

# TAFE Library Services in Queensland

**I**N RESPONSE TO THE article 'TAFE in Victoria: The Growth of Library Services' (*Incite* no16, 16 October 1981), Queensland TAFE libraries have prepared an account of TAFE and library services in Queensland. A comparison between TAFE in Queensland and Victoria clearly shows that library services have developed along quite different lines.

Technical Education began in Queensland in the 1880s. During the 1960s and early 1970s greater amounts of money were made available by the Government, consequently technical education expanded. 1971 saw the implementation of 'block release training' whereby apprentices are released by employers to attend technical college for seven continuous weeks per year.

TAFE as it is today came into being in 1977 with the integration of the Technical Education Branch of the Education Department and the Board of Adult Education. TAFE, as a division of the Queensland Education Department is funded by both the State and Commonwealth Governments.

As well as technical colleges, TAFE is responsible for the College of Art, and the College of Catering and Hospitality Services. All six streams of study defined in the report *TAFE in Australia* are offered in Queensland.

Queensland TAFE libraries are known as Resource Materials Centres (RMCs) and are in a very ambiguous situation. Whereas it has been written that 'the hub of the college is essentially the Resource Materials Centre<sup>1</sup>', in actual fact RMCs fall well short of the guidelines set down in *TAFE in Australia*.<sup>2</sup> These recommendations were to be achieved by 1981.

RMCs in Queensland started from nothing in 1976 and are still in developmental stages. Resources are gradually increasing, but at present the average holdings of books and audio visual items of each RMC is approximately 4000 items. This is totally inadequate to support student and staff populations at the colleges.

The major problem facing RMCs is lack of staffing. There are twenty-four colleges throughout Queensland, each equipped with an RMC. Only ten professional librarians and two library assistants are employed by TAFE.

As can be expected, the services and facilities each RMC can provide are severely restricted due to the lack of staff, or in some RMCs, no staff.

In 1976, a centralised Bibliographic Service was set up to provide college RMCs with placing of orders, cataloguing and AV production services, and to serve an advisory function. This section is also hampered by lack of staff and therefore cannot perform its role.

The metropolitan librarians meet bi-monthly at different colleges and have thus attempted to develop uniform policies and procedures for the RMCs. Working parties have been set up to consider various issues such as loan systems, staffing and reader education.

At present, this is an informal organisation and its activities are restricted due to lack of staff. Most librarians have to close their RMC to attend meetings.

Queensland TAFE librarians feel very isolated professionally and thus try to participate in the UCLS and the LAA in Queensland. TAFE has a representative on the UCLS committee and UCLS has been very supportive to TAFE.

We do feel that TAFE should be a part of UCLS. Though there are major differences between universities, college and TAFE libraries, these are mainly due to TAFE still being in developmental stages.

## Queensland TAFE Librarians

1. Director of Technical Education, *Concept of the College of Technical and Further Education*, submitted to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education. (Queensland: Technical Education Branch, Department of Education, Qld, 1978), p2.
2. A.J. Brown and E. Flowers. 'Interim guidelines for developing library resources centres' in *TAFE in Australia: Report on needs in Technical and Further Education*, v2. (Canberra: Australian Committee on Technical and Further Education, 1975).

# News from the Divisions

## NT BRANCH

The library situation in the Northern Territory is a dynamic one. Vacant positions occur quite frequently in government departmental libraries, the community college and in the public library system. These are often advertised locally only, with the result that sometimes no suitable and qualified person is immediately available for appointment.

The NT Branch has been aware of the shortage of library positions in many other parts of Australia and was recently reminded of this during the visit of Ms Judith Hill, LAA Industrial Officer.

As a pilot study the Branch is willing to channel copies of job advertisements to those members who are interested in receiving such information. Such job advertisements would be copied from the *NT Government Gazette* and the local newspaper.

Any member wishing to use this opportunity should send his/her name and address to: Miss M.A. Clinch, PO Box 1998, Darwin NT 5794.

## VIC SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Over 60 members attended the Group's Christmas meeting, held at the Education Dept Library, Nauru House, Melbourne.

A most enjoyable time was had by all.

Deborah Higgins

# ABN committees

**T**HE AUSTRALIAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC NETWORK began operations officially on 2 November. Four pilot participants had officially notified their intention to join the Network.

Membership of the Network on 21 December accordingly included: Adelaide University; State Library of South Australia; University of New South Wales (through OLC); Australian Attorney-General's Department; Canberra Public Library Service; National Library of Australia; State Library of New South Wales; South Australian Institute of Technology; South Australian Department of Further Education; Royal Military College - Duntroon; University of Newcastle; Royal Newcastle Hospital; Flinders University.

The Canberra Public Library Service began using the ABN system while it was still attached to the National Library.

A number of other libraries and consortia which took part in the pilot project have indicated interest in joining. As well, two library schools are considering using the system for teaching.

## Network Committee

The Director General of the National Library has established the interim Australian Bibliographic Network Committee.

Members are: Mr. Allan Horton, Librarian, University of New South Wales; Mr. Laurie Brown, State Librarian of Tasmania; Mr. Hans Groenewegen, Director, CAVAL; Mr. Arthur Ellis, Librarian, University of Western Australia; Miss Lynn Pollack, Law Courts Librarian, Sydney; Mr. Jim Dwyer, School Libraries Branch, South Australian Department of Education; Mr. Eric Wainwright, Librarian Designate, University of Adelaide; Mr. Warren Horton, State Librarian of Victoria.

The Chairman of the ABN Standards Committee will attend meetings of the Network Committee ex officio. The Chairman is Miss Enid Roberts, Acting Director, Office of Library Co-operation.

The first meeting of the Network Committee was on 10 December with a two day meeting following in February 1982.

## WA INFORMATION SCIENCE

Don Kennedy, Supervising Engineer with the National Satellite System of OTC (Sydney), took time out while on a recent trip to Perth to address an ISS meeting on 2 November.

The audience was treated to a very clear explanation of satellite technology and gently introduced to its quaint jargon (footprints, birds, dishes, up links, down links, spot beams, national beams, HACBSS, to name a few of the more pronounceable terms).

This was followed by an up-to-the-minute review of the progress towards the launching of Australia's own domestic satellite and of the applications foreseen for it.

Actually there will be two satellites launched; one for use and the other for back-up (which will also be used for additional communications when not required for its original purpose). A third will be kept on stand-by on the ground.

The first launching is expected to occur in 1985 and bookings have been made on both the space shuttle, Columbia, and on Ariane.

Louise Jones