



Putting the record straight

While I am not in a position to comment on the priority and funding for a revision of the Public Library Input Standards, I am able to respond to Marina Garlick's comment on the cost of sending 'various members of the hierarchy to IFLA in Tokyo'.

I would imagine the total cost of members going to Tokyo would be well in excess of \$10,000. However, as the Executive Director was the only delegate to receive LAA support the cost to the LAA was significantly less than the \$10,000 Marina portrays. Similar arrangements will apply for IFLA in Brighton in August of this year.

In any case, if other delegates had received support because their attendance was related to the LAA's hosting of the 1988 IFLA conference in Sydney, that support would have been a charge against 1988 conference income, as are all related expenses.

B. Mitcheson
Chairman,

IFLA Conference Executive Committee

Living in the 'real world'

Recently I received a press release which provided an excellent example of one way in which librarians can demonstrate involvement with the 'real world'. It outlines a fund-raising project by the Nicaraguan Library Support Group, comprising a number of concerned Canadian librarians who formed the group under the auspices of two registered charitable organisations.

So far the group has raised funds to purchase Spanish language subject headings for the National Cataloguing Centre in Managua. It now seeks to raise \$12,000 to build a Library School at the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in Managua.

As a Canadian living in Australia and working as a librarian, I came by this information via a colleague in Edmonton who is a member of the group. I believe it is of interest to readers of *InCite* as they may wish to contribute to the fund-raising effort — and this must be done directly to Canada, as there is no local agency for it.

Donations for the Library School Construction Project are being accepted through Tools for Peace (with cheques payable to Change for Children — Library Project) C/ Barbara Clubb, Tools for Peace, 1901, 11135-83 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2C6.

As well, readers may be inspired by the idea of such a project to set up similar support groups to work for the advancement of libraries in areas of great need.

Kathleen Gray

Two-tier interlending?

I fully endorse Euan Miller's sentiments that the \$6 charge for interlibrary loans should be totally opposed (*InCite* No.1, 6 February 1987). The decision by the Standing Committee of AACOBS shows a complete disregard for the effect of the charge on local authorities and, more importantly, the users. It is all very well to reaffirm, as the Committee did, the AACOBS policy that charges for interlibrary loans not be passed on to end users, but it will be a rare local Council that accepts this lofty ideal.

What the academic librarians fail to realise, or do not wish to, is that many interlibrary loans are for their own students, and I am aware of two tertiary institutions at which

students are actually told to use the public library for their study material.

What is required is a reorganisation of the Standing Committee of AACOBS so that public libraries are represented and can have an equal say in the matters which directly affect their services. The present committee has only one member, the State Librarian of Western Australia, who can be said to represent public libraries. The others, three departmental librarians, two of whom are with education departments, the National librarian five academic librarians, and one non-practicing librarian, are too far removed from public library matters.

Perhaps the time also has come to change the interlibrary lending procedures so that there is a two-tier system. The National library, State and public libraries forming one tier of cooperation, with free reciprocal lending, and academic libraries operating their own system, at whatever costs they wish to impose upon themselves. Mr W. Horton, of course, would have to be persuaded to change his views on charging.

R. H. Pestell
Public Libraries Branch,
State Library of Queensland

Dynamism and déjà vu

Before we all get our heads down and start beavering away on our terminals and Information Online 87 fades into a memory, I want to make some astringent observations about the conference.

First of all, though, I would like to register my admiration for the total dedication, efficiency and professionalism of both the Executive Committee with its sub-committees and the convention management agents. Their efforts ensured an extremely high level in the quality of speakers, product reviews, trade exhibits, hospitality and day-to-day organisation.

However, is it now time for a re-think? The accepted opinion among the 'old pros' (a valid expression to describe experienced online searchers?), was that there was nothing new for us to hear or see this year. Information technology may move fast, but not that fast. Should we then dutifully turn our thoughts to the new graduates — all would be fresh to them, even if déjà vu to us. But where were they? What percentage of the total attendance



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did they represent? I would like to see the statistical analysis of attendances from several aspects: a show of hands suggested that about half of those at Information Online 87, had not been at last year's conference, but given our small population here in Australia, I would suggest strongly that an annual Online Conference is too frequent.

So where do we go from here? The hallmark of the onliner is interactivity. How about it? Let's have some more suggestions. Here are mine:

- make the conference biennial
- introduce what I call 'how to' sessions (commonly known in management jargon as workshops), eg how to minimise your online searching costs, how to analyse your enquirer's search request, how to decide which database/s to search, etc
- devote one day to introductory papers, so that our new recruits could attend one day only
- fewer papers descriptive of systems: we need to see how they work rather than hear a description of them, so more demonstrations and workshop sessions are needed
- have some brainstorming sessions — this is a terrifically inspiring technique for online searchers, particularly in the area of searcher-user interaction
- let's have technical papers, eg the people who make CD-ROMs could tell us how they do it and there are articulate Telecom engineers who could explain gateways to us
- finally, the sensation of déjà vu which I have mentioned was accentuated by the fact that all the exhibitors were in the same position as last year — let's learn from the supermarket organisers and move the exhibits around.

We are members of an exciting, dynamic profession, so let's show some of that dynamism!

P.S. I nominate the Sydney Hilton for the Shakespearean award for noises off, ADDA for the cordon bleu award for superb refreshments, and AUSTRALIS for the Ken Done award for artistic excellence.

Eleanor Whelan
Information Consultant

The Online 87 exhibition space looked very different to me and the whole LAA head office crew — maybe because the LAA opted for a 'new spot on the supermarket shelf' and located the LAA stand in a different position to the one occupied in 1986!

Editor

Cooperation continued

Mary Ann Rosenthal made a plea in *InCite* No.1 6 February 1987 for greater cooperation between the LAA and the Records Management Association of Australia. It may encourage her to know of the moves for improved communication between the various associations that are taking place in Victoria.

The Forum of Information Associations (Victoria) formed in February 1986 and consists of a representative from each of: the Association of Librarians of Colleges of Advanced Education (Victoria); the Australian Computer Society; the Australian Database Development Association; the Australian Institute of Management — Victoria; the Australian Institute of Management National Centre; the Australian Institute of Systems Analysts; the Australian Society of Archivists, Melbourne Branch; the Australian Society of Indexers; the Australian Videotex Industry Association; Cooperative Action in Victorian Academic Libraries; the Information Management and Consulting Association; the Institution of Engineers, Australia, Victorian Division; the Law Librarians Group,

Victorian Division; the Records Management Association of Australia, Victorian Branch; the Victorian Association for Library Automation; and the Victorian Medical Records Association.

The Forum's objective is to foster relations between member organisations from the various disciplines to provide a wider understanding of each others' activities and objectives, and to facilitate united action. In particular to:

- promote coordination and cooperation in the activities of member organisations through such activities as joint educational sessions and exchange of speakers.
- enable discussions on united approaches to government at all levels and to industry and other bodies.
- promote the development of information technology through the fostering of such activities as Information Technology Month.

We have no formal ties with any body; however, the FIA(V) operates on a state basis in much the same way as the FIA(NSW), and our constitution is based on that of the Australian Information Technology Council (the more formal national equivalent; see *InCite* of 7 November 1986).

Participation is open to any non-profit association based in Victoria and concerned with information management (taken in its broadest sense). While it may be more practical for 'parent' groups rather than their subsidiaries or special interest groups to be FIA(V) members, our policy is inclusive rather than exclusive. No individual membership is allowed.

Meetings are held quarterly, generally over lunch on the first Wednesday of February, May, August and November. One representative from each participating group is encouraged to attend. An annual participation fee of \$20 covers postage and stationery.

Bodies interested in participating in the FIA(V) are invited to contact Jenny Evans, IMCA, c/- FLIS, 27 Kasouka Road, Camberwell, Vic 3124 (03) 813 1925.

A one-day seminar on issues facing the information world, with speakers from the various Forum participants, will be held in Melbourne on 6 May. Individuals interested in attending the seminar are invited to contact Peter McDonald, RMAA, c/- ANZ Bank, 3rd Floor, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000 (03) 658 1304.

Jennifer Goddard
Co-convenor, FIA(V)

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