Board of Education

Election of two members by the
membership of the Association

Call for nominations

Membership of the Board of Education is as follows:

- three professional members elected by the Professional Committee of General Council;
- seven members, of whom at least four must be professional members, elected by the membership-at-large of the Association;
- the President of the Association *ex officio*;
- the Executive Director as a non-voting executive member. (By-law 24)

The terms of office of four members of the Board end on 31 December 1990. Three members are now to be elected by the membership of the Association to hold office until 31 December 1993. The Professional Committee of General Council will elect the fourth member.

Nominations are hereby called for the three positions. Nominees must be personal financial members of the Association, however they need not be professional members.

Nominations shall be:

- in writing;
- signed by two personal financial members of the Association;
- countersigned by the nominee;
- accompanied by a curriculum vitae (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a statement of concerns, each to be not more than 100 words.

Nominations close with the Executive Director, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT, 2600 at **5 pm on 3 September 1990.**

Board members retiring on 31 December 1990 are Anne Hazell, Christine Henderson, David Jones and Fay Nicholson.

Continuing members of the Board are Twila Herr, Eric Wainwright, Angela Bridgland, Vicki Williamson, Jean Bailey and Joyce Kirk.

FEED BACK

Special Libraries Section
WA Group

Our first function of the year was the very successful 'Icebreaker' held at the West Australian Newspaper Library in March. David Andrews opened his library to nearly 30 librarians, who saw a demonstration of the library's in house database — WA Newspaper online, and enjoyed a meal provided by the committee with wonderful views of Perth at night. Hopefully the potential market for providing the newspaper online to subscribers will be recognised by the *West Australian.* Places were limited and filled fast and there is a possibility of another tour later in the year.

1 May was declared 'Special Librarians Day' by the President Janine Douglas. An informal lunch was organised at WIRE and was enjoyed by all those who attended. The committee believes this is a wonderful idea and plans to make 'Special Librarians Day' an annual event.

To coincide with Tom McKeon's visit to Perth in May the section organised a lunchtime meeting on the structural efficiency principle (award restructuring) at the Health Department. Tom presented an interesting talk on the industrial changes affecting librarians, who hopefully will make the most of the opportunities provided by award restructuring.

Our sundowners held the last Friday of every month at the Lobby Lounge Orchard Hotel, are providing an excellent venue for lively discussion, relaxation and the development of those vital informal networks. Come join us, meet members of the committee and fellow 'Specials'.

Forthcoming events include: Networking 'Specials' and Students, on Saturday, 30 June; Specials Dinner, during the ALIA Conference, on Thursday, 4 October; a tour of Brambles Records Management new location; and the AGM Breakfast, on Friday, 7 December.

Marie Luffman

Online Users Group, ACT
Midas luncheon 1990

For the last 11 years our Online Users Group has celebrated the advent of OTCs MIDAS data access link with a luncheon address on new technology likely to have a significant impact on the provision of information services.

This April our speaker was Linda Groom and our address was 'Supersearch & Hypersearch; information retrieval on ABN in the 1990s'.

It seems obvious that the nation's libraries should be able to find a list of relevant items and their location in the same session. However Australia will be the only country using very powerful information retrieval on its national union catalogue.

Applying the powerful STAIRS information retrieval software to the ABN union catalogue provides the best of both worlds, cataloguing and information retrieval. Library automation tends to be either information retrieval systems with strengths in searching or cataloguing systems with strengths in records maintenance.

Using STAIRS software is a lateral and innovative approach. We believe ABN is to be congratulated in taking this 'brave' decision. The Users Group saw Supersearch as a worthy event to be celebrated by a MIDAS luncheon. We attracted over fifty people from a wide range of Canberra libraries.

The ABN database now has over 10 million holdings records and over 6 million titles. With the introduction of Supersearch and STAIRS, areas of the records will be searchable in a way that has not been possible in ABN or in many cataloguing systems.

Linda explained the way data had been taken from the MARC record to make it easily searchable on Supersearch. It is pleasing to see us profiting from all the good work that was done so many years ago - cataloguers having blind faith that one day we would be able to use all that coded data at the bottom of the MARC record. Our country and our librarians can be proud of their achievement in exploiting the national union catalogue to the full.

Jean Geue
Convenor

Supersearch update

During the Supersearch Pilot Project, a number of problems in the Supersearch indexes were discovered. Nearly all of these problems have now been resolved. The resolution process, however, took 4 weeks and has put the Supersearch project behind schedule. The estimated production date has thus been revised from July to August.