

WAIT's Department of Library and Information Studies



The photograph shows the nine inaugural students together with some departmental staff toasting the success of the new venture. In clockwise order round the table are: Ian Stone, Judi Willmott, Roy Stall (WA Branch Secretary), Peter Rose, Andrew Hocken, Pat Layzell Ward (Head of Department), Peter Maskell (course co-ordinator), Cecil Florey, Jackie Crocker, Andy Exon (staff member), Liz Pattison, Jan Partridge, and Debra Noble.

THE NEW Head of Department at WAIT is Dr Patricia Layzell Ward, whose last post was as Director of the Centre for Library and Information Management at Loughborough University in the UK.

Before that she was a practitioner and set up a national information centre for the Equal Opportunities Commission, and she also spent some years teaching at the School of Librarianship at the Polytechnic of North London, including secondment to University College London as a Senior Research Fellow. Earlier posts were mainly in the industrial sector. Her special interests include manpower planning, information management and management in general.

All the courses offered by the Department will be submitted for re-accreditation at the end of 1983. The undergraduate programme has undergone a radical revision, and it is

hoped to introduce the new course in January 1985. This lead time is regarded as being essential if the interests of existing students are to be taken into account.

In January 1983 the first students enrolled for the Graduate Diploma in Advanced Library and Information Studies which can lead to a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies. Plans are being prepared for a PhD programme.

Current staff members' research interests include a study of children's reading, perceptions of academic library use, a profile and use study of a public library system in Perth, the user-librarian interpersonal communication process in the metropolitan public libraries in Perth and manpower planning for information and library services.

Vouchers and institutional members

A NUMBER of libraries have complained about the recent decision of the LAA to sell and redeem LAA vouchers only to member institutions of the LAA. Though this has been widely reported it is perhaps necessary to repeat that General Council took this action on legal advice on the status of this operation of the LAA. Legal advice was sought because the LAA was concerned that the voucher system had grown large and any problems it might have could adversely affect the Association.

It should be recalled that this is a user paid programme which AACOBs asked the LAA to undertake, not having the necessary corporate structure to do so itself. AACOBs determined that a single Australian library voucher system was needed to facilitate photocopy requests, to avoid the confusion of separate systems running in parallel, and the uneconomic handling of small sums of money for individual requests, with the number of such transactions growing.

This is not the place to talk about the other reasons why individual libraries should support the LAA. However perhaps those who wish to see the institutional fee dropped to a lower level may not have read the notes in *InCite* about the costs of servicing each membership (for which a wide range of services are provided). If the fee were to be dropped, individual members on the middle and upper fee scales would be subsidising institutions. This is obviously

nonsense. While it is granted that many libraries, particularly special libraries, have small budgets and have trouble attracting enough funds for book votes, most are part of relatively large organisations with large budgets. Why should individual members support the libraries of government departments, commercial firms and so on? Many librarians by service over and above the call of duty do support their institutions but it is not economic sense to support them by a lower fee which will affect all members.

That being said the following points are offered as points to be made to management justifying the institutional membership.

1. *General* Many services are offered to institutions in return for their membership. Publications of the Association which will assist them in organising and developing their library services; continuing education programmes for personal development and improved operations by their staff; access to an informed industrial information officer who advises both employers and employees. The latter is an important service as most librarians are within larger multi-purpose unions which may not always have the knowledge required in cases relating to library services.

2. *Specific to the LAA voucher scheme* The vouchers were developed to provide one national system of vouchers to avoid the complications and inefficiencies caused by having a multiplicity of vouchers



"LIBRARIES: AFTER 1984"

Social events at the Conference

The Social and Hospitality Subcommittee has a responsibility for organising a number of 'official' social functions about which you will hear more as time goes by. The Subcommittee is also available to offer assistance in organising and/or co-ordinating any of the social functions which might be required by the various Sections, Divisions, or Special Interest Groups.

If your group is interested in organising a social function during the 1984 Conference contact the Subcommittee. Let us have details of the type of function you envisage; the approximate numbers of attendees; possible venues; whether you would prefer to be the only group using those facilities on the night; location; style of meal and your preference for date – note that the Subcommittee might *suggest* a change of date in order to avoid clashes with some of the official Conference functions.

To secure some of the more popular venues it will be necessary to make preliminary bookings soon. Please send your requirements as soon as possible to the Conference Secretary, c/o Intermedia, PO Box 731 Toowong, Qld. 4066.

NZLA Conference

The 1983 Annual Conference of the New Zealand Library Association is to be held at Palmerston North on 22-26 August 1983. The theme of the conference is to be 'Changing Patterns'. The NZLA would welcome participation by representatives and members of the LAA. Much of the program is established, however the committee has indicated it will consider offers to speak by participants from overseas.

For more information, please write to: Janet Anderson, Conference Secretary, National Library of New Zealand, Private Bag, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

1983 Handbook

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offered by different bodies. Most importantly it was developed to avoid individual accounts having to be raised and paid for the multiplicity of interlibrary loan requests. The National Library estimates that it costs no less than \$10 to raise accounts. This kind of cost needs to be offset against the cost of the subscription (\$100 p.a.) and the administrative cost of 10 cents per voucher which can be bought or redeemed in bulk in say one transaction each way each year. This cost must be weighed against the cost of raising accounts for and/or paying and acquitting individual or grouped claims for interlibrary loans paid for in cash.

It is hoped that these notes may help in justifying the subscription to the LAA to enable your library to use the voucher system.

Judith Baskin
Past President