Australian authors, to visit Australian libraries, buy Australian books; to travel for two and a half days across the continent by train to visit Perth and Fremantle (America's Cup memories linger); to buy a opal and Australian pottery. IFLA '88 in Sydney promises to be one of the most memorable international library conferences. I look forward to it.

Beverly P. Lynch
University Librarian
University of Illinois at Chicago
President
American Library Association 1985/86

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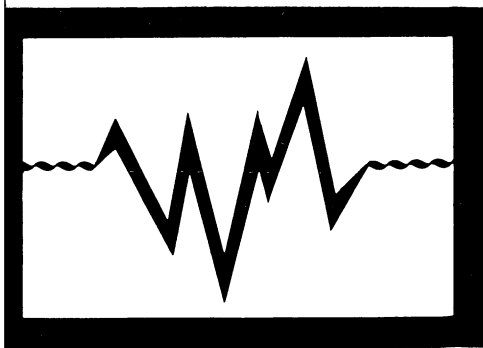
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IN THE NEWS

It's a small world

'It's a small world' and electronic mail makes the world, or parts of it, smaller. An interface now exists between the Minerva electronic mail system (or KEYLINK, as it is to become), and ALANET — the American Library Association electronic mail equivalent.

Any authorised Minerva email user can now converse with any authorised ALANET email user. Further information is available in the *Minerva Mail User Guide*, 1 March 1987, p 1-32, or from Frances Bluhdorn, Susman Librarian, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (02) 16 8997; Minerva: MLN202500.

Registration fee free

There is no fee to register with Library Locums and there is no charge at any stage to candidates who are offered employment through Library Locums' says Marion Nicolson, manager of Library Locums.

Library Locums is a service to employers saving them the time and expense of advertising, interviewing and selecting library personnel. In addition, Workers' Compensation Insurance, State Pay-roll Taxes and PAYE Deduction are taken care of.

'To our clients Library Locums is efficient and cost-effective. To our candidates we are a free and independent source of work,' says Marion. Library Locums is always looking for people with skills and experience in the library and information field. For more information, contact Marion Nicolson on (02) 699-1855.

IPI growing

The Indonesian Library Association (IPI) continues to grow and hold activities.

In September 1986 it held its fourth congress at Ujung Pandang in Sulawesi, with 160 people attending. This is an achievement considering Ujung Pandang is approximately 1300km from Jakarta, the centre with most libraries in Indonesia.

IPI now has a membership of about 4000 throughout the country, and is already planning for its fifth congress to be held in Pandaan, East Java, in 1989.

In recent issues of its quarterly journal *Majalah Ikatan Pustakawan Indonesia*, there have been articles calling for members of IPI to be less passive, and to co-operate with members from related professional groups such as writers, publishers and community workers in an attempt to become part of a wider social economic development process.

Fulbright 1988

Application dates for the Fulbright Awards for study, research or lecturing in the USA are fast approaching. The closing date for 'Postdoctoral Fellow' and 'Postgraduate Student' categories is 30 September and the 'Senior' category closes on 1 December. Preference will be given to applicants who intend to work in their discipline as it specifically applies to Australia or the US (eg Australian/American history, literature, sociology, anthropology); or to any aspect of either country that is unique; or to those who intend to undertake comparative Australian/US studies. For further details and application forms contact: The Secretary, Department of Education (AAEF Awards) PO Box 826, Woden ACT 2606 (062) 83 7637.

Cool for Cats

CAVAL has produced a comprehensive report on the COOL-CAT online catalogue trial. COOL-CAT was trialled in Victoria from September 1986 till March 1987. During this time users were able to access the titles of resources recently acquired by a variety of college and university libraries. The National Library also participated in the scheme (but with the object of testing the system as a possible internal OPAC). For a copy of the report send \$19.95 to CAVAL Ltd, 10 Prospect Hill Rd, Camberwell VIC 3124.

Documents on microfiche

Documents produced by the South Pacific Commission between 1980 and 1985 are now on microfiche.

The documents all relate to the south-west Pacific area and deal with agriculture, economic development, environment, fisheries, population and migration, health and several other topics. Further information including document prices is available from: The Librarian, South Pacific Commission, BP D5, Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia.

. . . update . . . update

If you are a database producer or an online host, the Australian Database Development Association (ADDA) wants to hear from you.

Why? ADDA is now in the process of compiling its third edition of the *Directory of Australian Databases* and would like up-to-date information about your database(s).

The directory will list all known Australian databases including those publicly available. There is no charge for a listing in the directory. Contact Diana Killen on (03) 205 334, or Sherrey Quinn on (03) 850 3361 for a questionnaire.

ROLL UPI ROLL UPI ROLL UPI — if you want a good roll up, advertise your next conference, seminar or workshop in 'Happenings'. Short entries cost only \$25 per entry/per issue (or give all your relevant details for \$50). To find out more ring Kathy Husselbee (02) 692 9233

Happenings listings are free to LAA groups.

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reaches you, NIP is again a major item on the agenda — this time to take to the next stage the creation of our 'National Information Policy — Lobbying Kit'. This is being designed to assist all of us, in a practical way, and to promote the value and importance of the services we provide to our political and business leaders. It is only through better understanding and appreciation that we can expect to gain recognition and financial support.

Peter Dawe
President

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