

Feedback

School Libraries Section

Southern Region ReSOURCE Sharing Group

Increasing restrictions on funding make it more important than ever to share and

rationalise library collections.

The Southern Region ReSOURCE Sharing Group (known as SOURCE to their colleagues in the Southern Metropolitan Region of the Victorian Education system) aims to facilitate this cooperation.

The group has been active since 1982. It comprises teacher-librarians and public librarians and is run on a purely voluntary basis, with mailing assistance from the Southern Region and support from the school and public libraries directly involved.

Its achievements have included a well-attended, productive seminar on Networking. As a project for the Bicentennial Year, members pooled their expertise to compile and publish a select list of resources, *Australian Sources*, which has proved a popular tool.

The *Union List of Periodicals indexed in Guidelines held in School and Public Libraries in the Southern Metropolitan*

Region 1991 edition has also just been released. It gives titles of periodicals held by participating libraries noting those with holdings in excess of 5 years. All participants cooperate by making articles accessible. It has been acclaimed as a 'must' for all school libraries with VCE students, and is obtainable from M Eastman, SOURCE, c/- Noble Park Heights Secondary College, Callaghan Road, Noble Park, Victoria, 3174 (\$15 contributing libraries; \$18 others, p/p incl.)

Projects in the pipeline are the compilation of an annotated list of standard reference works for inclusion in a school library, and a seminar on information skills for VCE students.

The group is fulfilling some perceived needs in the community -- given time and money they could do more.

Irene Meeuwissen
Convener, SOURCE

Library Technician of the Year 1991

The 6th National Library Technicians Conference dinner, at the Manly Pacific Parkroyal on 12 July, was the setting for the presentation of the ALIA Library Technician of the Year Award 1991.

The award, which was sponsored by University Cooperative Bookshop Ltd, was presented by the Managing Director, Jack McLoon. The recipient was Lexie Zantiotis of the State Library of New South Wales.

Lexie has certainly made a substantial contribution to the development of

library technicians in Australia. In the 10 years since her graduation, Lexie has made her mark both within the Association and at work.

Within the Library Technicians Section, she has held the positions of National Vice-President (1983) and President (1984), NSW Group Vice-President (1985-1987) and President (1988). In all positions, Lexie was noted for her tact, enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, and for her ability to encourage growth in others. She supported the promotion

of library technicians as a valuable and indispensable library resource. Lexie was the first Senior Library Technician to be appointed at the State Library of NSW, and has proved to be an excellent role model to other library technicians in that organisation.

Lexie has certainly been a catalyst to the development of library technicians in the library and information community, and as such deserves the award and the sincere congratulations of ALIA members.

Jean Bailey



Left to right: Jack McLoon, University Cooperative Bookshop Ltd.; Ellen Ennever, President, Library Technicians Section; Lexie Zantiotis, Recipient; Dorothy Ramsay, State Library of NSW.

Accessing information —

Children can do it!

At our school we have been developing two magazine indexes for National Geographic's *World* (USA) and Ashton Scholastic's *Eyespy* (Australia). These magazines are part of the Junior School Library's collection, which is for the use of students from 5-12 years.

To my knowledge there is no magazine index published in Australia for primary school students. *Guidelines* is a widely respected and used magazine index in secondary schools, but the magazines which it indexes are mostly too difficult for primary age students.

So, here we were with two excellent magazines, both readable and informative, ever-increasing in number, but with no simple, speedy way of accessing the information therein. *Eyespy*, for example, contains much useful information for research on Australian themes, particularly the environment and animals.

Hence my decision to construct our own indexes. How could we achieve this? Primary school libraries are notoriously understaffed. The only feasible method of moving ahead with the idea was for the girls to construct the indexes themselves.

Girls in Years 6 and 7 i.e. girls of 10-12 years select the major articles in each issue, read each one and try to describe it in one or two words. I have talked to them about ASCIS subject headings and we have this text on hand. However, I do not insist that the girls use these subject headings, if they are confident using their own natural language. After all, the point of the exercise is to gain access to the information in the magazines and children often select more appropriate language for the use of other children. Some major articles are entered using two or three different subject headings if need be. The girls enter the data directly into our Apple IIe computers.

What a wonderful learning experience it has been for them! The girls learn that I value them and that I value magazines, when I ask them to



Anna and Jessica enter data into the Magazine Index database.

contribute to the project. They work mainly on the indexes at lunch-time. How better to promote the use of magazines as an invaluable research tool than by starting with primary-age students! The girls know so much more about these magazines and promote them to other students. How better to learn about the effective use of an index than by being involved in the construction process!

I interfere as little as possible in the construction of the indexes. I do rationalise some subject heading choices e.g. KOALAS and KOALA BEARS would both become KOALAS. I put the letter 's' onto many subject headings and correct spelling mistakes. Sometimes I have asked parent helpers to become involved when our indexing piles up.

The layout of the indexes is quite simple — subject headings (in alphabetical order), title of article, issue and page number(s). The indexes are available as a print-out or on an Apple IIe disc. In 1990 I began marketing the *Eyespy* index initially at \$8 for the print-out and \$10 for the

Apple IIe disc. This project brings together three aspects of my professional life, about which I can become quite passionate — the education of young children, access to information and libraries!

Margaret Strickland
Teacher-librarian
Woodlands CEGGS

SLOC Conference

31 May-2 June 1991

The School Libraries' Organising Council (SLOC) — the umbrella group which coordinates the three school library associations in Western Australia (ALIA — School Libraries Section, WASLA and AIS — School Libraries) — conducted its first conference on the Foundation Day long-weekend of June, at the Corpus Christi Catholic College in Bateman and attracted 200 participants.

Keynote speakers included Mal Bryce, former Deputy Premier, who spoke of the future and the importance of information management, Sandra Gapper from the South Australian Education Department who talked about state-of-the-art teacher-librarianship, and Joyce Kirk from the University of Sydney who left us thinking about where we go from here.

The workshop sessions were many and varied and the main complaint received was that there was too much to choose from. At each workshop session a choice had to be made from approximately ten possible presentations. Participants often felt they wanted to attend them all. Many suggested we run the conference again with the same program so that missed sessions could be attended.

Congratulations to Kathy Scott and her committee of representatives from the three associations for an excellent conference.

Philippa Ryan

Special Libraries Section WA Group

1991 passed busily for the committee. The year started with the annual Ice Breaker function held at the law library of Malleson Stephen Jaques where librarians enjoyed the view, supper and a tour of the library.

In May we visited the Australian Society of CPAs' library for a demonstration of accounting software used by the Australian Society of CPAs.

Jennifer Affleck (Dialogue) and Bruce Wedderburn (Inter Optics) provided an interesting and informative demonstration of CD-ROM software and hardware at the July function held at CSIRO, followed by an enjoyable dinner.

The monthly sundowners have continued this year. Many students and recent graduates have attended, looking for that elusive job.

A marketing survey is being conducted by

the committee to examine what members of the section feel the committee should be doing and directions for the future. The committees would like to encourage all special librarians to participate in the survey.

The WA Special Librarian Award is an annual award for outstanding contribution to the library profession by a special librarian. The inaugural award winner will be announced at a special dinner function at Paesano's Restaurant, Friday, 1 November 1991. A perpetual trophy provided by RAECO and an individual award will be presented. Nomination forms are available from Deanne Barrett on (09) 222 7372.

The AGM breakfast will be held on Friday, 6 December — more details later.

Deanne Barrett
Secretary, SLS (WA)

Elvis stud possible

Tom McKeon leaves ALIA

One of the earliest requirements to emerge 20 years ago, when ALIA, then the LAA, was in the process of 'professionalising' its office, was for an Industrial Information Officer. In due course, the first such was appointed; it may have been the urbane and diplomatic Brian Henderson, who did wonders, and in due course moved on to the Australian Pilots' Federation and the so-called 'pilots' strike'. One of his successors was Judith Hill, who feared nobody, addressed the world as 'comrade', and once earned the wrath of a university librarian whose long-suffering staff she advised to improve the air-conditioning by chucking a half-brick through a window. Clearly, a colourful breed.

Tom is no exception; one of the 'new' team, recruited on the move to Canberra 2 years ago, he learned 'on the job' what a curious and interesting race we were. Confrontation was never his line, and only seldom could a particularly obdurate employer make him lose his cool. To members he was a calm, methodical professional, always willing (sometimes perhaps too willing) to advise those undergoing industrial stress. And over the last 2 years, the numbers of these has increased, I suspect. Award restructuring and multiskilling also came his way — new concepts to be mastered, new problems to be grappled with.

His advice to General Council and the Association's officers was pithy and to the point, and although he must have sometimes got just a little bored at the nth repetition of what to him were transparently obvious industrial issues, it never showed. A convivial member of staff, his slight frame conceals an extraordinary capacity for the amber fluid; I am convinced that this is bred into his race. And speaking of racing, all of us who have followed the fortunes of *Elvis Lives*, Tom's occasionally rapid greyhound, will be pleased to know that *Elvis*'s retirement to the stud is contemplated. No such luck for Tom — at least, not yet. His new position is as Senior Tutor in industrial relations at Charles Sturt University. He could hardly be worked harder there, but as Tom cheerfully acknowledges, he will be rewarded a little more handsomely.

Like all of the scratch team, now veterans, who were recruited wholesale to fill the Association's National Office on its relocation to Canberra, Tom has had to learn quickly, in the firing line, and under less than ideal conditions. To him, as to his colleagues in the ALIA National Office, we owe a great deal; he goes with the good wishes of all who had the good fortune to enjoy his services and/or his congenial company. Good luck to you, Tom.

John Levett



Tom McKeon packs his belongings ready for departure.

Comments re appointment of Industrial Information Officer

Tom had a browse around the Association's archives before he left, and came up with this gem from about 20 years ago, author unknown:

'In the report to Council on the progress of the establishing of the industrial information service, mention was made of the areas which present themselves for further study, and my opinion that the Association is not yet ready to enter the area of industrial advocacy.

'With these two factors in mind, which determine to some extent the nature of the appointment, I feel that the appointee should... be female. This job would not be appropriate for an ambitious young man because of the amount of background work to be done, and because the LAA does not need someone who will use it merely as a stepping stone. Certainly the secretariat mentioned above has had female appointees for some time and having a similar situation to that of the LAA it would seem a similar appointee would be appropriate.

'I do not think that a librarian should be appointed unless he/she has had industrial research experience. The complexities of the profession can be understood by consultation with those working in it; the complexities of the industrial field need to be understood by the appointee before commencing duty.

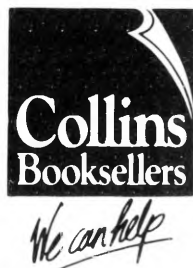
'The important factor is for the appointee to be prepared for diversity and not "stand on ceremony". I think that the commitment to the job rather than a career structure would be found in a female rather than a male. Without being anti-male, I believe that the cultural conditioning of this society would indicate a female to be more appropriate to this position, particularly as there are now females qualified to take the position.'

Anti-discrimination action would surely prevent us adopting the same criteria today!

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