

NT Library Technicians group

The NT Library Technician Group has been active during 1992 with a supportive committee and regular attendance at general meetings throughout the year. We are, however, a small group and we have tried to encourage more people to participate at our meetings. Our efforts to promote the group and discuss the history, roles and aims of ALIA with talks to classes have been disappointing because attendance and involvement in the group has not increased.

Bev Davis is currently working on the history of the Library Practice course as 1992 was the 10th anniversary. Graduation night in 1992 at the NT University recognised the seven new graduates of the Associate Diploma of Arts (Library Practice) with Robyn Cavenagh acknowledged as the outstanding graduate for 1991.

The Course Advisory Committee, with the involvement of Library Technicians, had produced a draft for re-accréditation of the Library Practice course, which has now been approved. Among the changes were additional electives and an increase in the compu-

ter applications area to all units. Cataloguing now relates more to computer record structure and retrieval in libraries.

We have compiled a database of Library Technicians, Trainees and Library Assistants in the Northern Territory, which has proved useful for contacting people in remote areas.

We are concerned about employment for qualified Library Technicians in schools, who are currently being paid the same salary as School Assistants who have had no tertiary training. Librarians prefer to have qualified Library Technicians in their libraries. We have expressed our disapproval of this situation to the union and to ALIA. Unfortunately our membership numbers for PSU Union and ALIA are low in the Northern Territory and we are concerned that nothing may be done about the discrepancies in salaries.

To finish on a happy note, last September we held a very successful and enjoyable quiz night. The money raised will help fund delegates to attend this year's Library Technician Conference in Adelaide. ■

ALIA/NZLIA Joint Conference

Wellington, 26-30 September 1994

The Conference theme is *Embarking Together*, and in acknowledgment of developments on both shores of the Tasman Sea, it will reflect a strong bi-cultural flavour. It is envisaged as a five day conference, the first and the fifth day being reserved for joint or independent ALIA/NZLIA activities. The central three days will cover conference activities such as plenary sessions, visiting speakers, and workshops.

The Australian program organiser is John Levett c/- The Graduate Department of Librarianship, Archives and Records, Monash University, Clayton Vic 3168, and he seeks (by 30 April) suggestions for papers, speakers and activities. It is the organising committee's firm view, backed by both Associations, that 'overseas speakers' should come from the Asian and Pacific region, and that the program as a whole should reflect this regional commitment to SE Asia and the Pacific. ■

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