

## MOBILISATION '95

The Country Public Libraries Group of Victoria are pleased to announce a conference and 'roundup' for library managers, Mobile Services Operators and interested Councillors at:

WANGARATTA  
April 22-23, 1995

Set in spectacular North Eastern Victoria, in the premier wine and gourmet region, Wangaratta also provides excellent tourist facilities and highlights.

Mobilisation '95 will feature:

- Bookmobiles from all over Victoria on display.
- Trade exhibitions of the latest 'state of the art' vehicles, fittings and related technology.
- Vibrant speakers addressing issues and subjects ranging from satellite technology to appropriate training for Mobile Services Operators
- Invaluable opportunities for networking and contact with other driver operators.

Subsidies will be available for attendees from country public library services in Victoria.

Registration papers and further details will be forwarded in early February. Enquiries, expressions of interest and suggestions for papers to be directed to:

**Darren Lewis**, North Eastern Regional Library Service  
Ph: (057) 21 2366 or

**Adele Kenneally**, Glenelg Regional Library Service  
Ph: (055) 72 3277.

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# Competencie

Anne Hazell reports on the Library Competency Standards

The final meeting of the Library Competencies Taskforce was held at the State Library of New South Wales on 8 December. The purpose of the meeting was to respond to the second draft of the Competency Standards, to consider the future role of the Taskforce and to identify possible issues for the review of the Standards. Other issues discussed included assessment and recognition of competency, the relationship of the Standards to qualifications and to the eligibility to practise, the difference between assessable and measurable criteria, alignment with other competency standards and implementation issues including use of the Standards in an industrial context, the effect on different categories of staff and maintaining the currency of the Standards.

A follow-up teleconference of the group on 19 December dealt with the changes made to the second draft at the meeting. While some changes were made to many units, the most visible change was that the industry competency levels are now designated by an alpha character. The most significant change was to the packaging of the common (previously *core*) and specific (previously *elective*) units at each level.

Responses from Divisions and individual members of ALIA to the first *Verification draft* dominated the submissions in quantity, and quality. Perhaps the major differences between the two drafts are the increased emphasis in the second draft on client focus; the advocacy role of librarians; and the integration of information technology into many areas of library work.

In spite of strong support in many ALIA submissions for the addition of an Australian Skills Framework Level 8, the Taskforce was unwilling to change its previous position on this issue. The introduction to the *Validation draft* will explore this issue in greater detail.

### Validation process

Groups to be consulted in the validation phase, anticipated to occur from early January to mid-February, are:

- State Training Authorities;
- State Arts Training Bodies major employers;

- Local Government Training Council;
- Joint Australian Public Services Training Council;
- other related Industry Training Advisory Boards; and
- individual members of the Committee of Australian University Librarians.

The results of the validation process will be reported to the Taskforce and final endorsement sought before submission to the National Training Board (NTB) for formal endorsement in March/April. The launch is planned to occur in May or June, perhaps by the Minister for Communications and the Arts, Michael Lee.

### Issues for consideration in the review

Accompanying the document to the NTB will be a list of the issues which require addressing in the next version of the Standards, probably in 1997. At this stage the issues include the addition of an Australian Skills Framework Level 8, the integration of the knowledge base into the competencies, the role of special librarians who are moving into records management and archives as well as the work covered in the current version, and the difficulty of avoiding the idea that the library is a physical building without shifting the focus away from the library worker.

The Australian National Training Authority is allocating small amounts of money for the review process and it may be possible to convene a workshop (or workshops) in August/September to look at how implementation is proceeding. Arts Training Australia (ATA) has received DEET funding for a national research project to investigate assessment of competence at the worksite for which a reference group is being established.

### Issues for ALIA

- ATA is required to continue to involve the industry in relation to vocational education and training, as indicated in *Creative nation*. ALIA must ensure its continued involvement with the ATA Board and take any other opportunities which arise such as is occurring with the national project to develop core curriculum for library technician

# update

## force

courses.

- The process of reviewing and updating the Standards is of major importance. Early in 1995 ALIA should develop strategies to monitor the implementation of the Standards so that we are able to make an informed contribution to the review. ATA should be encouraged to hold workshops in mid-1995 to look at the implementation.
- Assessment of competence at the worksite is of great significance to both managers and other personnel. As a long-term strategy, ALIA should seek to participate in the ATA reference group. In the short term, ALIA should begin to collect case studies using examples from the implementation monitoring suggested above.

At the December meeting, Tina Jackson, the Chief Executive Officer of Arts Training Australia, paid tribute to the work of the Taskforce in developing a high quality set of standards on time and within budget. Cer-

tainly ALIA has placed high priority on the project this year, as is indicated in the December *inCite*, where 10 Divisions indicated the importance of their involvement in the development of the standards.

Nonetheless Margaret Thurstans' contribution to the standards was, without doubt, the single most significant factor in the success of the Project in 1994. As the Senior Project Officer she was responsible for collecting and analysing the data and writing the document. Margaret met members of the Association around the country, and was able to grasp the principles upon which the practice of librarianship is based, even when the practitioners themselves found them difficult to articulate, and to integrate the information which she gathered into a meaningful whole.

ALIA President, Bill Linklater, wrote to Margaret conveying the Association's appreciation of her work, before her return to Tasmania to a new job, totally unrelated to library competency standards. ■

## New library building opened at the Australian Maritime College

Since its establishment in 1979 the Australian Maritime College library has occupied a number of temporary premises (including eight years in a cramped demountable building) — but no more! Now the AMC Library has something to celebrate. In January 1993 it moved into the ground floor of a new \$1.5m multiple resource centre building. On 15 September 1994, the building was officially opened by Senator Joscelyn Newman, who paid tribute to the library's contribution to the development of the College.

The new library of 658 m<sup>2</sup> houses the 35 000 volume specialist maritime collection together with serials and audiovisual items — many unique to Australia.

It features a special audiovisual

room, two group study rooms, a serials reading area, and plenty of quiet study space. Air conditioned, with double-glazing to keep out external noise, the new facilities are making study attractive to more and more students. This is no wonder when the quiet study area offers a view to a magnificent copse of eucalyptus trees through a floor to ceiling window. The colour scheme is a feature with cool blues and warm pinks creating a harmonious environment.

Opening day was marked by a library competition and a display of new books specially donated by the Shipping Industry. The library was decorated with pink and blue balloons, which were souvenired with much enthusiasm. ■



Coralie Mallitt, librarian, in the new library. Photo: Launceston Examiner



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