

Special Libraries Section (WA)

The year started with a bang with the annual icebreaker held at the Department of Minerals and Energy library. Always a hit, this year's icebreaker featured the fine foods we have all become accustomed to at Specials functions, and interesting talk by the librarian and the opportunity to take a good look at the library.

In March the section conducted a questionnaire to find out the kinds of professional development, training and functions wanted by special librarians, the times most suitable and how special librarians heard of forthcoming events. New technology and the internet were singled out as the two areas of most interest.

The committee followed up on this by providing *Snapshots of the internet*. Over three weeks in July participants visited three libraries to look at what was available from commercial internet service providers and to see demonstrations of the current usage of the net.

Following on from this, an *Electronic showcase* was held at Curtin University on 1 December, where participants were able to see the range of CD-ROMs and other electronic and on-line services available at the TL Robertson library. This was a good opportunity for special librarians with limited budgets to look at a large range of services.

One of the major milestones this year has been the establishment of various committees to begin work on the Specials, Law and Health librarian's conference to be held in Perth in 1997. Specials have been working with the Health and Law librarian's groups to work towards an integrated conference under our trusty leader and conference chair, Irene Nutt.

Specials section has been as busy as always this year. Other events included an engineering and geoscience Sundowner, monthly library visits, an informative presentation held at the Australian Stock Exchange, a breakfast seminar on copyright and electronic services with Nancy Honig from Dialog, and a talk by Phil Teece on industrial relations and enterprise bargaining.

Susanna Rogers

CYSS (WA)

In Western Australia the Children's and Youth Services Section (CYSS) organised several successful events during 1995.

In February the section organised a forum for Assistant and Young People's librarians working in public libraries on issues arising from award restructuring. This provided an opportunity for librarians to exchange experiences on broad-banding, enterprise bargaining issues, and anomalies that have arisen in the local authorities.

To celebrate Hans Christian Andersen's birthday the section organised a visit to Fremantle publisher Plantagenet Press followed by lunch at Santorinis Restaurant in Fremantle.

In June the section was fortunate to be able to host an evening lecture by visiting Canadian Academic Ronald Jobe. Professor Jobe currently lectures in children's literature and teacher librarianship at the University of British Columbia and is a past

president of the International Board on Books for Young People.

A very successful workshop to provide ideas for displays and activities for Children's Book Week was held in July. Sessions included display ideas, booktalking the shortlist, and reader's theatre.

The AGM in November was followed by a seminar on *Promoting literature in your library*. This focused on literature promotion to primary school aged children.

The second edition of *Survival Guide*, which provides a host of relevant contacts and information for librarians working with children and young adults in Western Australia, was published in 1995. A brochure titled *Ever thought of becoming a young people's librarian?* was produced for distribution to student librarians.

Sue North,
Vice-president

Acquisitions Section (NSW)

Four main events were planned and organised by the Acquisitions Section, NSW Group for 1995. These included *Acquisitions basics*, *E-journals*, *Re-engineering technical services*, and an acquisitions workshop.

The year began with *Acquisitions basics*, an informative seminar that introduced the processes of acquisitions work in libraries and related fields specifically targeted to those who were new to acquisitions work. *Acquisitions basics* has been held before and has always been successful — this year was no exception.

A post conference seminar *Getting a handle on E-journals* was jointly organised by the Acquisitions Section, NSW group and the Cataloguing Section, NSW group. Topics covered in the seminar included current developments in the electronic

journal market, issues for libraries, future directions and case studies. This is a subject of imminent importance for libraries and there was considerable discussion during question time.

The third event was also organised jointly by the two groups. The speaker was Arnold Hirshon and the topic was *Re-engineering technical services*.

To finish the year a workshop examining various management directions and their implications in libraries was held. It has been a busy year for the active participants of the group and next year promises to be just as busy. The two functions with the Cataloguing group were a great success — we hope to continue organising joint activities in the new year.

Dimitria Dess
Vice-president

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