

## Higher priorities

The Vice-President of the Association (*InCite* 7 August) put the case for moving to Canberra. I have no quarrel with his vision, though his arguments are selective. For instance, his reference to 'real estate at bargain prices'. A leading Sydney real estate agent predicts that the value of 376 Jones Street will treble in the next decade; or his reference to the Australian College of Education. Only a small number of national professional associations have (or are planning) their headquarters in Canberra.

My real disagreement concerns priorities. We have 'failed' (CPRC) to attract young professional members and only three percent of library technicians have joined the Association. If this is not reversed the consequences will be disastrous for the Association. Further, we are approaching a crucial stage in our tran-

sition from librarians to information professionals, and finally we must succeed in our efforts to have the existing network of libraries recognised as the infrastructure for the proposed National Information Policy.

Every ounce of energy and every dollar we have must be used to address these issues and then and only then may we look at: 'The symbolic aspects of ... being in the national capital.'

Whatever is said on this issue, history with its 20/20 vision will, I believe, confirm that moving headquarters is irrelevant to solving the real problems facing us in the late 1980s and the last decade of this century.

*Hanns Possin*

## Lifting our game

On 31 July 1987, I telephoned the LAA's office to ask for the dates of IFLA and LAA 1988 conferences (separately), and details of venues. The person who took the call did go away to check, at some length, but was only able to give me inclusive dates (27/8/88 to 3/9/88), and to say that she 'thought' the venue was the University of NSW. As these conferences are major events for the Australian library community, I was disappointed that the information sought was not available, and that there was no offer to check further and let me know.

I recall from an *InCite* photograph of an LAA staff member's retirement that quite a number of people are employed in our Sydney office — what are they all doing, if they can't answer a

basic question like this? Fortunately, I was able to get the details I wanted straight away by telephoning our Victorian Branch Council representative. Incidentally, I could find neither the 1988 conference dates, nor the editor's name, in *InCite*. Come on LAA — we are library and information people out here, and we expect just a little higher standard of service than this!

*Marie T.B. Dowling*

Institute of Catholic Education

**The staff of the Association has sent a letter of apology to Ms Dowling. This problem of communication has been discussed and steps to remedy the situation have been identified. The staff felt that the Director's suggestion of tattooing the dates to everyone's forearm would not need to be implemented.**

## AACOBS on ILL

Several letters have appeared in your columns criticising AACOBs for 'imposing' a \$6 inter-library loan charge and for not making a special exemption for public libraries.

AACOBs has not imposed a charge for inter-library loans and has no power to do so.

AACOBs was faced with a situation in which the University of NSW had imposed a charge of \$15, the National Library and several other federal public sector institutions were known to be under considerable pressure from government to recover all interlibrary loan costs, and some other large libraries were signalling an intention to charge. At the Darwin meeting of National Council in 1986 several libraries indicated that they would be unable to provide free interlibrary loans for much longer. It was also pointed out that the \$3 charge for photocopies on interlibrary loan had been fixed several years before and should be revised.

In these circumstances AACOBs recommended that those of its members which wished to charge should adopt a standard rate of \$6. This is well below the average cost of supplying an interlibrary loan which a recent AACOBs study, reported to the 1987 National Council meeting, showed to be in the region of \$12.

The results of the SAIL study of interlibrary loan traffic are still not generally available. The information available to AACOBs when the recommendation was made suggested that public libraries principally borrow from each other or from their state library. AACOBs anticipated, and this has been proved correct, that state libraries would not charge public libraries for interlibrary loans and that public libraries would not charge each other. Indeed I understand that some state libraries intend to obtain interlibrary loans on behalf of public libraries in their state and meet the cost of doing so where a charge applies.

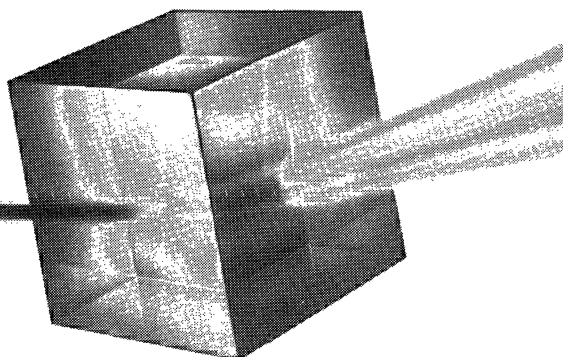
The Standing Committee was also aware that many public libraries objected to paying for interlibrary loans which they obtained on behalf of tertiary students. The question of service to students from public libraries was specifically discussed. Academic libraries stated that it was not their practice to obtain interlibrary loans on behalf of undergraduate students and it was a misuse of the interlibrary loan system for undergraduates to expect public libraries to do so on their behalf. It was the view of the academic librarians on the Standing Committee that it is the responsibility of academic libraries to meet the needs of their undergraduate students and those libraries which fail to do so will not be encouraged to provide an adequate service if public libraries attempt to do it for them. In some cases students in metropolitan areas approach public libraries when they could



If you think that all subscription agents are the same, you can't have had word of Swets' growing reputation for efficient and reasonably priced periodical supply yet . . .

You can contact us at the following address or, better still, why don't you contact one of our customers?

SWETS SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE  
Head Office,  
Heereweg 347,  
2161 CA Lisse, Holland.  
Tel.: (0)2521 - 19113 / Telex: 41325  
Fax: (0)2521 - 15888



Offices also in: Brazil, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, U.K., U.S.A.

# INSIGHT

## Commotion continued

There has been a good response to the request for libraries to send in PR and press release material. Keep your good ideas coming so that they can be shared around. Here is an update on the material sent in so far.

## Libraries open your world

One of the biggest PR activities reported was the Public Libraries Expo held in Melbourne's City Square on 24 May. The theme of the event was 'Libraries open your world'. The expo concept evolved from the SOLV campaign with the aim of the exercise being to highlight the variety of services provided by libraries and to explain the effects of funding cuts to specific library services. On the day, housebound service vans were on show as well as Eastern Regional Libraries' mobile semi-trailer library. Within ERL's 'library on wheels' people were treated to demonstrations of the online catalogue and access to Viatel.

Another expo is planned for 1988 during Library Week. Libraries keen to be a part of this showcase should contact Sue Noble (03) 311 0387.

## Leaping lizards

Darwin City Library sent along the happy snap below with the caption 'leaping lizards'. The accompanying press release explained that the members of the Casuarina Public Library's Golden Oldies Club shown were not auditioning for Crocodile Dundee II but enjoying themselves at one of their fortnightly meetings held at the library. The staff of the library has fun thinking up activities for the group. These range from film sessions, visiting personalities (both human and non-human) to sing-a-longs, craft sessions and cookery. The City Librarian is enthusiastic about the scheme. 'It seems whatever these oldies do, they do it with style; and they also have a certain knack of boosting staff spirits. We'd really like to recommend them.'



## Two disappearing acts

Carrington Library's community newsletter has a fun approach. The library is using symbols for different types of fiction (romance, adventure etc.) as part of its fiction classification system. They have a 'novel' approach to disappearing books too. The newsletter lets users know about items for which there are long waiting lists — a good way of keeping people's knickers untwisted.

Townsville TAFE Library sent along a note about the problem they face with a non-book item — a skeleton. The library closes at 3.00pm but classes which use the boney hero continue until 10.00pm. Leaving the skeleton in the classroom overnight means the skeleton 'disappears' but returning it is equally difficult. A pull apart skeleton or longer opening hours seem to be the only solutions!

## Adopt-A-Neighbour

The President of the Public Libraries Committee in Queensland, Carolyn Johnson, is coordinating the Adopt-A-Neighbour Project as a part of the Bicentennial. The idea is to create a book or listing of everyone (including library staff) who:

- brings a neighbour or friend to the library
- introduces a new member
- takes library materials to a friend or neighbour
- looks after the library needs of a housebound member.

The next step is for each library to turn on the razamatazz by sending out publicity releases, organising an official launch, a morning or afternoon tea party or cocktails. For further information contact Carolyn Johnson on (07) 282 0310.

Kathy Husselbee  
Editor

## A crafty idea

What do you do for a hobby in the remote outback of the Northern Territory?

The Country Borrowers Postal Library Service operated by the Northern Territory Library Service is one option — and high on the list of people's reading preferences is another — craft books.

A small leap of the imagination is sufficient to envisage the frustration of reading a 'How to do it' without the materials or tools with which to practise. A survey confirmed this view, and help came in the form of \$500 grant from the Crafts Council of the NT. This was used to buy materials and tools which were packed and posted out on approval.

The aim is to get people started. Thereafter, addresses of suppliers are provided and users purchase their requirements direct, but of course, the library continues to lend a range of books on the chosen craft if requested.

Craft kits cost from \$5 for Pottery through to \$34 for Patchwork. Other crafts in the pilot scheme were Pressed Flowers, Macrame and Fabric Painting: new kits to be included soon are Kitemaking, Crochet, Woodcraft, Batik and Tie-dyeing.

The idea will in future be promoted also through our tiny 'isolated' libraries, some in communities of less than 100 people.

Jenny Armour  
User Services Section  
Northern Territory Library Service

## Online 88 — Free registrations

For the past two years, the NSW ISS has sponsored the Australian Online Information Conference and Exhibition. The 1988 Conference will be held in Sydney on 19-21 January.

In order to encourage a greater interest in online information among students, as part of the ISS (NSW) program for 1987, the Committee has decided to sponsor four free registrations. One free registration is to be made available to each of the Library and Information Studies Schools in NSW and the ACT. Funds are available to cover conference registration fees only.

The sponsorship is aimed at the most deserving student in information storage and retrieval studies, including those who will graduate at the end of 1987. Each institution is to determine the basis for selecting its 'most deserving student'.

## BRISBANE COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE

## MANAGER USER SERVICES SECTION (PERMANENT) Reference No. 87/B/45

Brisbane College of Advanced Education is a multi-disciplinary college operating on four campuses across the Brisbane metropolitan area with a total enrolment in excess of 9000 students. The Resource Centre provides library and audiovisual services on all campuses. The Resource Centre Central Secretariat performs a number of managerial and service functions. Acquisitions and cataloguing functions are centralised. There is ready access to these units from all campuses. The URICA library system has been installed and provides online acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, OPAC, enquiry and statistical information to all Resource Centre units.

### Duties:

- assist with formulation of Resource Centre policy and procedures;
- manage operation of User Services across four campuses, including functions of information service, user education, circulations and classroom equipment provision;
- undertake special responsibility for co-ordination of collection development.

### Qualifications:

- tertiary qualifications together with professional qualifications in librarianship;
- extensive experience in reader services work at an advanced level;
- demonstrable skills in management, staff supervision and communication.

### Location:

- Kelvin Grove Campus but regular travel to all campuses will be required.

### Salary:

Senior Lecturer I — \$41,430 to \$44,090 per annum.

### Starting Date:

As soon as possible. Written applications, stating personal particulars, qualifications and experience, together with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees, should be forwarded to the Personnel Manager, Brisbane College of Advanced Education, 130 Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove, Qld 4059.

### Closing Date:

14 September 1987. Enquiries may be directed to Ms Gaynor Austen, (07) 352 8315. Envelopes should be marked 'Confidential'. Suitably qualified women and men should apply.

(70047)

Letters cont'd from page 10

easily borrow directly from the library of the institution at which they are enrolled.

AACOBS intends to keep the situation under review but the present indications are that very few legitimate interlibrary loans to public libraries will attract charges.

F.D.O. Fielding  
Chairman  
AACOBs Standing Committee