

# Conference Lift Out

## A Word from the President

WELCOME TO the 22nd Biennial Conference of the Library Association of Australia.

The Biennial Conference provides an opportunity to hear about the latest developments in library science from practitioners and academics and to inspect and discuss the latest developments in library equipment and software and a range of recent publications. Attending a conference gives one a chance to relax from the daily pressures of one's own job, to widen one's horizon, to encompass the whole field of librarianship and to return to work with a better perspective of where libraries are going and where one's own job fits into the whole service.

As I have indicated, the Conference is not only a series of lectures. There is an opportunity to talk with the speakers and other participants between sessions and at the numerous social activities. It is also a time to talk to a wide range of suppliers of library materials, equipment and software. Many of our exhibitors come from overseas to exhibit at the Conference and even those from Australia may not physically be able to visit all



Judith Baskin, LAA President

libraries. They have a lot to offer us in information about new services and systems, and this is the chance to hear it.

The theme of the Conference is 'Challenge and Response'. Our challenge has always been to provide the most appropriate range of

library services to meet our users' needs. One major current problem for libraries is, as it is for most institutions, the economic restriction placed on us. A number of speakers will be concentrating on these problems and possible solutions.

But we are also faced with the enormous possibilities inherent in the great information revolution. Increasingly over the last two decades technology has been coming to the assistance of libraries to allow us to provide a level of service not possible in the past. A number of speakers will be concentrating on the new services or extensions of traditional services made possible by technology and in so doing showing how we have responded on behalf of our users to these exciting new opportunities.

I hope that you find the whole Conference exciting and stimulating. On your behalf I thank the Conference Committee and the librarians of South Australia generally for their hard work in planning the Conference and for the warm hospitality which they are showing to us.

## Behind the scenes of LAA22

### The Barr Smith Library

One question often asked about this library is, why is the library of the University of Adelaide called the Barr Smith Library? The answer is that its establishment and continuation as an effective library were in the early days of the university largely the result of the public-minded attitude and farsightedness of two men, Robert Barr Smith and Tom Elder Barr Smith, members of a prominent Adelaide family.

In the 1890s Robert Barr Smith gave £9,000 towards the purchase of books for the fledgling library, and his son, Tom Elder, in the late 1920s, offered the university £34,000 for a library building in honour of his father.

This building with its magnificent gold-decorated ceiling, said to be the finest in the southern hemisphere, is now a treasure included in National Heritage lists. Earlier this year, the jubilee of its opening on 4 March 1932 was celebrated with a function to which many members of the Barr Smith family were invited, and a plaque to mark the occasion was unveiled. After the official ceremony, guests were escorted through the library, and saw how much the library has developed, as extensions built over the years have increased its capacity and changed its character.

Most were intrigued with the public access computer terminal, linked to the library's on-line catalogue system, BIBLION. Although only this one terminal will be available in public areas, during the LAA Conference within a matter of weeks thereafter the library will install a new computer with thirty terminals throughout the library building. The new system should be operational from the beginning of 1983.

Already the present facility has proved extremely popular with students, who will queue to use it rather than consult the adjacent card catalogue. Through BIBLION they

can access the undergraduate catalogue, serials list, materials in store and monographs catalogued since May 1981. Within two years it is expected that the card catalogue will be closed and all new cataloguing will be fed directly into BIBLION. At the moment, records in BIBLION are duplicated in the card catalogue.

Implementation of the new system will mean that users will be able to search for material by author, title, subject heading, call number and keyword, thus providing improved access to catalogue records, which will themselves be more up-to-date. Within the next five years it is expected that the new system will be linked to the library's loan system and to an acquisitions and accounting system. From the first the library has been involved with ABN and the two systems interface easily.

During the conference demonstrations of BIBLION will be arranged so the visitors to Adelaide may see the system in operation. In addition the library's systems staff will be available to discuss the development of the online catalogue with interested people, while tours of the whole library and other activities are also planned.

*Chris Palmer*

### Library technicians in South Australia

The first qualified Library Technicians emerged (still reasonably sane, I believe) from the course in 1980. This followed closely on recognition of the course by the LAA Board of Education, so we had double cause for celebration in December.

'Technicianship' as a reality for us began in July 1970 when we hosted Brian Henderson, then Industrial Officer of the LAA and Sally Crosbie President of QALT at a seminar

which lasted for almost seven hours! They gave us advice and encouragement on how to set about campaigning for recognition in the library world and industrially. As a result of this meeting unions were lobbied (not to say pestered) for help in gaining recognition through pay scales.

Many of us became members of the LAA immediately and became involved in Branch activities forthwith. We aimed to have a member on every current working party and, I think, succeeded. Certainly, people in the profession began to hear about us.

A year later we were proud to host the First National Library Technicians Conference here in Adelaide, which was a tremendous success and from which we all learned a great deal. In September 1980 a Round Table Conference was held in order to help professionals understand more about the technician's place in the workforce and to dispel any doubts and misapprehensions.

During this time negotiations were continuing, slowly, for recognition in the Public Service, Education, and municipal pay scales. In May 1981 the Public Service Board announced a new pay scale which included a Library Technician grade. Technicians who work in Education Department Schools are still struggling for recognition, although some Technicians have been reclassified on an individual basis. The Municipal Officers Association is currently negotiating a new salary structure which will include grades for Technicians as well as Professional and Clerical workers.

I believe that currently all qualified Technicians in South Australia are employed and gaining some form of recognition for qualifications and expertise. It has been quite a struggle, and will continue as such for some time to come.

*Joan Manners*

**LAA22 — Dorothy Butler and 'Babies need books'**

The name of Dorothy Butler will already be familiar to many school and children's librarians, parents, teachers and students of children's literature and child development, and the opportunity to hear and meet her will be eagerly awaited. This Auckland author book-seller-lecturer (and mother of eight!) is one of the overseas speakers for LAA22.

The topic of her conference address, 'Babies need books', is also the title of her book, published by Bodley Head in 1980 and about to be published as a Penguin paperback. Earlier work on using books with children in the first six years, beginning from early infancy, will be updated by reference to her recent observations of an innovative library service for the very young child in Florida, USA.

After graduating in Arts and training as a secondary school teacher, marriage and motherhood focused her interest on young children and she became actively involved in the Play Centre Association of New Zealand as well as lecturing in Children's Literature, English and History.

A children's bookshop and advisory service for parents, begun in her own home in 1965, became so successful that it had to move to larger premises in 1972. The thesis written for her Diploma in Education at the University of Auckland in 1975 became the basis for *Cushla and her books* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1979).

This is a deeply moving and challenging account of the development of her own multi-handicapped grand-daughter and the part played by books in breaking through the

maze of constant illness, pain and weakness, hospitalisation and frustration which demanded almost impossible levels of care and patience from parents, family and friends. The marked discrepancies between Cushla's early intellectual and motor development raise many questions about acceptance of 'expert' opinions and such terms as 'retardation' and 'abnormality'.

In 1978 she established The Dorothy Butler Reading Centre, catering for children who need remedial tuition or encouragement to read. The American Library Association's Committee for the Year of the Disabled Person cited *Cushla and her books* as an outstanding book on a disabled person in 1981.

The list of Cushla's books, a useful reference for anyone working with young children, was further developed in *Babies need books* which follows each chapter with an annotated list of books suitable for each age group.

These are not only for librarians and teachers but are useful and attractive books for parents and others interested in young children and their reading and development.

Dorothy Butler is a very obvious point of contact between the library profession and the community it seeks to serve. We hope that many people beyond LAA22 will know about her and her books as a result of her visit to Australia.

*Judy Bunney*

**On Information Science**

The information Science Section welcomes Dr Philip Holmes to LAA 22. He will be giving two addresses: one on on-line book ordering and one on electronic publishing and document delivery. See the ISS Conference programme elsewhere in this issue.

Dr Holmes has been Managing Director of Blackwell Technical Services Limited since March 1980. He is Chairman of the Technical Committee for ADONIS, the electronic document delivery service being planned by a consortium of major STM publishers. He is also responsible for a range of Blackwell's services under the names BOOKLINE, PERLINE and STORELINE, which provide for on-line ordering and acquisitions, periodicals control, delivery and bookshop management.

He is Chairman of the Organising Committee of the International Online Information Meetings sponsored by Online and Electronic Publishing Reviews, and is an expert on the European Economic Commission's task force on electronic document delivery. He is a member of the Publishers' Association's Electronic Publishing Panel, and the Booksellers' Association's New Technology Committee.

Dr Holmes has a first degree in botany, a graduate certificate in education and a doctorate in molecular biology. He is a member of the (British) Library Association, the MARC Users' Group, and the Institute of Information Scientists. His library experience includes the founding of the British Library Automated Information Service (BLAISE).

**Special LAA22 wine offer**

Two wines from the Pirramimma vineyards are part of the special conference offer.

The vineyards at Pirramimma (the name is derived from two Aboriginal words meaning 'moon' and 'stars') are more than 90 years old and were established by Alexander Campbell Johnston, a descendant of one of the Scottish border clans. Today the winery is still run by a Johnston — Alexander Angus Johnston, a Roseworthy Oenology graduate.

The grapes for the Pirramimma 1979 Cabernet/Shiraz were grown on the company's vineyards at McLaren Vale. The wine is a pleasant red in colour, soft and well developed at this stage and will continue to mature in the bottle for a further two or three years.

The Pirramimma Tawny Port is a blend of fine ports vintaged from Shiraz and Grenache grape varieties grown at McLaren Vale. The young wines were fortified with fine brandy spirit which enhanced the ripe fruit character of the grapes. The wine was matured in small oak casks to produce a fine, luscious rich dessert wine.

**LAA 22—special libraries in SA**

There are approximately 90 special libraries in South Australia; the size of staffing ranges between one and twenty-two people. There has been an increase in the number of libraries staffed by professional librarians.

Eleven of the libraries are connected to MIDAS. The medical libraries are banding together to connect to the Health Communications Network (HEMLOC) and many are at present on MEDLARS. The four Defence Department libraries have access to DISTIS (Defence Information Services Technical Information System). CSIRONET serves five South Australian special libraries. The Australian Mineral Foundation is responsible for AESIS. Thus, a large number of South Australian special libraries have access to computerised reference services.

In the past the State Library has been responsible for the administration of State Government Department libraries. This is now changing, and the separation of departmental libraries from the State Library is being implemented. The effect of this administrative change on the development and growth of State Government Department libraries will be interesting.

*Jennifer Redding*

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**LAA 22 — Access to rare books**

A mighty bibliographic project links a Dickensian warren of rooms atop the old British Museum building in Bloomsbury and the University of Adelaide. Dr Alan Brissenden is chairman of the Early Imprints Project in South Australia, which is currently compiling a list of all printed items published before 1801 and located in South Australia — an estimated 16,000+ items to be recorded. The EIP which is of much significance to Australian bibliography, has taken the problem of reader access to rare books into the community, and effective cooperation between libraries, scholars and the general public has produced a ready and concerned response.

Private collectors have shaken the dust off treasured volumes with an enthusiasm equal to that of the guardians of rare books in major academic and state libraries. It is a project to fire the imagination — to link collectors and the collections of books printed in an era before modern mechanical processes superseded the ancient craft of printing. The Project, which began in South Australia in 1976, now embraces all Australian states and New Zealand. Its link with Bloomsbury is through its close connection with the *Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue* which is centred there and which is listing titles and locations of materials printed in English between 1701 and 1800 wherever produced, and all material printed in Britain and North America in that time.

The EIP will be one facet of the LAA22 parallel session discussion on *Access to Rare Books* between Dr Brissenden and Mr Ian

Cook on Monday, 23 August.

Ian Cook is currently Principal Conservator of the National Library. Heading a staff of five conservators, he is responsible for a wide range of preservation services provided by the conservation laboratory within the National Library. After studying conservation under William Boustead at the Art Gallery of NSW, Mr Cook later graduated Bachelor of Applied Science (Analytical Chemistry) at CCAE.

In complement, Alan Brissenden's infectious enthusiasm is for the intellectual content of rare books and as a scholar rather than as a collector — as Reader in English,

critic of drama and dance in journals and the press, and author of articles and books on writers as diverse as Rolf Boldrewood and William Shakespeare. His most recent publication *Shakespeare and the Dance* follows a period as research fellow at the Huntington Library, one of the world's greatest repositories of Shakespearean and Renaissance material.

Early settlers brought many of our rare books to Australia, Bibles, children's books now ragged with use, educational books — a part of their cultural heritage that has become ours, and has become increasingly important to us.

*Sheena Grant*

**Resource Centre Complex**



The Resource Centre Complex at Wattle Park Teachers Centre is a large air-conditioned centre housing a wide range of materials and equipment.

The Resource Centre, one part of the complex, contains a collection of book and non-book materials closely related to new publications of curriculum guidelines in specific subject areas.

As well as materials for loan, there are publications for sale, including a section of the Education Department curriculum guidelines in Mathematics, Language Arts, R-7 Science and Health Education, and a number of booklets written by teachers about their current classroom practice. Prices range from 50 cents to \$7.00.

The Curriculum Ideas Exchange, the second section of the Resource Centre Complex, contains a collection of materials developed by teachers to assist children in learning. There is a display room, a work room and storage space for teacher-made materials in many curriculum reference files. Generally, the materials in this area are not for loan but may be discussed, adapted or modified in the workroom. A cover charge of 50 cents is paid for the use of pens, glue, scissors, etc., and cardboard is provided at 40 cents a sheet.

Teachers, student teachers and interested members of the community may visit the Resource Centre Complex to browse, make, buy or borrow on weekdays from 9.00 am — 12 noon, 1.00 pm — 5.00 pm, including school holidays.

*Noeline Hormann*

**Shared facilities — Aberfoyle Park**

At Aberfoyle Park Primary School Campus, opened in March this year, six attractive buildings house four separate and autonomous primary schools: the Education Department's Heysen and Spence Schools, the Catholic School of the Nativity and Pilgrim School, the first school to be built by the Uniting Church in South Australia. The two remaining buildings, the activity hall and the administration/resource centre, along with the grounds and sporting facilities are shared by the four schools.

The Resource Centre, part of the shared facility, is staffed by one full-time teacher-librarian and one part-time library aide. It aims to serve the needs of both students and staff in each of the four schools, each with its own policy, philosophy and educational program. The Resource Centre faces a challenge in developing a library program to support and reflect the individuality of each of the schools' educational programs. To this end the teacher-librarian is involved in developing close working relationships with teachers and in curriculum development.

A Resource Centre Committee has been established to assist with communication between the Resource Centre and the schools. It consists of library staff, a staff representative from each school and a member of Campus Conference. This is the overall administering body for the shared facilities and from next year it is expected to include student representatives as well. This committee will decide Resource Centre policy, plan Campus events such as Children's Book Week activities and assist in selection.

This year the Resource Centre has been funded by School's Commission grants — over \$20,000 has been spent so far. In the future, though still applying for some grant money, funding will largely be through Campus fundraising activities.

*Sylvia Vale*



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