

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Tertiary education charges

The LAA Board of Education has devoted considerable time in the last 12 months to consideration of the effects of the tertiary administration charge which has been introduced by the Federal Government.

The Board was particularly concerned at the effect which this fee would have on students wishing to enrol in single subjects in librarianship courses in order to upgrade their skills in particular areas. Such people might be, for example, persons with an overseas qualification in librarianship who need greater knowledge of certain aspects of Australian librarianship or those who have been out of the library workforce for some time who need to catch up with recent developments in the profession.

The Board canvassed the views of library and information studies schools on the effect which the tertiary administration fee has had on enrolments and wrote to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. In her letters, the Chair of the Board of Education noted the importance of continuing professional education and urged the government to exempt persons enrolled in single subjects from the tertiary administration fee as it acts as a disincentive to furthering professional development.

A second round of letters was sent to the Ministers and the the Chairman of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission in August, again requesting exemption from the fee for persons enrolled in single subjects and pointing out that the benefits gained from increasing the productivity of such persons would far outweigh the negligible cost involved in exempting them from the fee.

The government has unfortunately refused to accede to the LAA's request. Whilst the list of persons exempted from the charge has been extended following recommendations contained in a CTEC study of the effects of the fee, persons enrolled in single subjects are still required to pay the full fee.

The Minister for Employment, Education and Training, the Hon. J.S. Dawkins MP has

replied to the Association in the following terms: 'Every student enrolment, whether full-time, part-time or external generates administrative costs. Therefore the Government has taken the view that as the charge is being made as a contribution towards the administrative overhead expenses of higher education courses, there should be no distinction made between students on the basis of the type of institution they attend or the course or mode of study'.

Schools project update

The project team working on the Learning and Information Needs of Schools Project has carried out a number of activities in recent weeks:

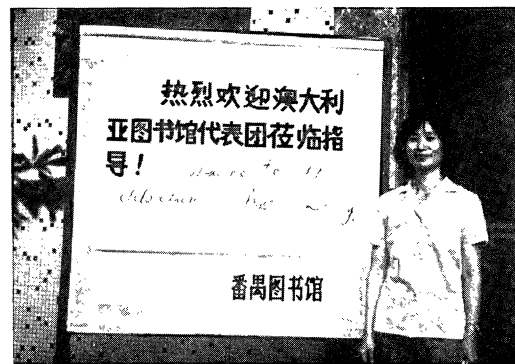
- The search of material on education has been finalised and searches of material on information management and the role of the teacher-librarian in information provision in schools have been refined.
- The analysis of relevant journal articles, conference papers and monographs continues.
- Policy documents from state, independent and special needs schools parents' organisations are being received and analysed.
- Correspondence with contact people in each state (as advised by the Steering Committee) has commenced. The team is currently making tentative times for visits to each state.
- *Books and Beyond*, 2nd ed, has been examined in detail and information is being sought from the Commonwealth Schools Commission and other relevant groups such as Occupational Health and Safety Councils to update some sections.
- A suggested agenda for the teleconference between the Steering Committee and the project team is being drawn up.
- Contact has been made with Dandenong College of TAFE which is implementing resource-based learning programs.
- Contact has been made also with the Canadian School Libraries Association which is preparing a series of position papers to replace its school library standards.

The project team from Kuring-gai CAE, Joyce Kirk, Barbara Poston-Anderson and Hilary Yerbury, would like to hear from

anyone wishing to have input to the project. Write to: The LINOS Project Team, Department of Information Studies, Kuring-gai CAE, PO Box 222, Lindfield NSW 2070, or phone (02) 467 9371.

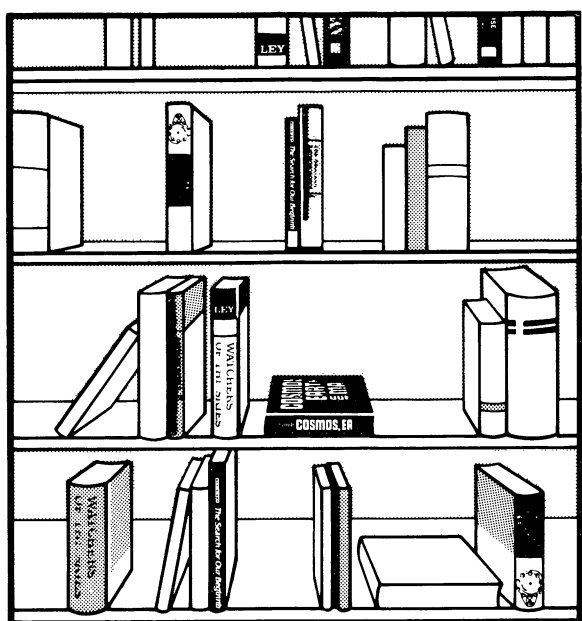
Louise Lansley
Educational and Industrial
Services Manager

Aus delegation to China



An Australian delegation comprising Mr Warren Horton, Director-General NLA, Mr Lawrie Ryan, State Librarian of Queensland, Mr Euan Miller, State Librarian of SA, Mr Nadasabapathy, University Librarian, Murdoch University, WA, and Mr Andrew Gosling, Chief Librarian, East Asia, NLA, visited China recently to attend the opening ceremony of the National Library of China. Visits to several other libraries were also included in the itinerary, taking the delegation from Beijing, to Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen.

The 22-storey National Library building was opened on 6 October. The delegation, Chinese officials and foreign guests were addressed by Mr Wang Meng, Minister for Culture, with the official opening performed by Vice-Premier, Wan Li. The NLC is one of the largest libraries in the world covering 7.4 hectares with a floor space of 140,000 square metres. The NLC lends to around 100 libraries via interlibrary loan as well as lending directly to users. NLC also supplies union catalogue cards for Chinese books and has produced the Chinese Library Classification and the Chinese Thesaurus.



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