Real live writers

Real Live Writers is a timely, concise and practical how-to-do-it guide for teachers, librarians and organisers who want to invite authors and illustrators to visit schools and libraries, and who want to ensure that the experience is carefully planned and the outcome mutually rewarding and stimulating. There is a certain specialness and mystique that surrounds the visits of 'real live authors', and the potential for engaging and fostering creative inquiry, reading for pleasure, and enriching young people through an exploration of a writing experience can be easily lost if the visit is poorly planned. This is the essential message of the book.

The book provides a rationale and practical strategies for arranging visits and managing all its contingencies, including foreseeing and dealing with pitfalls. The content is constructed from first hand advice of authors, illustrators and experienced organisers, and this adds to its vitality and relevance. Chapter headings and chapter sequencing appropriately reflect the staging of a visit and included in the book is a summary checklist which brings together the range of strategies discussed, and a very useful list of organisations that can provide information on contacting authors, funding provisions, and booking requirements.

The focus of the book is unmistakably the general organisational strategies. While it addresses some preparatory learning activities to ensure a successful visit, the book would be considerably enhanced by elaboration of a range of pre- and post-visit classroom and library based learning activities to ensure effective integration of the experience. The book also deserves some more thoughtful grammatical editing and layout design. More careful use of bullet points, consistent use of font size and bold type, and more consideration of white space, would make this very useful book eminently more readable

Veitch, Kate. *Real Live Writers: how to host a successful author visit.* Carlton, Vic. National Book Council, 1995. 64pp. A$7.00 including post and packaging or A$20.00 for 3 copies. ISBN 0-959-6628-4-7

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RAISS-mataz

The Reference and Information Services (RAISS) Queensland group had its AGM on 13 February, and guest speaker Professor Phil Candy discussed the report *Developing lifelong learners through undergraduate education.*

Phil inspired all (including those outside tertiary institutions) with his call for a learning society, not just an information society. He emphasised the need for lifelong learning in a changing social and cultural context, and particularly in a

Participants in the RAISS-matazz in 1994

changing workplace. Phil outlined the required characteristics of a lifelong learner, and informed the group that professional institutions are now specifically asking for these characteristics in their graduates. User education is therefore not to be seen as an inoculation against information problems, but as the start of an ongoing process.

Ian Somerville addressed the sections May meeting, on *Reference issues for the 90s.* Ian has recently arrived as manager of the Gold Coast campus of Griffith University from the State Library of Tasmania.

Ian brought home the fact that the information revolution is coming even quicker than most people realise, with predictions that 80 per cent of new publishing will be held electronically by the year 2000, and the Internet being in most peoples homes by then. This will change the way we work, away from 'collections' to facilitating access; it will change the way our clients perceive information; it will necessitate us changing from process-oriented, to client-oriented organisation; it will force us to integrate with other 'information' departments in our organisation.

Ian outlined the challenges that we will face, including the library being bypassed by the client; responses that we will need, including increased risk-taking; the unique place of our profession to respond to the challenges, including our potential to be seen as experts, and our ability to move outside our walls and into the community.

After Ian's excellent talk, a lively discussion took place, particularly addressing the importance of back-up services.

RAISS Queensland is planning a number of stimulating events for the rest of 1995, including a joint session with UCRLS on library research, and of course our legendary 3rd annual 'RAISS-mataz' night.

Helen Hobbs,
RAISS Queensland Committee

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The June issue of AARL is now available. Contents of this issue include *No easy option: Case study research in libraries* by Peter Clayton; *Methodology for researching AARNet use* by Harry Bruce; *Planning and implementing your first research project: It's easier than you think* by Celina Porch; *The New Zealand public libraries effectiveness study and the New Zealand university libraries effectiveness study* by Philip Calvert and Rowena Cullen; *Information sector workforce analysis: A methodological case Study* by G E Gorman and B A Cornish; *The influence of library usage of undergraduate academic success* by Jennifer Wells; and *The culture of the library in open and distance education centres* by Rigmor George and Adela Love.

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