

**HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION
SA GROUP**

Last year the South Australian Health Libraries Section hosted the national medical librarians conference. This year the Section has passed on its national responsibilities to Queensland and has more time to maintain its activity within the state.

Following on from a decision made at the conference where SA acquired the task of compiling and monitoring statistics from GRATIS, GRATISSA and GRATISQ, a new statistics collection form has been developed to enable comparisons. The Section has also made a submission to the SA Health Commission review into General Practice, concerning the provision of information services to rural doctors. The Section has recommended that a formal policy be formulated to co-ordinate existing facilities. There has been ongoing discussion regarding co-operative computerisation and various methods have been investigated. Up till now there has been no easy answer, however the area is still being investigated. The Section has been represented at numerous SA Libraries Summit Committee meetings and is looking forward to the outcomes of the Summit.

The first major function was held at the Julia Farr Centre on 7 June with 18 health librarians in attendance. Ellen Randva spoke on her experience working in the Woodward Biomedical Library, University of British Columbia, Canada. Felicity Williams, who has recently developed a medical library in Western Samoa spoke on overcoming cultural barriers in encouraging library use. Lindsay Harris spent a recent holiday in England and also took the opportunity of visiting several health libraries. He reported that health libraries seemed to be facing similar problems in England, and even thought that in some areas Australian health libraries were more advanced than their English counterparts. The evening concluded with a pleasant dinner at the Cremorne Hotel.

Irene Doksatsch
Secretary

'Happenings' is now on LIBNET. The LAA number is MLN 207500 (NALIA).

VIC BRANCH

State election

The coming election on 1 October may be critical for the future of the State Library building and for the funding of public libraries in Victoria.

Library staff are urged to ask all candidates about their policies and opinions on the following issues:

1. the program for the provision of improved accommodation for the State Library;
2. state government funding of public libraries;
3. the functions and funding of the Libraries Services Unit within the Ministry for the Arts;
4. the Libraries Bill which has still to pass through the final readings to pass into law.

It is important that library staff increases the level of library awareness and library issues among politicians. There is little time for lobbying within the brief period before the election but it needs to be done for the future of us all.

Ray Price

NSW BRANCH

Lobby or lose

The times of self-effacement are gone forever — lobby or lose. This is your chance to share John Levett's insights and skills in the business of effective lobbying. John is Director, School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania. Delegates at the IFLA/LAA conference will remember John's influential role in the very successful 'hypothetical'.

John suggests that there is nothing magical about the lobbying process — it consists of a series of simple concepts. John will teach you these concepts in an all-day seminar to be held at the State Library of NSW on 18 November, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (see 'Happenings' for details).

Frank Willems
Continuing Education Officer

Organising an insert for *InCite*? Need to place an event in the *Happenings* column? Contact: Tanya Vojsek at LAA HQ on (02) 692 9233 (008) 221481 or Fax (02) 692 0689.

Australian Libraries Summit

All submissions and responses to the steering committee on issues relating to the Australian Libraries Summit are now available for reference in each of the State and Territory libraries. These include all results from the state and territory consultations plus responses from various groups and individuals.

Contact place or person in each state and territory is as follows: ACT - Megan Curlewis, National Library (062) 62 1518; NSW - John Wright, State Library of New South Wales, (02) 230 1414; NT - Naida Tattersall, NT Library Service, (089) 89 7841; QLD - Monica Sherlock, State Library of Queensland, (07) 840 7864; SA - Bray Reference Library, State Library of South Australia (08) 223 8734; TAS - Cathy Doe, State Library of Tasmania, (002) 30 7460; VIC - Betty Foord, State Library of Victoria, (03) 669 9917 or (03) 669 9840; WA - Julie Hamm, State Library Service of Western Australia, (09) 42 73111.

For an up-to-date list of delegates to the summit, contact Megan Curlewis, Secretary, Australian Libraries Summit (062) 62 1518.

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