

# FEED BACK

## Preservation and the private sector

Interest in the importance of preservation is rapidly extending to the private sector, and now presents commercial opportunities to enterprising providers of technical services and materials.

At a recent meeting of the ALIA SIG on Preservation of Library Materials, Eric Archer, Director of Bracken Grange Pty Ltd and Consultant Conservator for Australia Post, spoke on 'The Changing Face of Conservation—the Private Sector.' His varied career began in Florence in 1975, when he took part in operations following the destructive 1974 flood. Later experience in Brussels and India and with the State Library of Victoria and the Bicentennial Authority was followed by setting up of his business at the end of 1988. Eric stressed the importance of simple language to interest the customers in the field—professional language is too esoteric and tends to confuse potential customers.

Georgina Shaw of Daventry Conservation Products Pty Ltd established her own company at Carnegie, Victoria after wide experience in business including over 2 years as Marketing Manager for Raeco. Georgina has directed her attention to the private collector who has trouble obtaining small quantities of materials. This problem is shared, for example, by learned societies which have photo and art collections subject to deterioration. 'Small customers' add up to a large market in total, and plans are afoot to broaden activities to SE Asia and New Zealand.

## HELP!

Trish Hussell is studying for an MA. Her chosen topic is 'An historical analysis of the collection management practices for the Printed Records Collection of the Australian War Memorial, 1921-81'. Much of her research is based on the Memorial's own files, but she would appreciate information from *inCite* readers about the history of collection management practices for similar collections and institutions, during the period outlined. The information may refer to published or unpublished material, or to other researchers who have worked in this area. Contact her on (06) 238 1170, by fax on (06) 238 1659, or at PO Box 78, Campbell, ACT 2601.

## Government Publications

### Special Interest Group

This Group was formed in 1985 and for the last 5 years has been active in promoting meetings, seminars and workshops about government publications. Information has been disseminated in the newsletter *Gov pubs* which was sent to all members.

During the past year the Committee of three people have found it difficult to organise and promote activities and to produce the newsletter. We are requesting nominations for all positions on the Committee for 1991 and if few or none are received, we intend to wind down the affairs of the Group. Nominations should be forwarded to: Government Publications Librarian, State Library of Victoria, 328

Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000.

As a finale to the year, and perhaps the Group, we are planning a function on Wednesday, 14 November 1990, to be held in the Second Floor Seminar Room, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne. This will feature Michael Harrington talking on 'Government publishing in Australia—the future'. As well, there will be the launch of Michael's book, to be published by AGPS Press—*The guide to government publications in Australia* (\$24.95). The book will be launched by Dr DH Borchardt, editor of *Australian official publications*, 1979. A warm invitation is extended to members and friends of the Group.

## Public Libraries Section

### National Group

One of the roles performed by the National Group is to be the representative on the Australian Council of Local Government Officers (ACLGO). This group was set up 2 years ago with a membership made up of the professional bodies who operate at the Federal Level and who have recognition as having a general role to play in the operation of Local Governments in Australia. The seven professions currently represented are the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, Australian Institute of Health Surveyors, Australian Library & Information Association, Australian Local Government Engineers' Association, Federation of Local Government Planners' Associations of Australia, Institute of Municipal Management and the Local Government Community Services Association of Australia.

ACLGO meets in Canberra three times a year. Its roles are to be a representative voice of Local Government Professional Bodies operating at a Federal Level and to contribute to the resolving of issues of national importance to Local Government generally and in relation to management related and professional matters.

A number of matters have been dealt with by this group principal among them being the recently concluded National Review of Local Government Labour Markets and the newly formed Local Government Productivity Council.

The group has regular meetings with the Federal Minister for Local Government and her staff, Senior Officers of the Office of Local Government and the staff of the Australian Local Government Association.

## Library technicians in science-fiction

This group came together through their common enjoyment of science-fiction and fantasy. Then they discovered that many of them have similar working backgrounds. They were also surprised that many science-fiction fans they've met also work in libraries.

This year's National Science-fiction Media Convention will be held on 23-25 November 1990 at the Diplomat Motor Inn, 12 Acland Street, St Kilda. Registration fees: \$60 if paid prior to the convention, \$65 at the door or \$35 for 1 day. Children's rates are also available.

The guest speakers include Norman, Margaret and Rebecca Hetherington, the performer, writer, and presenter of Mr Squiggle. Another likely participant will be Jacqueline Pearce, who has played in the science-fiction series *Blake's 7*, and in the children's series *Moondial*.

Other events of the convention will be panels, discussion, workshops, a banquet on Saturday night and a masquerade presentation. Anyone wishing to join the convention, or requiring further information should contact the Convention Secretary at 12 Flinders Street, Matraville, NSW 2036.

## Change of symbol

The Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health Library has recently changed its NUC symbol from AHD to ACSH. All state offices have also changed their symbols: NCSS is now NCSH; VAHD is now VCSH; QCSS is

now QCSH; WAHD is now WCSH and SAHD is now SCSH.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration Library (formerly National Biological Standards Laboratory) have also changed their NUC symbol from ANBS to ATGA.

## LIFE salary survey

Libraries in Financial Enterprises Committee (LIFE) is a support network for libraries in the banking and finance industries. It was formed in March 1983 and its membership is Australia-wide. LIFE carried out its annual salary survey in July 1990.

### The sample

This year questionnaires were sent to 62 members. Forty were returned and analysed (a response rate of 65 per cent). Of the 40 respondents, 77 per cent were from private industry and 23 per cent from the government sector.

### The survey

The survey sought information on the following: respondents by employer, respondents by title or status, respondents' assessment of library size, non-traditional library responsibilities expected of the librarian-in-charge, qualifications of respondents, professional membership, years worked in libraries, benefits received, salaries of librarians-in-charge, salaries of other library staff, library budgets, library usage.

### The results

The results were tabulated and presented in a nine-page report. Some of these results are listed below.

Salary ranges for librarians-in-charge:

\$50 000 +	16%
\$40 000 - 49 999	28%
\$35 000 - 39 999	25%
\$30 000 - 34 999	25%
\$25 000 - 29 999	3%
\$20 000 - 24 999	3%
	100%

Three quarters of the respondents receive conference/seminar and continuing education expenses; over half have membership of professional organisations provided by their employers; over three quarters receive superannuation benefits — either contributory (50 per cent), or non-contributory (30 per cent).

As far as qualifications are concerned, over 75 per cent of the respondents have at least a university degree.

For further enquiries on this survey, contact Kathy Young, LIFE Convener, Australian Finance Conference, GPO Box 1595, Sydney, NSW 2000, (02) 231 5877.

## 9th National Cataloguing Conference Cataloguers' Section Victorian Group

The organisation of the conference, although in its preliminary stages, is well under way. Place: Melbourne, Vic. Venue: To be announced. Date: November, 1991. Theme: 'Cataloguing for on-line access'. Suggested topics include access points both internal (subject, classification) and external (access to other systems, catalogues, services, networks), materials (the cataloguing of special materials, the relevance of AACR2 to on-line access to materials), staff (the effect upon cataloguing departments, their

staffing requirements, staff-training, multi-skilling).

Interested in writing a paper, or know of someone who would? The Organising Committee would appreciate comments on these and other topics to contribute to the success of the conference. Please contact Stephen Gillespie, Secretary, Cataloguers' Section, Victorian Group, c/- RMIT Libraries, GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne, Vic 3001, telephone (03) 660 3108, fax (03) 663 3047.

## Technology seminar

### School Libraries Section NSW Group

Over 110 teacher-librarians attended a recent seminar, at Kingsgrove High School in the southern suburbs of Sydney, to investigate new information technologies that are being introduced in schools.

A keynote address was given by Toni Downes from the University of Western Sydney based on a paper she had given at the recent World Conference on Computers in Education. Toni highlighted critical issues in the integration of both information handling skills and new information technologies into classroom curricula, setting a context for the consideration of educational issues relating to the use of information technologies throughout the day.

A large part of the morning was available for investigation of a range of information technologies such as electronic mail systems, newspapers on-line, on-line

curriculum information and CD-ROM products.

The afternoon was devoted to the OASIS school library automation system which is being widely adopted throughout NSW. Sessions were run by officers from the NSW Department of School Education, who are supporting the introduction of OASIS Library into NSW Government schools, catering for teacher-librarians planning and preparing for automation as well as those who have already embarked on the process.

The tremendous interest shown in this seminar, as well as a number of important issues raised relating to equity and access to new information technologies, will provide direction for the NSW School Libraries Section in its continuing programs of professional development and lobbying.

*Ian Balcomb*

## Children's and Youth Services Section South Australian Group

The ALIA Children's and Youth Services Section, South Australian Group, has produced a 'Youth Services Kit' containing information to assist librarians and other staff new to children's library work in South Australia.

Contents include recommended books for groups, bookshops, copyright

free materials, sources for craft materials, insurance, literature journals, reviewing journals, organisations, performers, suggested program planning and ideas for publicity and promotion.

For further information contact: Kathy Haese, President, (08) 384 0564 or Barb O'Connor, Secretary (08) 339 4932.

## A reportable matter ... do be ALARMED!

The Australian Clearing House for Library and Information Science is now preparing for microfilming the next edition of ALARM — *Australian Library Annual Reports on Microfiche*.

All types of libraries and related organisations which prepare an annual report if they have not already done so are requested to send their 1986-1989 reports before 23 November to: Barbara Blacoe, ACHLIS Manager, SACAE Library, Lorne Avenue, Magill, SA 5072.

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