



South Australian Branch

Freedom of Information

As a pre-election strategy, the SA Branch hosted a public meeting on Freedom of Information (FOI) on 18 September. The meeting — an ALIA initiative — was held jointly with the SA Branches of the Council for Civil Liberties and the Australian Journalists' Association. Speakers included the SA Attorney-General, Mr Chris Sumner, Opposition Health spokesman, Mr Martin Cameron (a sponsor of a private member's Bill to introduce FOI), and Democrat MHR, Mr Mike Elliott, as well as SA Branch President, Philippa Middleton (Chair), and representatives of the other two bodies.

The Branch has been promoting FOI in SA for many years — for the past 3 years in conjunction with the other bodies — in support of Mr Cameron's Bill, which he has introduced four times in the past 5 years. Despite FOI being an element of the Labor Party platform, the Government has opposed the Bill. Its only reaction to date had been to introduce access to personal information as an administrative (not a legislative)

measure. At a meeting with a delegation 2 years ago, Mr Sumner stated that FOI in SA was unnecessary and too expensive. Now, however, he states that the Government will proceed to legislation on full FOI, as a staged process, after due consideration of Commonwealth and Victorian reviews. He was not willing to put a timetable on this process. The other two political parties support the FOI Bill, based on recommendations of a report in 1984 of a Government Working Party. Mr Cameron has offered his Bill to the Government to introduce in an attempt to expedite the legislation. During question time, Mr Sumner stated that he had no problems with the content of the Bill.

As Alan Bundy pointed out, the situation in SA is an interesting one — all three political parties profess to support FOI and yet no legislation has been passed.

The Bill will be re-introduced by Mr Cameron as many times as is necessary.

Anne Harris

SA General Councillor

Australian Serials

Special Interest Group

Marcia Tuttle: overseas visitor

Marcia Tuttle from the Davis Library, University of North Carolina — a well-known authority on issues relating to serials management — visited Australia at ASSIG's invitation to conduct a series of workshops and seminars.

The main purpose of Marcia's visit was to have her as a guest speaker at the ASSIG seminar prior to the Third Asian and Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference in Adelaide. However, ASSIG encouraged other ALIA groups with an interest in serials to take advantage of Marcia's visit by organising workshops in their own areas.

The Adelaide seminar — attended by about 115 librarians and library technicians — was entitled 'Serials management: the macro and the micro science'. Marcia began with a paper 'How we try to do it good in the 90s'. She was followed by Rosemary McLaughlan and Nyree Diggins speaking on 'Serials automation in two special libraries'. Eve Woodberry followed with 'Serials in the computer age — the Bond University experience'. Marcia then spoke on 'Issues in serials management — the American perspective', Edith Heinrich spoke on the 'Serials balancing act — the case of a scientific and technological special library', and Toby Burrows ended with 'What is the future of serials collections in Australian university libraries?' There was much lively discus-

sion following the papers.

After a short private holiday to central Australia, Marcia travelled to Melbourne, where she spoke at the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, on 'Serials managers obligations for the 90s'. Joy Sheehan of the Tait Bookshop, and Pearl Champion, Serials Librarian at the University of Melbourne, gave brief talks.

In Sydney, Marcia again participated in a workshop, this one entitled 'Serials librarians update'. Paul Wilkins spoke on 'Serials managers — obligations in the Australian context', Christine Henderson on 'Rationalisation in higher education', Dale Chatwin and Marianna Ibrahim on 'Retrospective conversion of serials in ABN', and Christine Lindsay on 'Performance measures in libraries'. This too was a successful workshop with much participation from the forty attendees.

Marcia's final workshop — 'The changing fortunes of acquisitions' — was in Brisbane. It was organised by the ACLIS Queensland Acquisitions Sub-Committee and attended by about forty people.

Many thanks to those who worked hard to get this project off the ground, and also to Marcia Tuttle, who — despite a rigorous schedule and many flight changes due to the pilots' strike — was always interesting, entertaining and informative.

MaryAnne Kennan
Convener, ASSIG

Queensland Branch

Significant moves

The Queensland Branch Council had a full agenda when they met on 12 September.

With regard to education for librarianship, it would be satisfying to report that the proposed survey of education for librarianship in Queensland has advanced a little. However, there are questions still to be answered about funding. When all the necessary financial arrangements are complete, the survey will go ahead.

There are other significant moves in education for librarianship. The Queensland University of Technology is in the process of establishing a Master's degree in Librarianship, which will be offered from 1991. The degree will involve a major thesis, or a minor thesis plus electives.

The Branch Promotion Publicity Sub-Committee has given a lot of time to establishing a better image for librarianship. The annual 3-day Careers Market for high school students drew many enquiries, and students were surprised

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to learn of the enormous variety of work done by librarians. The Sub-Committee is also preparing an *Atlas of Queensland libraries*, to provide an instant guide to all libraries in the State. Funding has been arranged, and publication is expected by the end of the year.

The Continuing Education Committee has pulled off yet another coup. The evening meeting — 'Copyright update' — presented by Derek Fielding, University of Queensland Librarian, attracted sixty-four members. Tapes will be available for members. They should contact Robyn Collins on (07) 209 0420.

Public Libraries Section

ACLGO meets the Minister

The Australian Council of Local Government Officers (ACLGO) met in Canberra on 30 August, with David Clark representing public librarians.

Discussions of most importance to public libraries were: the review of local government labour markets; the training and research needs of local government; and a proposal by the University of Technology, Sydney, to establish a local government studies unit.

Of particular interest was a talk by John Flannery, the Vice-President of the Institute of Municipal Management, on

the Institute's training and on-going accreditation scheme. The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program, as it is known, has been designed to better equip the Institute's members to do their jobs and to prepare them for the challenges facing local government. The program requires that all participants attend a number of seminars or conferences each year to qualify for accreditation. The merits of such a program should be considered by ALIA, as continuing education and retraining are becoming more important, and employers are increasingly demanding a commitment to continuing professional development.

The meeting then adjourned to Parliament House for a meeting with the Minister, Senator Margaret Reynolds. The major item discussed with the Minister was the training and research needs of local government. Mention was made of the proposal by the Sydney University of Technology to establish a local government studies unit, and the difficulties some sectors of local government have had in interesting academia in their disciplines. The meeting concluded with a short discussion on broadening the revenue base of local govern-

ments. While the Poll Tax approach was soon dispensed with, public libraries should be concerned with the Minister's apparently reluctant acceptance of the user-pays philosophy. Developments in this area should be watched carefully.

Members of the Association wishing to discuss matters concerning the meeting or the working of ACLGO please contact either Ross Gibbs (03) 649 8710 or David Clark (062) 98 0256



Who's Where

Gay Sussex has been appointed Library Manager of the Nunawading Library and Information Service following the retirement, owing to illness, of Constance Pavey, City Librarian. Gay was previously the Deputy Librarian, and, prior to that, had spent 10 years working in libraries in Manchester, England.

Patricia Hulskamp has been appointed to the position of Coordinator: Information and Technical Services and Glenda Benness is the Coordinator: Administration and Readers' Services.



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