

Australian Library and Information Association

Election of Vice-President 1995

(President-elect 1996)

Call for nominations

In accordance with Division J Regulations, nominations are now called for the position of Vice-President 1995 (president elect 1996). Nominees must be individual financial members of the Association. Candidates and nominations should read the relevant regulations carefully. Please note that nominations must:

- be in writing;
- be signed by two financial members of the Association;
- include the consent in writing of the nominee;
- be accompanied by a current curriculum vitae (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a statement of professional concerns. The curriculum vitae should be arranged under the headings of Present Position, Previous Positions and Professional Activities. The curriculum vitae and the statement of concerns should each **not be more than 100 words**.

A passport style photograph will also be required.

Nominations close at **5pm on 1 September 1994** and should be sent to the Executive Director, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600.

Nominations

This is the time of year that we ask our members to nominate colleagues for some of the important positions that make up the Association.

Nominating a colleague, or indeed accepting nomination is not something that is done lightly. These positions are ones of responsibility; they require hard work and persistence. However with all this, they offer even more in return: a greater knowledge and understanding of the broad concerns and interests of our Association.

The knowledge that the Association and profession as a whole can have a positive impact on our workplaces and goals.

We would encourage you to nominate those colleagues who you believe have a role to play in the continued development of our Association. If you are asked to accept nomination, please consider the important input you can make as an office bearer.

Research Express

Kathryn Pearson describes a new service (and its marketing) from the University of Sydney Library

Building on a successful pilot project, the University of Sydney Library is offering a new service, *Research Express*, which will provide recent journal articles to users within 24-48 hours. The project was initiated by the University Librarian, Dr Neil Radford who was eager to start examining access or ownership issues. It began in May 1993, aiming to test electronic access to, and rapid supply of, articles from journal titles not held by the University Library. The project was initially limited to four academic units within the University and was coordinated through the Interlibrary Loan sections of Fisher Library and two of the branch libraries, Badham & Engineering. A wide range of services were trialed, including CARL Uncover, The Genuine Article, RLG's Citadel, Inside Information, and OCLC's FirstSearch.

The project was widely advertised in various University newsletters, with mailouts to the target groups. It became apparent towards the end of the project, however, that tailored demonstrations within the various departments and faculties may have generated greater interest—a more aggressive approach to marketing the advantages of the project was needed.

During the course of the project, four separate deposit accounts were set up with CARL Uncover to facilitate end-user access to documents. Extensive information was recorded for each request to enable the Library to understand the issues arising and problems emerging, and to provide for appropriate evaluation of the services trialed.

There were 295 requests made during the course of the pilot project, with 182 of these being supplied through CARL Uncover and 64 being requested through normal Fasttrack channels. The response from CARL Uncover was impressive, with one of the libraries involved in the project receiving up to 88% of articles within 24 hours. User reaction to the project was assessed by way of a survey sent out in early December 1993. Of the respondents, 55% felt that electronic access to journal articles would be an acceptable alternative to subscriptions to little used titles. The comments demonstrated that a number of academics are aware of the potential and issues involved in providing access on

demand rather than subscribing to journals. Almost half of the respondents took the trouble to make general comments, ranging from the laudatory response of Associate Professor Patsy Armati from Biological Sciences, 'a quantum leap', to those who expressed concern about the implications of any further serial cancellations.

The success of the pilot project has prompted the University of Sydney Library to launch a full service, to be known as the *Research Express Service*. The Service will supply interlibrary loan requests from 1990+ journal titles to all academic staff and post-graduate students using commercial document supply services. The Service will be offered until the end of 1995, when it will be reevaluated.

Material provided through the Service will be made available free of charge to users, and the main suppliers used will be CARL Uncover and The Genuine Article, although existing and emerging services will be monitored for possible inclusion. The aim will be to satisfy requests within 24-48 hours.

Extensive publicity is planned to promote use of the Service, including individual mail-outs to academic staff and publicity in the University News and the University of Sydney Library Newsletter. In addition, a brochure will be displayed in the library, and demonstrations within various faculties will also be conducted.

A proactive approach to marketing is seen as essential if the new service is to be successful. The library recognises the increasing interest in end-user systems, and end-user access to Uncover will be encouraged. The library is also investigating the use of the ABN SOFI/Interlibrary Loan interface when providing articles requested through CAUL Current Contents. The library is investigating setting up mechanisms for taking into account access and document delivery options when considering new serial subscriptions. Existing serial subscriptions will be monitored in relation to access options for document delivery. Criteria have been developed to assist in determining the most effective or appropriate means of deciding between access to document delivery or subscriptions to journals. This is seen



as vitally important, as the Library begins to look at the enormous issue of access or ownership.

As a result of the pilot project, the library has realised the need to market strongly, and marketing will be a vital

component of the new service. It is clear that researchers need to be made aware of the speed and reliability with which some of these new document delivery services can provide required information. The *Research Express*

Research Express Service
Coordinator Kathryn Pearson and
Associate Professor Patsy Armati

Service is seen as a positive step in beginning to address the issues surrounding access or ownership. ■

ALF's off!

We regret to advise that the Australian Library Fair has been postponed to 1995.

The Fair was virtually booked out by suppliers keen to develop and explore the library market. Interest from library staff has been extraordinary. However, we have been placed in a position where all logistics for the handling of the Fair have been required, at this late stage, to be directed through the ABPA and their contractors, Expertise Events.

Because of this, we cannot guarantee control of the event, and have reluctantly decided not to proceed at this stage.

The stated purpose of the Australian Library Fair was to offer an opportunity for library suppliers and their customers to get together at low cost, at an independent event where the principal focus was on the trade exhibition. This has proved to be impossible this year, but the enthusiasm of suppliers and potential delegates demands that we begin planning for 1995 immediately.

It is our intention to continue the spirit of cooperation we have fostered to date to work towards an event which acknowledges the market strength of the library sector within the wider publishing industry.

We thank all concerned for their support—particularly ALIA and its Divisions, and all the library suppliers who committed their time and resources to the event.

Greg Bain & Jo-anne Fuller



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