

Giant book for National Library



The largest book it has ever acquired has been donated to the National Library by Dr D.J. McAuliffe of Perth. The 77 cm by 55 cm book is the first volume in a limited edition botanical series entitled 'The Banksias', written by Alexander S. George. Mr Harrison Bryan, Director-General of the National Library, is seen (left) with Dr McAuliffe.

National Library of Australia Photograph by Hank Brusse

New rules for LAA vouchers

EARLY IN 1978 the Library Association of Australia introduced a library voucher system, whereby redeemable vouchers are purchased and used by libraries as payment for photocopies or microform copies made for retention by another library. The scheme simplifies arrangements between libraries of all types for payment for photocopies or microforms.

To date vouchers have been sold to and redeemed for any library, although there has been a differential charge for members and non-members of the LAA. The voucher system has proved very successful and is used by increasing numbers of libraries. It is estimated that there are approximately 284,000 vouchers in circulation at the present time.

The Association's auditors have been paying particular attention to the voucher system in terms of audit controls and felt that the LAA should seek legal advice on a number of issues, in particular, use for purposes other than inter-library copying and the attitude of the Reserve Bank to the scheme.

Section 44(1) of the Reserve Bank Act 1959, provides that: 'a person shall not issue a bill or note for the payment of money payable to bearer on demand and intended for circulation'. The Reserve Bank has indicated in discussions that it does not have a procedure in respect of Section 44 similar to that which exists under Sections 49 and 51, that is, a procedure whereby the Bank may authorise particular courses of action, which might otherwise be in breach of a statutory provision. The Bank has stated that where it becomes aware of the existence of a scheme which it believes to be in breach of the Section, it takes immediate steps to ensure that the breach is prosecuted.

It was thus necessary to determine whether the operation of the Association's library voucher system comes within the terms of Section 44 of the Reserve Bank Act.

The Library Association of Australia is clearly a 'person' and thus comes within the terms of the Section. The solicitor recommended that the words 'redeemable value' be deleted to avoid any possibility of the vouchers constituting promissory notes.

The major area of concern is the degree of circulation of LAA vouchers. Section 44 provides that the bill or note must be 'intended for circulation'. It is recommended that if it could be demonstrated that vouchers are intended for use only by particular institutions, that is, institutions which are members of the Library Association of Australia, there is less likelihood of the operations of the scheme constituting a breach of the Section.

It is also recommended that the vouchers state clearly on their face that they are 'for

continued on page 2

Freeze in member fees

AT A MEETING on Saturday, 21 August, the General Council of the Library Association of Australia resolved that 'the membership fees for 1983 remain at the 1982 level'. The sole exception is the institutional membership fee for libraries with a staff and materials budget of over \$500,000 which will be increased from \$200 to \$250 per annum. In terms of inflation this represents a substantial decline in the level of fees of approximately 10 percent in real terms.

General Council is aware of the criticism levelled at the LAA about fees, however it was very cautious in its consideration of the 1983 budget. The LAA, like all institutions and businesses, suffers from the escalating costs of labour and other services, therefore the only way that membership fees can be held is through very tight budgetary control — the same services will have to be provided out of a smaller pie.

The freeze on fees is a precursor to a vigorous membership drive for the remainder of 1982 and through 1983. If membership cannot be increased as a result of a lower level of fees in 1983, some of the Association's services may be at risk. It is incumbent upon every member of the LAA to promote the Association and recruit new and lapsed members.

The financial membership at 31 July 1982 was 145 less than at 20 August 1981, indicating that the decline in membership has slowed. All Branches have been asked to make membership recruitment first priority

for the remainder of the year in an attempt to stop the decline totally. It is important to remember that **new** members may join at half price after 30 June and at no cost for the remainder of the year after 30 September.

Now is a very good time to promote the Association while the level of consciousness is high. Following the huge success of LAA22, increasing numbers of publications and continuing education activities are being planned, with huge dollar savings for members. The role of the LAA in the lobbying process has been documented repeatedly; this will yet again be called into full force with the recent announcements about sales tax.

General Council has initiated a difficult bargain, it is now up to the members to keep that bargain by recruiting members to the Association.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

LAA's New Address

From Monday, 20 September the Library Association of Australia's new address will be

376 Jones Street,
Ultimo, NSW 2007

Phone: (02) 692 9233.

TIP-OFF: News from the Executive Director

IT IS HARD to believe that two years' work, involving more than one hundred people can pass in the haze and excitement of one short week. All comments indicate that LAA22 was totally successful and thoroughly enjoyed, with many delegates claiming it was the best conference yet.

I must admit that I find it difficult to be objective (as do the staff) in view of the hectic schedule. A casual observer would be unaware of the extent of LAA business being conducted behind the scenes, beginning as early as Thursday, 19 August with a meeting of the Executive Committee, meetings of General Council, AACOBS Council, the Futures Committee, the Annual General Meeting, a meeting of the Continuing Education Officer and CE Liaison Officers, a luncheon meeting of the LAA22 Conference Committee and the 1984 Conference Committee, various divisional AGMs and finally, on Friday, 27 August, a meeting of the joint LAA/NZLA Standing Committee. Reports of some of these meetings will be appearing in successive issues of *InCite*.

Throughout the conference the profile of the LAA was kept at a very high level, beginning at the opening function with the presentation of our Redmond Barry and H.C.L. Anderson Awards to Mr James Crawford and

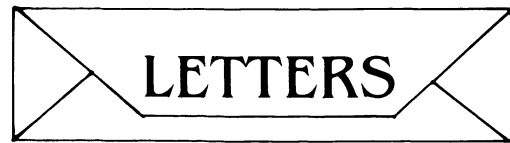
Miss Phyllis Mander-Jones respectively. History was then created on Monday with the launching of three LAA publications: *The Australian Librarian's Manual v.1 Library Documents*, *AUSLOAN: Australian Inter-Library Loans Manual* and *Library Services in Distance Education*.

A flurry of activity like a day at Paddy's Market surrounded the LAA 'charity' stall at all times. The volume of sales from the LAA stand exceeded all expectations, reaching about \$10,000.

It was certainly exciting to see how many people came to the stand. Unfortunately, the 'sales' activities were to the detriment of other activities by the staff. If our range of items continues to grow there will certainly be a case for student help in 1984. Thanks must go to those members of the Association who so willingly came to our help.

It is hoped that the weeks following the conference will be spent reflecting upon those few short (yet long) days by all in attendance. Such events are meant to fire us with renewed vigour and enthusiasm, think about our daily jobs, our friends, our conferences and most of all our Association, without which such a conference would not be possible.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director



Library charges

R. H. Pestell (*InCite* – 6 August, 1982) protests at the introduction of charges by public libraries and an increased charge for inter-library loan photocopies by the University of New South Wales. I would like to comment on some of the statements made.

Few libraries, I believe, would accept that a photocopying service in a public library should be free. The costs would be astronomical. The suggestion that computerised information services should be 'left in the hands of commercial organisations' if libraries cannot offer free searches would not benefit the public as far as costs are concerned. Charges made by commercial organisations, arrived at by meticulous costing plus a margin for profit, are – and would be – far higher than those currently made by libraries.

The University of New South Wales is accused of offending against 'the spirit of inter-library co-operation' because it intends to introduce a \$5 charge for interlibrary loan photocopies. The rationale for this increased charge is that it is unfair to the University to continue to provide interlibrary loans at a fraction of their true cost when budgetary restrictions are putting the collections of the University's Libraries at risk. For example, the Biomedical Library of the University cancelled serial subscriptions valued at \$16,000 in 1980/81. It is forecast that in 1983 there may be a \$40,000 shortfall in this Library's serial vote. One fifth, by value, of the Library's serial collection may be cancelled. Should then the Biomedical Library of the University of New South Wales use \$50,000 from its budget to provide 10,000 'free' interlibrary loans, or should it seek equitable compensation for its longstanding interlibrary loan services?

George Franki
Biomedical Librarian
University of New South Wales

National bibliographic data base

AUSTRALIA was well on the way to the establishment of a unique computerised bibliographic source that all libraries could use, the Director, Networks Branch, of the National Library of Australia, Miss Judith Baskin, said in Adelaide on 25 August 1982.

Miss Baskin, President of the Library Association of Australia, was speaking at the Association's 22nd Biennial Conference. She said creation of a national bibliographic data base began with the introduction of the National Library's Australian Network (ABN) in November 1981.

Membership of the network was steadily growing and was already bringing about savings in library operating costs and enabling improvements in services to users.

She said that ABN would provide a single source for cataloguing all types of materials, not just publications, with instant access to the data base by computer terminals. Uniform high standards could be developed and maintained. Shared cataloguing would lead to economies and the freeing of resources for use in other ways.

Miss Baskin said that even during the ABN pilot project, when libraries were testing and learning to use the system, small savings had been reported. 'The National Library itself reports productivity improvements of well over 20 percent,' she said.

ABN can increase inter-library lending, reducing dependence of borrowers on large libraries, and opening up specialist collections for wider use, thus spreading the burden. She said there were obvious advantages in using the one data base to aid decisions on purchase.

'At the same time as verifying the item to be acquired the searcher can check whether the item is held by other libraries, and by which ones and a decision on whether duplication is desirable or not can be made on the basis of firm information. If libraries also use the data base to record items in order, the facility will be greatly improved.'

By August, Miss Baskin said ABN held 2.2 million bibliographic records, including books, journals and artworks, a fraction of the material that could be included. By comparison with other countries we are small but we still need access to the same range of information. Compare the United States with a population of 220 millions and an estimated 105,000 libraries with Australia's 15 million people and an estimated 12,700 libraries. Can we afford to ignore the economies and the potential of one data base for Australia?

LAA Vouchers

continued from page 1

use only for inter-library copying'.

The LAA voucher scheme was a major item on the agenda for the meeting of General Council held on 20/21 August 1982. In view of the legal advice received, Council resolved:

- (i) to remove 'redeemable value' from the face of the voucher.
- (ii) LAA vouchers be sold to and redeemed for institutional members only from 1 October 1982.

Following further consideration of instituting new conditions the date has been deferred to 1 January 1983. This will allow institutions time to assess their use of LAA vouchers. No vouchers will be sold to or redeemed for non-members of the LAA after that date.

Another matter relating to interlending is that at its meeting on 20 August, the AACOBS Council resolved:

1. That AACOBS reaffirm its policy 60/76 opposed to charging for inter-library loans and use its influence to have this policy observed.
2. That AACOBS recommends to libraries that in those cases where they charge for inter-library copying, that the standard charge be three dollars to be instituted from 1 November 1982.

In discussion, AACOBS reaffirmed that this recommendation is not legally binding on libraries, and that all libraries must satisfy the provisions of the Copyright Act.

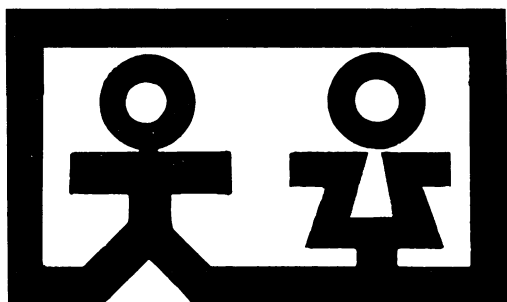
General Council of the LAA resolved to introduce a three dollar voucher as soon as possible. The General Treasurer and Executive Director are to determine the level of handling fee to be applied. Procedural changes to the voucher system will be circulated widely through *InCite* and to those institutions using LAA vouchers.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

BUS STOP **BOOKSHOPS**
PTY LTD

PROCESSED PAPERBACKS
for speed and economy

Phone: Sydney (02) 913 2855, Melbourne
(03) 211 6444; Brisbane (07) 229 1032.



IN THE NEWS

Freedom of Information

Four papers on the topic 'Freedom of Information - Local Government and the Reference Librarian' are now available on request.

These are from the NSW RARA meeting held earlier this year. To obtain your copies, contact Anthony Estorffe - LOGOS, GPO Box 1591, Sydney 2001. Phone (02) 299488.

Angus and Robertson writers fellowship

Angus and Robertson are offering three writers fellowships in 1982. Firstly they are seeking a manuscript or book project (preferably by a new writer), for which they will sign a contract with an advance of \$2000. Entries may be fiction, non-fiction or poetry and may be completed or partly completed manuscripts.

Secondly there will be two Young Writers Awards. They are looking for a Young Novel written for children 7-10 years of age, and will sign a contract for the winning entry with an advance of \$1500.

Angus and Robertson are also looking for a text for a children's picture book. An advance of \$750 will be offered for the winning entry.

Australian and New Zealand writers are eligible to apply and applications close on 31 October 1982. No application form is needed and you can phone Angus and Robertson Publishers for more details on (02) 887 2233.

Hugo Wolfsohn Memorial Fund

Professor Hugo Wolfsohn who died on 16 February, 1982 was well known to many practising librarians as teacher or fellow student.

He was one of a group of talented German Jews brought here as internees from Britain in 1940, who have contributed much to Australian academic life. A graduate in history of the University of Melbourne he taught for nineteen years in the Political Science Department of that University before his appointment to the foundation Chair of Politics at La Trobe University in 1966.

He will be remembered as a brilliant, witty and versatile teacher; many of his past students pay tribute to his influence on their intellectual development.

To honour his contribution to Australian education, a memorial fund has been established to assist prominent scholars to visit the political science departments of the three universities in Melbourne. It will also provide an annual prize in first-year politics at La Trobe University.

Contributions, which are tax deductible, should be sent to the Wolfsohn Memorial Fund, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083.

PUT THE ENTIRE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NUC AND CATALOG OF BOOKS IN YOUR DESK DRAWER FOR UNDER \$6400.

Imagine. The LC National Union Catalog from 1953 to 1982 and the Catalog of Books Represented by LC Printed Cards from 1898 to 1952 in convenient, easy to use microfiche form.

The equivalent of 693 volumes at a single convenient microfiche reader station, with sharp, clear entries enlarged twice the size of printed editions, outlasting printed editions, plus saving shelf space.

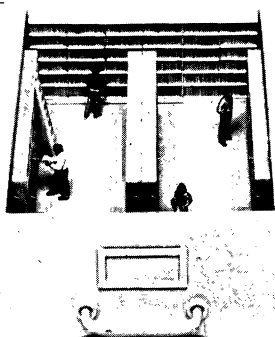
Now, exclusively and for the first time ALS offers this indispensable reference source at a 75% savings over printed alternatives.

This immense collection, known as the standard for cataloging, offers full bibliographic descriptions. It

Prices slightly higher for non-U.S. libraries.
Use coupon or call 617-470-0610 for complete details.

will always be invaluable to any library for cataloging, acquisitions, reference work and many other purposes, and indispensable where research is done for author bibliography, verifying titles, bibliographical information, historical notes, and location of copies. And for \$495 the entire (1953-1982) set of LC Audiovisual and Music Catalog Supplements to the NUC may be added.

Also, the complete LC Subject Catalog (1950-1982) is now available on microfiche for only \$3,475. This comprehensive collection provides subject access to most of the world's output of significant books and serials. Current subscriptions, individual quinquenniums and annuals available for all LC Catalogs.



Name	Title		
Organization			
Address			
City/Town	State	Zip Code	
Please rush me complete information on LC micropublications:			
<input type="checkbox"/> National Union Catalog	<input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual and Music Catalogs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog of Books	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject Catalog		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please have your representative phone me at ()			



Advanced Library Systems Inc.
93 Main Street
Andover, MA 01810, U.S.A.
(617) 470-0610

LAA Office Closes

THE LONG-AWAITED relocation of the LAA office is almost upon us. On Wednesday, 15 SEPTEMBER and Thursday, 16 SEPTEMBER all services will be suspended to enable the move to take place.

It would also be appreciated if only URGENT calls were made on Friday, 17 SEPTEMBER. Full services will resume on Monday, 20 September.

The General Secretary, Miss Averill Edwards will be available to take any urgent calls whilst the office is closed. She may be contacted on (062) 49 7244.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

Change of ORBIT in October

ACI COMPUTER SERVICES and SDC Search Service announce the termination of their marketing agreement for the ORBIT Information Retrieval Service with effect from 31 October 1982.

To ensure continuity of service to its customers, ACI Computer Services will maintain full operations as the ORBIT agent up to and including 31 October. This will include full customer service and support, conduct of scheduled training courses, supply of publications, and receipt of payments in Australian dollars for ORBIT invoices up to and including the October invoices.

SDC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Burroughs Corporation, has arranged to provide marketing, sales and customer support through the Sydney office of Burroughs from 1 November 1982, and proposes to appoint a Search Service Marketing Manager - Australia.

Further details of transition arrangements will be advised directly to all customers shortly. Please direct any queries to Leigh Baker, ACI Computer Services, PO Box 42, Clayton, Vic. 3168, Australia. Telephone: (03) 544 8433.