

Forging links between sections

Margaret Apsey, RAISS South Australia, president 1996

1996 has been a year of consolidation and refocussing on local issues after the intensity of our year as the National Section and 1995 RAISS conference convenors.

Aware that ALIA sections are often competing for the same audience we joined with UCRLS to present our first function of the year in April: a visit to Flinders University Library to see the new extension and refurbishment of the old library, together with a demonstration of the new interactive library catalogue tutorial. The interactive tutorial is a smart technological approach to teaching developed by Flinders staff.

Plans to arrange a speaking tour of a relevant speaker from the ALIA Biennial Conference did not come to fruition but at a local level we took part in a significant meeting — a joint RAISS/UCRLS/Information Science planning committee meeting. Pooling our

knowledge, experience and ideas, plans for joint functions for 1997 have been drawn up.

A September function, held jointly with UCRLS, was well attended the topic being *Changing gears: new careers for library workers*. A number of speakers, both librarians and technicians, from the private and university sectors outlined their careers outside the normal 'library' environment.

Planning has also focussed on 1997, which being a non-ALIA conference year, enables the program to be more extensive and promises to be more adventurous than ever. Details will be published in the new year. Our joint experiments have proved very successful both in terms of attendance and also in forging valuable links between sections. They will be developed and continue but there will be targeted RAISS events as well.

Our year concluded with the AGM on 11 November with a guest speaker well equipped to entertain: Gerritt Stafford remembering reference — before computers, just to remind us how far the profession has travelled in the last ten to fifteen years. A major part of the AGM was the presentation of RAISS awards to students from the Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Management and Graduate Diploma in Information Studies courses (University of South Australia) and the Associate Diploma in Library Studies (Adelaide TAFE). All recipients are top students in a major reference-related subject.

In conclusion I must thank the hard working, enthusiastic and lively RAISS committee for 1996 without whom nothing would have happened. Most of us are committed to continuing on RAISS in 1997 and with our new members I look forward to an interesting and productive year. ■

Mixing work and play

Glenis Matheson, president, Library Technicians Section, ACT group

The ACT group of the Library Technician section met early in 1996 and planned a very exciting program of social and professional activities.

Our first major activity for the year was our regular 'welcome to new students' lunch held at the Canberra Institute of Technology for new library students. Official guests at the lunch were Carolyn Cherrett (ALIA membership services) and Kerry Webb from the ACT Branch Council.

Other speakers during the year included Carol Denehy from the National Library who spoke to the group about her time as manager of the OCLC Database. Carol talked

about the organisation, projects she was involved in and went on to speak about the career structure of staff working in libraries in the United States of America.

Roslynn Membrey, member of the ALIA Board of Education joined the group and spoke about the role of the Board, how the Board influences the structure, content and delivery of library studies for course accreditation. Roslynn's talk gave the group a better understanding of a service that ALIA provides to the library industry.

Our final professional development activity for the year was a talk from Dale Chatwin, Australian Bureau of

Statistics, on the E-journal. Dale explained the implications of electronic publishing, and that scholarly literature published electronically will be controlled by the authors, something usually done by the major publishing houses.

Dale talked about the most appropriate types of journals suitable for electronic publishing, such as Hansard and statistical data.

We had planned three social functions for the year. At our first function we had Bob Pymm, Australian Film and Sound Archives speak to the group on the topic 'Backyards'; our other function was a Cool Yule, Christmas in June. The final social function

for the year will be our Christmas party.

The planning for the ninth National Library Technicians Conference (to be held from 24–26 September 1997) is progressing well, with national and international speakers interested in presenting papers. Program details will be published in inCite when they are available.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the professional approach and commitment of the 1996 committee: we look forward to 1997 with enthusiasm. Thank you also to the staff of the library school, Canberra Institute of Technology, Reid Campus for their continued support. ■