



FEEDBACK

NSW BRANCH

Careers guidance

Members have organised an information stall at three major career markets this year — Manly -Warringah held at French's Forest High School, Sydney Careers Market at Canterbury Racecourse Function Centre, and a southern one held at the St George Institute of Higher Education. In the largest of these, at Canterbury, over 6,000 students attended. Westfield Centres at Parramatta, Burwood and Miranda also had career markets, in which we participated.

Session enquiries averaged only 30 per day but useful contact was made with many career advisors. The NSW Branch publication *So you want to work in Libraries and Information Services: courses in Librarianship, Information Science, and Archives Administration in NSW and the ACT* together with the LAA pamphlet 'Library and Information Studies' were useful handouts.

However student inquiries and attitudes often reflected our image problem, and much more interest was shown in technician courses than professional courses.

Also, the bright relevant display of photographs, posters etc could be complemented by a short snappy video on work in various types of libraries. Has anyone made one? (The LAA video is used but only parts of it are relevant for this purpose).

Our thanks to the librarians and technicians who assisted at the various markets — mostly in their own time.

Diana Oliver

ACT BRANCH

Enterprising libraries

The ACT Branch meeting on Thursday, 8 September was addressed by Dr Maurice Line who talked on 'The Research Library in the Enterprise Society'. Dr Line, in provocative fashion, argued that libraries had to change their philosophies and had to work out a positive 'enterprise plan' rather than reacting to pressure in a piecemeal fashion. He said it was all too easy for libraries to do things the way they have been done in the past.

He believed that many skills once regarded as professional are now little more than skilled clerical work and that libraries are in fact becoming de-professionalised like many other professions. He argued for a library that combined traditional and basic services with value-added services which would be entrepreneurial. He stated:

The entrepreneurial library is likely to be a more self-interested and selfish library, less and less a freely available service to a more or less limited clientele. It will do its own thing irrespective of other libraries.

Needless to say there was a stimulating question period!

Copies of his speech are available from Colin Steele, Librarian's Office, ANU Library.

Colin Steele
President

CATALOGUERS SECTION VIC GROUP

Demands and directions

The Cataloguers Section (Vic Group) and the Education for Librarianship Section (EDLIB), (Vic Group) are offering a half-day workshop entitled 'Workshop on Cataloguing Education: demands and directions' on Friday, 25 November. The workshop will consist of small group discussions facilitated by Fay Nicholson, lecturer at Melbourne CAE, Department of Library and Information Studies. Those interested in the future of cataloguing are welcome to attend. Lively debate is expected on the implications of automation, networks and restricted budgets for cataloguing education.

A working paper regarding the workshop will be made available to those interested. See advertisement this issue for further details.

Cherryl Schauder

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Multicultural Australia

Recently the LAA has submitted a number of reports including ones to the National Agenda for Multicultural Australia, the Review of the Bureau of Mineral Resources Geology and Geophysics (BMR) and to the Inquiry into Priorities for Reform in Higher Education.

The submission for a Multicultural Australia was a joint submission with ACLIS. This updates an earlier LAA submission for the Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services in 1986. The submission drew attention to the lack of comprehensive library services for Australia's multicultural population.

Review of the BMR

Senator Peter Cook, Minister for Resources has commissioned an independent and comprehensive review of the Bureau of Mineral Resources (BMR). The LAA's submission to the review supported the BMR's role in being the primary collecting and co-ordinating body for geo-science information in Australia. Attention was also focused upon its responsibility for publishing and disseminating geo-science information.

Priorities for reform

The LAA's submission to the inquiry into Priorities for Reform into Higher Education was developed by Eric Wainwright, Chairman of the Board of Education, and has the support of both the Board of Education and General Council.

The LAA considered the priorities for reform in areas affecting library and information studies to be:

1. The consolidation of programs in the field of Library and Information Studies, offered from within multi-disciplinary institutions, capable of providing the range of academic expertise needed for the effective integration of information studies courses, and of providing appropriate information studies components in a range of related programs such as communication studies, computer science and technology, business studies and teacher education.

2. Recognition of the need for Australian research and development in information science and technology, and the inclusion of such research among national priorities in the profiles of appropriate institutions.

3. The inclusion of information-handling skills in all undergraduate and Masters-by-coursework programs.

4. An increase in adult and continuing education programs in a variety of information skills areas.

5. The improvement of access to professional and technician-level courses by migrants, and by persons, particularly women, living in rural areas, if all Australians are to receive quality library and information services.

6. Improved business and community involvement in the development of courses in library and information studies.

7. An improved quality of library and information support services in all institutions to meet the growing needs of researchers, more effective learning methods and greater number of students.

In 1987, Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission (CTEC) proposed a review of library services in higher education. The LAA has suggested in its submission that the CTEC proposal be taken up by the new Higher Education Council.

Sue Kosse
Executive Director

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