

FEED BACK

Children's and Youth Services Section

Victorian Group

Growing up: the child from 0-12 years

Northcote Library was the venue for the Children's and Youth Services Section (Victorian Group) evening meeting on 21 June 1989. Around 30 people attended to hear two excellent speakers — both experts in their field.

The first, Dr Sharne Rolfe, Lecturer at the School of Early Childhood Studies, Melbourne University, gave a fascinating overview of the physical, social and cognitive development of the 0-5-year-old.

The second speaker was Ms Jean Mitchell, Lecturer at the School of Education, Melbourne University, whose presentation concentrated on how children learn to read and write and the parallels between children learning to speak and learning to read. Ms Mitchell also discussed Brian Cambourne's Model of Literacy Learning. (Mr Cambourne, a researcher at Wollongong University, has worked with primary school teachers in the area of process writing.) In addition, Ms Mitchell used examples of children's writings to illus-

trate the stages of writing development.

Unfortunately, the one-and-a-half hours allocated was insufficient to cover adequately the complex area of child development. Nevertheless, the meeting provided a successful introduction to the topic.

Eileen Tisler

School Libraries Section

WA Group

School library automation marketplace



'How can I get to see a range of different automated library systems in action, so that I have some idea of the range of options available to school libraries?' This question has been asked by many teacher-librarians. On 24 June, the School Libraries Section (WA Group) attempted to provide an answer by holding a 'School library automation marketplace' on the Nedlands Campus of WACAE in Perth. Twelve computer-based school library systems were demonstrated — AIMS, Dynix, META-

9 The Dynix stand at the school library automation marketplace, organised by the School Libraries Section (WA Group) in Perth at the end of June.

marc, MacSchool Library, Stowe Book Plus, Winnebago, Libfind, ELM, OASIS/ALARM, Microfusion, MOLLI, and Ocelot. talk on strategies for system selection. organisers, Alison Hewson and Gail McMahon, were assisted by members of the WA Group of the School Libraries Section, and, on the day, by Library and Information Studies students from Curtin University of Technology and WACAE.

Special Libraries Section

NSW Group

More automation

The Special Libraries Section (NSW Group) is holding another workshop in their series aimed at helping librarians choose automated systems for their libraries. Entitled 'PC library systems in the 1990's: choosing for the future', the workshop — in Sydney on Friday 20 October — is aimed at looking at where automated library systems are heading with a view to choosing one now.

The speaker — Christine Frey from the University of Tasmania — has been involved in the area of small systems for a number of years and has recently published an update of her comprehensive review of available PC-based systems in the *Australian Library Journal*.

The workshop will allow participants to make a more informed choice when it comes to selecting their library's new system. It will also give anyone interested in PC-based library systems an overview update of the small-library system industry at present, and where it is going.

AAP DATA

FULL TEXT HISTORICAL DATABASE OF FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS INFORMATION

- Identify and collect business and political profiles
- Track publicly listed companies and economic performance

YOU OBTAIN INSTANT ACCESS TO

- AAP Financial News
- ASX Company News
- NZ-SX Company News
- China News
- QNIS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

AAP Information Services Pty Ltd Corporate and Government Division
 NSW (02) 224 8101; ACT (062) 57 4776; Vic (03) 619 9300; Qld (07) 252 6604;
 NT (089) 81 1730; SA (08) 212 2897; WA (09) 325 8833

The cost will be \$65 for SLS (NSW Group) members; \$70 for ALIA members; and \$85 for non-members. For more information, or to book a place at the workshop, contact Graham Whittall, Systematics Information Systems, PO Box 563, Chatswood NSW 2067.

NSW Branch

It's a bit like walking around in a supermarket

This is how Joyce Kirk described career planning and job hunting during a most successful seminar she co-led with Hilary Yerbury. (They are both lecturers at Kuring-gai CAE.)

The seminar, attended by thirteen information workers, was held in the new library of the Catholic College of Education, Sydney, on 26 May. It was a challenging exercise in self-assessment and assessment of the information environment. We worked by ourselves, were addressed by Hilary or Joyce, or worked in small groups.

Areas of information/discussion included:

- role planning versus career planning;
- the why — making informed choices and taking charge of one's own destiny;
- the how — deciding on what is important to self, planning for change, and developing a support network;

- the phases of career planning;
- goal setting;
- career anchors.

The seminar was well organised and managed by Hilary and Joyce. At the end participants had to make a commitment to one form of action that would be 'checked' by group members.

What a seminar!

Good communication is definitely an acquired skill! This was the overriding message of the 'Communication and public speaking skills seminar' held at Bain & Co., Parramatta, by NSW Branch on 21 July.

The program included three hour-long sessions. Mairead Brown, University of Technology, Kuring-gai, spoke of the political nature of much decision-making. The focus should be on process rather than (only) content.

Alison Lavick from Toastmasters led participants through a series of practical learning situations. She stressed that successful public speaking is very much the result of training and practice, and her lively and humorous session — getting people 'to think on their feet' — was enjoyed by all.

Julian Barton from 3M stressed that 'people are visually minded' and persuaded the group — with numerous practical and colourful examples — of the need to 'speak visually'.

A short evaluation at the close of the

seminar revealed that everyone had an informative and enjoyable afternoon. In fact, most participants requested a full-day workshop!

Thanks go to three excellent speakers, to Bain & Co. for providing fine facilities, and to committee members, Ione Dean, Librarian, BZW Australia, and Bo Robertson, Librarian, Board of Fire Commissioners, for assisting in organising the afternoon.

Frank Willems

Professional Development Officer
ALIA (NSW Branch)

ACT Branch

ALIA's ACT Branch held its midwinter dinner on 18 July in the A.L.G. McDonald Room of the ANU Library. The occasion was notable for two reasons: first, because of the presentation of the annual awards to the prize-winning students at the Canberra CAE and the Canberra TAFE in library and information studies; and second, because of the remarkably high turnout of local, federal and territory politicians.

Federal Senator Bob McMullan and Federal MHR John Langmore were joined by six of their Territorial colleagues, including Chief Minister Rose-

Continued **11** ● ●

From 8 ● ●

Champion Honoured

the theory and practice of database development and information science in Australia. In 1984 he was awarded the Robt. D. Williamson Award for his "outstanding contribution to the development of information science in Australia" and "for demonstrated potential for positively influencing future directions in information science". He was subsequently elected a Fellow of the Institute of Information Scientists, London, in 1985.

'Des Tellis has published prolifically on a variety of subjects including online databases, communication, and access to information. He has not only written papers for conferences, journals and books, but has edited and produced many others including his contribution as co-compiler of various editions of the *Australian Thesaurus of Earth Sciences and Related Terms*.

'In all his written and spoken contributions, Des Tellis has been a keen advocate of the concept of information as a valuable resource for all organisa-

tions. His presentation of papers is always informative, entertaining and memorable. In addition, he conveys a keen sense of the value of information and of his chosen profession, taking every opportunity to promote the profession to non-librarians and librarians alike. Between 1984 and 1987, Des Tellis was invited to give guest lectures on corporate information at the Australian Administrative Staff College at Mt Eliza, Victoria. This confirms that his reputation as a speaker is also recognised outside of library circles.

'Des Tellis has ably served on many and varied committees. These include work in various capacities for the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographic Services (replaced by the Australian Council for Library and Information Services) and 3 years as President of the Special Libraries Section of the Library Association of Australia in South Australia. He was also instrumental in founding the Australian Geoscience Information Association. In the international arena, he has worked on several projects promoting informa-

tion services in other countries in the Asian-Pacific region including India, Pakistan and New Caledonia.

'It is significant that Des Tellis's commitment to information services has led to his membership of the Australian Academy of Science National Committee for Scientific Information and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering Information Technology Committee. His interest in, and enthusiasm for, information science is not restricted to this country or to our own profession. He knows the value of information for effective economic development and promotes the cause of librarians being indispensable members of any organisation by their provision of timely and relevant information.

'Des Tellis's significant and far-reaching contributions to library and information services in Australia and internationally make him a most worthy recipient of this Fellowship of the Australian Library and Information Association.'



ALIA study tour* for 1989 — the management of local studies resources

As the recipient of the ALIA Study Grant Award for 1989, I had the opportunity to travel in Britain and Canada from January to July, 1989, to study the management of local studies resources.

The study involved visits to a variety of collecting agencies: to public libraries with local studies/local history included as one element of a reference collection, as a functioning local studies unit, or as a local studies/archive unit; to autonomous local studies centres; to record offices, city archives, municipal archives or provincial archives with extensive local holdings; to museums and tertiary institutions with local holdings; and to local historical society collections.

I held discussions with professional groups, with library and archives administrators, with custodians of local archives and local collections, and with educators lecturing in library science and archives administration. I also considered local studies provision in countries other than Britain and Canada.

The study has two main outcomes: a report identifying those management issues that are of relevance to Australian local studies librarianship; and a statement of policy and planning guidelines for the establishment of local studies collections in Australia. It is hoped that the Local Studies Section, at the National and State level, as well as the Special Libraries Section and the Public

Libraries Sections in each State, will provide input to the guidelines document.

One of the major observations made in the report is concerned with the variety of agencies involved with the collection or custody of local historical resource materials: in both Britain and Canada, archival institutions and tertiary libraries, as well as public libraries, are managing materials classified in Australia as 'local studies resources' — varied format materials describing one local community. Trends in the management of such resources indicate the importance of the application of archival, as well as library, systems and procedures for the arrangement and description of materials.

A related issue is concerned with the importance of effective regional networks linking local studies or community archives centres, and the need for the development of standardised procedures and systems to control the resources.

The policy and planning guidelines that are being developed are based on the format of *ALIA policy and planning guidelines for public libraries*, but are being formulated according to principles enunciated in a majority of local studies and archival policy documents produced by agencies and professional associations in the two countries visited. They contain specific provision for the development of policies on col-

lection development and resource management, conservation, services, physical facilities for the collection, staffing and promotion.

The study tour and the consequent development of the 'Guidelines' highlight a major result of the study: that there is no one type of local studies library which can be taken as a prototype for all communities. Conditions in communities vary greatly, and the establishment of such a collection will depend on a number of variables. Geographic isolation, population density, community priorities, local government priorities, public library priorities, and the nature of existing community collecting agencies all contribute to the development of a collection or community archive, which should be specific to that community's needs.

It is hoped that the development and eventual distribution of the 'Guidelines' will provide a viable tool for more effective management of Australian local studies resources.

Margaret Wyatt

* ALIA makes funds available each year to support practising librarians/information professionals wishing to undertake a study project. The intention is to assist people at middle-management level, who do not have access to institutional support or study leave, to undertake projects they would otherwise be unable to do because of the time and costs involved.

From 10 ●●

mary Follett. Politicians were seated with groups of librarians on an individual basis, which allowed lobbying on library and information issues as well as social discourse.

Demonstrations of ABN were given by Kerry Webb (National Library of Australia), and of CD-ROMs such as Sociofile by Margaret Cazabon (ANU Library). These were highly appreciated by the politicians. There were also displays of library promotional material. (Unfortunately, the material available from both ACLIS and ALIA did not compare well to that of the American

Library Association.)

The occasion was a highly successful one that allowed the local Branch members, as well as ALIA's President, Averill Edwards, to press the case for the profession at both local and federal levels.

Colin Steele



11 Right to left: Senator Bob McMullan with Kerry Webb demonstrating ABN, ALIA (ACT Branch) Dinner, 18 July 1989.

10 Left to right: Warren Horton, Director - General (NLA), Rosmary Follett, Chief Minister and Jenny Gleeson at the ALIA (ACT BRANCH) Dinner, 18 July 1989.

