

Continuing professional education in Australia

Barrie Brennan at the University of New England has just completed a survey of 100 professional associations to probe their continuing professional education (CPE) policies. From the 55 responses he received, he has summarised some general results.

Very briefly, these show that most professional associations (like ALIA) adopt a **voluntary** policy with regard to their members' CPE — the members may continue to practise their professions without any requirement for regular training to keep up-to-date. However, a proportion of these associations (16 per cent) **recommend** CPE to their members. If in due course these join the 21 per cent that already **insist** on approved CPE for eligibility for continued licence to practise, this will have a major influence on the future of CPE.

Brennan draws a distinction between association members working for government or large firms and those working in sole or group practices. In the former case, most associations favour some sort of mandatory CPE requirement on governments or employers (additional to the Training Grant levy). Incidentally, Brennan asks whether these employees, who form the majority in some categories (like librarians), can really be considered 'professionals' in the traditional way.

Carol Kenchington

STOP PRESS

Warren Horton on IFLA Executive Board

As *inCite* goes to press (20 August) we hear out of the confusion in Moscow that Warren Horton has been elected to the IFLA Executive.

This is splendid news for Warren, for ALIA and for Australia. More in our next issue. □

Brisbane University Libraries — Office of Library Cooperation

The three Brisbane University Libraries: Griffith, Queensland and QUT have set up an office to coordinate, initiate and evaluate areas of library cooperation.

Tonia Walker (Griffith) has been appointed coordinator. Eight specialist working parties will consider, respectively, a regional bibliographic network, the Asian script catalogue, award restructuring, cooperative storage, staff development, reciprocal loan operations, ILL's and accrual accounting.

The immediate high priorities are:

- **The Regional Bibliographic Network.**

The working party is seeking funds for a Linked Library Network to enable a user to ascertain the availability and loan status of material in the libraries by use of a terminal or personal computer.

Attaching 'front ends' to the existing systems appears the most effective and cost-efficient solution. A 'front end' is an easy-to-use interface with an external library, designed to be accessed by a

library user at their home library. An on-screen menu helps with the search and translates between the common commands and the commands required by the 'host' system.

The Australian Academic Research Network (AARNET) will provide the telecommunications to support the bibliographical network.

- **Asian Script Catalogue.**

A working party from Queensland and Griffith Universities has been examining cooperative CJK (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) automation of their East Asian vernacular script collections. It is making a feasibility study, with two Brisbane companies, trying to marry a CJK system called JIEJING with the OASIS library software, and will prepare a grant application to fund the complete development of this project.

For further information, or if you have suggestions on possible new initiatives for the office, please contact Tonia Walker on (07) 875 7647.

US WORLDNET in Australia

Australia took part in a recent teleconference broadcast over the US WORLDNET Satellite TV system, coinciding with the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The theme was 'distance education', especially as a factor in continuing professional education. Other countries taking part were the Philippines, Thailand and Hong Kong.

The US speakers were Dr Deanne Marcum, Dean, School of Information Science, the Catholic University of America and Dr Anne Mathews, Director of Library Programs, US Department of Education. Australia fielded Eric Wainwright, Deputy Director-General of the National Library, a member of the Board of Education and a previous Chair,

and Carol Kenchington, Training and Development Officer at ALIA National Office.

A gloomy picture emerged of the US library training scene, with schools closing at a time when demand for librarians is high and increasing. This was a sharp contrast with Australia, where jobs are scarce but training opportunities have never been better. Our team spoke enthusiastically of the activities of ALIA in continuing education, and the widening opportunities for distance education from Australian library schools.

A tape of the broadcast is held by ALIA National Office and could be made available to Divisions on request. Contact Carol Kenchington at National Office.

Peter Judge

Lecture series commences at State Library of Queensland

The Library Board of Queensland has introduced a new lecture series to the State Library's annual program. The series has been introduced to complement the library's role as a literature and information centre. There are three lectures, in the areas of childrens' literature, Australian literature and Queensland History. The first lecture honours Lawrie Ryan, a former State Librarian.

The Inaugural Lawrie Ryan Childrens Literature Lecture was held in the State Library Theatre on Thursday, 18 July. It was delivered by Joan Zahnleiter, a lecturer in childrens' literature at Griffith University. She gave an historical overview

of Australian childrens' literature, addressing its contemporary situation and its standing in the international arena.

There are two other lectures planned for the series. An Australian Literature Lecture by Bruce Dawe will be held on 25 October and a John Oxley Lecture in Queensland History will be delivered by the Governor, Sir Walter Campbell, on 12 December.

The Library Board intends to expand the lecture series, and make it an annual event on the literary calendar.

In the News continued 6

SLAQ wins international award

The International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) bestows an annual Commendation Award to outstanding and innovative projects, plans or programs which could serve as models for replication in the field of school librarianship. In 1990 the award went to SLANT for their project regarding computer-based school library networks. This year the award has been given to TeleSLAQ, the continuing series of interactive audio and video teleconferences that SLAQ has been using since 1983 for its administration and for continuing professional education. This has enabled SLAQ to cope with a situation where it has branches in Brisbane and Townsville, a sub-branch in Toowoomba, with 'country councillors' representing its 400 members across the State.

Paul Lupton heard the news via a fax from the Vice-President of IASL, Dr Sigrun Klara Hanesdottir of the University of Iceland:

'IASL has decided that the Commendation Award for 1991 will go to TeleSLAQ. There will be only one commendation award given this year. Congratulations from all of us.

'It is of particular interest that Australia should win the award this year as well as last year. It says a great deal about the level of school library development and professional dedication in Australia.

'The Commendation Award, the plaque and the money that goes with it this time will be delivered at the IASL conference in Everett, Washington, this coming July. I would be very happy if somebody from Queensland could be in Everett to receive the award.'

No Queenslanders seem to have been at the conference in Washington, so the Australasian IASL Councillor, Fay Nicholson, accepted on SLAQ's behalf.

Congratulations to all those SLAQ members who have contributed to the success of TeleSLAQ programs, particularly Roy Lundin, Anne Russell, Paul Lupton and Joan Jenkins.

(Acknowledgments to the SLAQ Newsletter, July 1991.)

ACT Library Service: 10 years old

In July the ACT Library Service celebrated the tenth anniversary of severing its links with the National Library. Most of those involved in the 1981 transfer — librarians, technicians, clerical staff and bureaucrats — had been contacted and 197 attended.

Sir Harold White, Bill Thorn, and Bill Lawrence gave their reminiscences.

David Barron, ACT Librarian from 1979 to present, outlined some of the achievements of the past decade: revitalised funds; computerisation; a more professional staff structure; opening of the Belconnen Town Centre Library; opening of joint-use libraries at Erindale and Tuggeranong; the new Civic library; the

1986 name change. He paid tribute to the past and present members of the Advisory Committee, in particular, the Chairman, Judge Else-Mitchell, who has chaired the Committee for 16 years; and he congratulated the staff for their dedication and commitment over the years.

John Turner, Secretary of the Department of Urban Services offered his congratulations and, on behalf of the staff, Ruth Green spoke of David Barron's dedication and unswerving loyalty to both the institution and the staff.

*Jenny Gleeson
Chief Librarian*

Tuggeranong Town Centre Library



Sir Harold White (back to camera); Annette Rennie; David Barron; Terry Connolly MLA, Minister for Urban Services; Brenda Thompson; Kitty Peisley (back to camera); turning round at the table behind: John Turner.

Worldwide recycling news

The Warmer Campaign is an Independent UK organisation supported by the World Resource Foundation and is devoted to a safer and healthier environment. It acts as a worldwide information service to encourage the recycling of materials and energy from post-consumer waste.

Its journal, *Warmer Bulletin*, is published four times a year and circulates to 80 000 readers in 70 countries. The Bulletin is illustrated, and contains news of current recycling initiatives worldwide, technical articles on various aspects of waste control, details of events, seminars and exhibitions of interest to those involved in waste management, and an extensive list of current publications in many languages on the subject.

The publishers will be happy to send, every quarter and entirely free of charge, one

or more copies of the Bulletin to those libraries which can make use of it. Apart from its interest to general readers, it has proved to be welcome in many Australian libraries as resource material for the younger reader. A German language edition is also available upon request.

Interested librarians in any discipline are invited to write to the undersigned for a specimen copy of a recent issue of the *Warmer Bulletin*, or indicate that they would welcome receiving a complimentary copy each quarter direct from the UK. Additional copies for reference or resource purposes, or for branch libraries, will be gladly forthcoming. Please indicate the quantity required and relevant addresses for postal purposes.

*James Orton
Australasian Correspondent
The Warmer Bulletin*

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