

FEED

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Special Libraries Section Victorian Group

The second 1-day workshop, Hitchhikers Guide 2 : Implementation and Installation of your Library Software Package was held by the Specials Vic. Group on Wednesday 18 October 1989.

This workshop, although a course in its own right, was also a follow-up to the earlier June workshop, that dealt with selection of an appropriate integrated software system for individual libraries' needs. Both workshops were conducted by Margaret Findlay, a consultant in library automation.

An integrated system covers all aspects of a library's operations, including acquisitions, cataloguing, periodicals, reference, user access to the collection, and the loans system. Such a large system is a considerable purchase. Therefore, all aspects of the different software packages that are available on the market need to be analysed in detail. Once a decision has been made, the implementation of the system needs to be planned in detail, so as to minimise disruption to on-going library services, to ensure that staff time is properly utilised, and to identify potential bottlenecks in the implementation process.

David Lloyd

Conspectus

Derek Whitehead, ACLIS representative on the Conspectus taskforce, spoke to the thirty two members who attended the 22 November meeting on 'Australian Conspectus as a Management Tool for Special Librarians'.

Background information on the development of Conspectus, some 15 years ago, in the United States to describe the collection development and collection policies of US libraries was given. It was in March 1989, as a result of the Libraries Summit meeting, a taskforce was established to adapt the US version for use in Australian libraries.

Basically, Conspectus will provide a blue print to describe what a library has got in the collection; the material being bought; and what the

library would like to do in collection development. As such Conspectus can be seen as a management tool to guide collection development, which used with a selection policy, can be a valuable aid to the librarian. The importance of written selection policies was highlighted as this encourages operation in a coherent way - allows a successor to continue in a similar way; communicates to users and administration what is and isn't bought; allows accountability; and encourages cooperation.

The *common language* collection development of Conspectus guidelines will highlight subject collection responsibilities and allow for cooperation in collection development resource sharing between libraries. (The Conspectus Taskforce was due to report back to ACLIS in December 1989, so further news should soon be available).

Trevor Wakely

Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities

Special Interest Group Annual Report 1989

In 1989 the National Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities (LISPD) Committee, moved to Melbourne, and therefore also functioned as the Victorian Regional Committee. Several meetings focusing on in-service training were held in Melbourne during the year, the most successful being held at Flemington Library on 11 September.

Participants were able to practice reference interview techniques with people with various disabilities such as schizophrenia and blurred vision. The patrons in the interview situation were portrayed by actors who specialise in disability simulation. This seminar will be repeated in 1990 if there is sufficient demand.

The NSW LISPD Regional group held several well supported meetings during 1989 and the NSW convenor Alla Kamaralli also addressed a meeting of children's librarians in West Sydney. The NSW Group has continued to liaise closely with professionals working in other disability services areas. Just one example of this is the production of a checklist of useful materials for teachers of students with special needs, in cooperation with the Australian Association of Adult Education Disability Network.

The SIG produced a poster for Australian Library Week promoting the

availability of alternative format materials in mainstream libraries. The posters were purchased by libraries all over Australia and were also used in displays mounted during Library Week by the Victorian Library Promotion Committee.

Special Libraries Section WA Group

Publicity Sub-Committee Report 1989

The year was a busy and varied year for the Group with a number of interesting and relevant activities organised for 'Specials' in this State. The year's activities began in March with the traditional *icebreaker* function held, this time at the Fisheries Department Library on the waters edge at beautiful Watermans Bay. All of those in attendance were treated to a tour of the Fisheries laboratories and library as well as a most spectacular sunset. This meeting was followed on 3 May by a presentation on Sources of Business Information held at Dun and Bradstreet's new headquarters in West Perth.

On 3 July the Group organised a panel discussion on the topic, 'Education for Special Librarianship'. The panel was composed of representatives from each of the four library schools in the State, and the large audience in attendance was favoured with a lively, and at times, heated debate. Then on 24 August, David Kemp, Chief Ergonomist with the Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare, addressed a concerned lunchtime audience on the subject, 'Ergonomics and Occupational Health in Special Libraries'. The video presentation accompanying this talk offered many practical suggestions on dealing with RSI and other problems in the workplace.

Finally; on 4 November we hosted a 1/2-day seminar/workshop, Marketing for Special Librarians. The large group who wended their way to the charming Mundaring Weir Hotel enjoyed a program devised by marketing experts Nikki McLaren and David Berridge, which included the opportunity to investigate and develop a marketing plan for a special library.

All meetings were very well attended, and attempted to address issues of particular relevance to 'Specials'. It was a pleasure to see, not just all those regular attendees but also many new faces as well. 1990 should prove to be just as exciting and informative with the added stimulus of ALIA 1990.

Janine Douglas