

Feedback

Disability simulation

Second seminar in Victoria

Following the success of a seminar held in late 1989, the Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities Special Interest Group of ALIA held another disability simulation session on 18 March 1991 at the Vermont South Library.

The venue is the newest service point of the Nunawading Public Library, and was opened in November 1990. The library was closed at the time of the seminar so that participants were able to use the library as a workshop in negotiating reference type interviews with actors portraying library users with psychiatric disorders. A video on schizophrenia was also shown. Facilitators were Sue Holliday, Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University, Janet Murray, Lecturer in Library and Information Studies at the University of Melbourne and National Convener of the LISPD Special Interest Group, and Gaye Sussex, Library Manager of the Nunawading Public Library. The seminar was attended by librarians from academic and public libraries, and by librarians from specialist organisations providing services for disabled people.

Jan Murray □

University, College and Research Libraries Section

Workshop on research

Call for papers

The UCRLS is organising a 1-day Workshop on Research, in cooperation with the Reference and Information Services Section Conference (Canberra, 6-8 November 1991, on *Priorities for the future*). The UCRLS Workshop will be on Thursday, 7 November, and will focus particularly on research in the reference and information services area.

Keynote papers providing an introduction and overview of the field will be delivered by invited speakers. However, the Organising Committee is keen to include reports of recently completed research in this area. We would be particularly interested to hear about

- research in the reference and information services area;
- research with practical implications for

Not at a LOSS!

Union list of serials on microfiche

The Libraries of the Social Sciences Group (LOSS) met at The Regent in Sydney on 10 April to launch the first edition of its Union List of Serials on microfiche, sponsored by the University Cooperative Bookshop Limited. The guest speaker was Alison Crook, State Librarian of New South Wales, and current President of the Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services (ACLIS). Alison spoke about the need for special libraries to embrace Conspectus and the idea of a distributed national collection. 'Libraries without walls' means using information technology to its fullest potential, recognising that no library can hold everything its users need.

The LOSS group is now in its 10th year,

Claire Pillar □

South Australian Conspectus Committee

The committee was established in 1990 to coordinate the planning and implementation of conspectus activities in South Australia. All South Australian libraries with an interest in conspectus are represented on the committee. Four libraries will implement conspectus during 1991: Flinders University, the State Library, the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. The three academic libraries have agreed to give priority to the assessment of chemistry collections.

Margaret Henty, the National Conspectus Officer, met with the committee in November 1990 to advise of developments at the national level. She returned to Adelaide in February this year to present a very successful conspectus training seminar.

The committee is now planning a

and its objectives are to act as a forum for the discussion and exchange of information, provide mutual support to members, promote the importance and value of libraries and information services, and to provide a free interlibrary loan service between members. The Group has 26 members in the Sydney metropolitan area, including government departments, trade unions and non-governmental organisations. The Group is particularly useful for librarians working by themselves. Meetings are held every 2 months. Enquiries about the Group may be directed to Claire Pillar at the Royal Blind Society Reference Library on (02) 747 6622.

conspectus seminar to be held at the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide on 30 August this year. Speakers from the four libraries implementing conspectus will outline the methodology followed and review progress. This will be an excellent opportunity to share useful information gained from their individual implementation projects.

W T Cations Convener
SA Conspectus Committee □

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Children's and Youth Services Section NSW Group AGM and 1 day conference

The AGM and 1 day conference was held on 4 March 1990 at the Metcalf Auditorium, State Library of NSW.

'Focus on facts: the lure of non-fiction' was the catchy title used for the day; the topic dealt with non-fiction for children and young adults.

The first keynote speaker was David Knowles, Managing Director of Franklin Watts Australia, who gave us an informative and entertaining insight into the non-fiction publishing industry for children's books. He brought to our attention the many problems of publishing non-fiction in Australia and of the trends overseas, both past and present.

Robyn Morrow, Children's Bookshop Beecroft, spoke next. Her presentation was as captivating as the title she had chosen — 'Dinosaurs and all that rubbish or how I learnt to love books about sharks and trucks and things that work'. Robyn showed a wonderful range and variety of non-fiction, most of which children would find very attractive as a form of literature. Robyn sees one of the major objectives of non-fiction as 'giving a sense of joy about the world around us.'

In keeping with the tradition of the conference, the third speaker was an

Australian author of non-fiction for children, Eleanor Stodart. She focused on some of the many problems of being an author in this area, in particular her speciality — science books for children. Small publishing runs, the lack of reviews (let alone constructive reviews) and the small Australian market are just some of the problems faced by Australian authors of non-fiction. She encouraged the promotion of non-fiction as a form of literature for enjoyment and recreation.

The last session of the day focused on collection development. Sue Parkinson, Children's and Youth Services Consultant, State Library of NSW, spoke on the conspectus approach which allows a more detailed analysis than most collection development policies do.

Val Watson, City Librarian at Bankstown Library, spoke on the arrangement of children's non-fiction in that library. A 'classification scheme' by interest level from pre-school through to young adults has been adopted for non-fiction. She also stressed the importance of having a collection development policy for public libraries.

Our final speaker was Liz Bowring, Teacher-Librarian at Kingsgrove North

High School. As a contrast to the public library situation, Liz spoke on the place of the library within her school, and how selection of resources was governed by the curriculum adopted by that school. She also stressed the importance of the wider network of libraries, in particular the public libraries that specialised in certain subject areas.

Approximately 100 people attended the conference. Local authors, booksellers and publishers joined both public and school librarians in what proved to be a successful and informative day.

Julie Barkman
President □

Book bargain!

Interested in the coast and the (mainly invertebrate) creatures that live there? W J Dakin's lavishly produced and beautifully printed classic study, *Australian Seashores* (rev 1987), is currently being remaindered at knock-down prices from the original \$45. Your Editor bought his copy at Bookworld for \$9.95, at which price it may be the bargain of the year. □

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