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Newsletter of the Australian Library & Information Association

The new team is in!

inCite wishes good luck and every success in 1991 to ALIA's new Executive Officers —

President: John Levett, whose Front Line appears on the next page.

Vice-President: Bev Kirby

Bev writes:

'My thanks to members who took part in the election process and to those who gave me support and encouragement.'

It is good to be on the team to lead ALIA. I am confident that in 1991 under John Levett's leadership ALIA will grow and strengthen.

An individual I make the assumption that every member is important and that ALIA must hear their concerns. My work with the Executive, General Council and National Office will be based on this.

General Council will set objectives for 1991. I look forward to participating in that process. And now the work begins.'

Past President: Dr Lynn Allen

General Secretary: Tanya Whitmarsh

Tanya writes:

I'm pleased to be back in service to members as an 'old hand' — this will be my 5th year on General Council as a NSW representative and my second term as General Secretary.

Working with a fine team of national office staff and honorary office bearers, and with a brand new investment in our national office building, I am looking forward to our next exciting strategic steps into the future.'

General Treasurer: Philippa Middleton

Philippa writes:

'I am Manager of Noarlunga Library Services, which includes one of the largest

public/TAFE joint-use libraries. I was SA Branch President of ALIA in 1989 and am currently SA General Councillor. I am particularly interested in promotion of, and lobbying for, library and information services.'

Chairperson, Board of Education: to be elected 11 February.

The General Councillors for 1991 are:
ACT: Colin Steele; NSW: Tanya Whitmarsh;
NT: Ruth Quinn; QLD: Geoff Chapman;
SA: Philippa Middleton; TAS: Peter Cohen;
VIC: Jane King; WA: Roslyn Membrey.

Executive Director: Sue Kosse, who has just accepted re-appointment for a further

term of 2 years, writes: 'I and my colleagues in the National Office are looking forward to 1991 as a year of challenge. Our first and over-riding priority is to maintain and improve our services to members. At the same time we shall be establishing the new building, reaching decisions on our new computer system and preparing for much greater conference activity. It promises to be an exciting and absorbing time for all of us.' ■



Interlibrary loans

Can we develop better systems of payments?

The library community has been discussing the desirability of libraries benefiting from the increasing use of communications technology for interlibrary loans. In consequence, the ALIA General Council decided in March 1990 to convene a meeting to consider future strategies of payments for interlibrary loans in Australia. This development fitted in well with the Association's own plans to replace its existing computing system, with one of its functions being the issuing and redemption of interlibrary loan vouchers.

The Association currently offers libraries a

simple mechanism for payments for interlibrary loans involving the purchase, exchange and redemption of vouchers. This system has been in operation since 1977. The Association manages the voucher system, with ACLIS, and previously AACOBS, setting the recommended charges for interlibrary loans.

An Organising Committee established to plan the meeting included representatives from the Association, ACLIS and the National Library of Australia. The meeting was held on 22 November 1990. Its objective was to develop strategies for a better service to

Australian libraries through the development of efficient systems of payments for interlibrary loans. Its outcome was to be the identification of possible alternatives for the future, each of which would require subsequent investigation.

The meeting brought together 24 representatives from the Association, ACLIS, CAUL, State Libraries Council, ASLA, the National Sections of the Association for Public, School, Special and TAFE libraries,

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PDQ

Carol Kenchington

CE, PD, T & D...

At its last meeting, the Board of Education decided to change the name of the PD Committee to Training and Development Committee. This change is designed to emphasise the breadth of the committee's interest. With the focus on 'skills' in the Training Guarantee climate, the committee is keen to emphasise that knowledge and attitudes are also most important, for all members of the library and information workforce.

In the meantime, 'continuing education', 'professional development' and 'training and development' will be regarded as synonyms in this area of rapid change.

One of the initiatives of the National Committee of the Education for Library and Information Services Section is the proposal that ALIA set up a database of Training and Development activities throughout Australia. This will encompass not only ALIA Divisional activities but those of the library schools, commercial ventures and of related associations. This database will provide Divisions with the means for sharing PD ideas, for publicity, and for planning and review. The Board of Education has accepted this proposal and as the first step towards implementing it, ALIA has purchased database software. ■



Norma Tovey, of Triad Data Magic, discussing the Inmagic database software with Carol Kenchington, ALIA's PD Officer. Triad has generously provided the software to ALIA at cost, to assist in the production of the Professional Development database.

Parliamentarians survey

Do you know the whereabouts of primary research material about a former Federal politician?

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Library is compiling a guide to personal papers, interviews and manuscripts relating to former Federal parliamentarians.

They have written to many libraries and archives throughout

Australia requesting details of holdings but would also like to hear from any other sources about relevant material.

For further information on the details required for the guide write to Brenda McAvoy at the Parliamentary Library, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600, or telephone the compiler, Carmel McInerny on (06) 235 0149. ■

Interlibrary Loans continued from 1...

three small regular users of the present voucher system, together with representatives from the National Library of Australia, the State Library of NSW, CSIRO, Telecom and AARNet. The meeting was chaired by the then Vice President of the Association, John Levett.

Presentations were made by representatives of the Association, the State Library of NSW, the National Library of Australia, the State Bank of South Australia, and electronic data interchange and electronic funds transfer experts from Telecom and AARNet. The presentations included an outline of the present system of payments, the possible alternatives for EDI and EFT offered by the State Bank of South Australia, efficient electronic alternatives through ILANET and ABN and the possible role of Telecom in future developments.

The NLA and the State Library of NSW had discussed their joint position beforehand. Both said they would be prepared to develop a mechanism through which ABN and

ILANET ILL transaction data could be made available to a payment agency as the basis for settlement.

The meeting then discussed at length the possible development of new electronic payment systems. However, detailed assessment of the suggested alternatives was hampered by the lack of reliable data about the size of the interlibrary loans traffic, and hence the size of any future system. In addition, concerns were raised about the need for caution with the development and operational costs of the alternative systems, the ongoing development of EDI standards in the wider community, and the fact that not all libraries were in a position to take advantage of benefits offered by the various networks in communications technology.

It was generally agreed that further research in the area of ILL traffic in Australia would be needed if the profession were to make an informed decision on the alternatives available. A cost benefit analysis of EFT/EDI operations would also be necessary before the Association was able to reach a decision on this issue.

The participants believed that the discussions had provided a useful opening to

the debate on alternatives for ILL payments. The following resolutions were passed:

1. It was resolved that ALIA, the National Library of Australia and the State Library of NSW be requested to hold discussions to explore the possible use of ABN and ILANET transaction data as the basis for the settlement of interlibrary loan payments; to investigate costs and benefits of this approach; and to prepare proposals for the consideration of ALIA and ACLIS.

2. It was resolved that, regardless of the long term implications of technology for the financial aspects of the interlibrary loan system in Australia, for the foreseeable future the existing voucher system will operate in parallel with whatever electronic developments emerge.

3. It was resolved that John Levett, the 1991 ALIA President take appropriate steps to ensure that Resolution 1 is implemented.

Early in 1991, the Association, ACLIS, the National Library of Australia and the State Library of NSW will begin work on implementing these resolutions. Progress reports will be made through *inCite* from time to time. ■