

Letters

Dear Editor,

Readers will have noted in 'In the News' (*InCite*, 20 February 1989) a short item about the National Library's Audio Book-of-the-Year Award. Perhaps they would like to know more about this.

The Audio Book-of-the-Year Award is a national award which all Australian producers and publishers of unabridged audio books can enter. Approximately 1500 such books are produced in Australia each year. The Award is therefore somewhat broader in scope than that for the 'Talking Book of the Year' (*InCite*, 9 December 1988).

The Audio Book-of-the-Year Award aims to improve the quality and to promote the availability of audio books produced in Australia. In this context, quality relates to the standard of production rather than the literary merit of the content. The quality of production means a great deal to people who use audio books as a substitute for reading a printed text.

The National Library's award was established at the recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Library

Services to People with Disabilities, a committee which includes representatives of the library profession, special libraries, alternative format producers, the ALIA and people with disabilities themselves. It has been strongly supported by the Roundtable of Materials for Print Handicapped Readers, an organisation of producers, distributors and users of alternative format reading materials. The Roundtable's *Guidelines for the production of audio materials for print handicapped readers* will be used as criteria for judging the award.

The Audio Book-of-the-Year is a significant award highlighting the importance of well produced audio books for everyone who is unable to read a print text. The winner of the first award will be announced in Melbourne on 6 July.

Susanne Bruhn
Chief Librarian

Disability Services Section
National Library of Australia.

Sue Phillips

Association for making my time as a member of staff so rewarding, challenging and above all enjoyable. I have made many friends and colleagues in the library and information studies field as well as in many associated areas, and have had some wonderful opportunities to meet and work with people from every corner of Australia and overseas.

While I am no longer working for the Association, as a member I hope to keep involved in your activities. I believe the Association will sail from strength to strength as the premier information body in the country, although it may encounter some fickle winds in the short term as it sets up the national office in Canberra. I wish it and its members every success — and hope to see more of you at WEA programs in the future.

Dear Editor,

Readers of *InCite* and members of the Australian library and information community generally will be grateful to Mr Lumbers for his courtesy in responding to questions in *InCite* (9 December 1988). These questions were formulated by a number of librarians, including myself, because of concerns about the changing national role of the CSIRO library network.

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Library educators and conservators meet in Melbourne

THE problems of conservation in libraries are now reaching major proportions and this is reflected in the teaching of the subject in library schools. Victorian library schools offered three courses in 1988 with more to start in 1989. To better co-ordinate conservation teaching in Victoria a meeting attended by conservators and library educators was held in Melbourne on 9 November.

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange information about the courses and to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. Three central concerns were voiced. The first centred on the role of conservators. Here the main issues were: how could input by conservators into courses be increased, especially at the planning and design

states and how could the services of the State Library of Victoria's Conservation Department be best used by library educators to minimise the demands on the Department?

The second main area discussed was how to achieve the best balance of theory and practice in conservation courses. Also noted in this context was the availability of laboratory facilities for teaching conservation. The feasibility of sharing existing facilities was examined. The continuing education needs of Victorian librarians in conservation formed the third area of discussion.

The meeting has already resulted in the exchange of information about resources available in Melbourne, for example a listing of videos available with comments on their suitability has been circulated. Participants felt that the meeting was a success and expressed an interest in further occasional meetings. Ross Harvey, of Monash University, agreed to act as convenor. Future meetings will discuss matters such as the bulk purchase of supplies and the possibility of developing submissions for funding to support a conservator to teach in Victoria.

For further information please contact Ross Harvey at the Graduate School of Librarianship, Monash University, Clayton Vic 3168. Phone (03) 565 2953.

Special and Law Librarians' Conference

The Third Asian Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference will be held in Adelaide, South Australia from 6-11 August 1989.

The Conference Steering Committee is working hard to assemble a program that they hope will appeal to all special and law librarians. This will be finalised soon. A large trade exhibition will be an integral part of the program.

Registration forms will be distributed in mid April. It is anticipated registration will cost about \$350.00.

The Australian Serials SIG will be conducting a pre-Conference seminar in Adelaide on Sunday 6 August 1989. The conference organisers would like to know of any other groups intending to hold formal/informal gatherings during the Conference, so they can ensure rooms are booked at the Adelaide Convention Centre for this purpose. If your meeting is formal, a room and a time can be allocated for it. All meetings will be then advertised in the Conference program.

If you would like more information please contact:

Elliservice Convention Management
PO Box 753
Norwood SA 5067
Australia.
Phone (08) 332 4068.