

The Metcalfe Medallion

EACH YEAR the Library Association of Australia honours its founding President, John Wallace Metcalfe (1901-82) by the presentation of a medallion to a student undertaking a first award course in librarianship.

John Metcalfe was responsible for establishing the basis of the profession of librarianship in Australia and was the dominating influence in the profession in this country until his retirement in the 1960s. John Metcalfe the man and his contribution to librarianship and library education are commemorated through this award.

Known as the Metcalfe Medallion, the award is for the most outstanding essay by a student on any topic in the areas of librarianship, information science or archives administration.

Students undertaking their first course in librarianship, either full or part time, are invited to submit essays by December 31, 1983. Entries should be 3000-4000 words, typed in double spacing, preferably on A4 paper.

There must be no identification on the essays themselves. An essay submitted should be placed in a sealed envelope, marked only with the title of the work. This envelope, together with a covering letter indicating the title of the essay and the identity of the writer, should be sent to the LAA office. In the case of essays with identical titles being received, the LAA will allocate identifying numbers. Only one essay may be submitted by each entrant.

Send entries to:

Assistant Executive Director
Library Association of Australia
376 Jones Street
ULTIMO NSW 2007.

The outer envelope should be marked Metcalfe Medallion. A panel of several distinguished members of the profession will select the winning essay which will be published in the *Australian Library Journal*.

For further information contact Mrs Sue Phillips, Assistant Executive Director, at the LAA Head Office (02) 692 9233.

Better Data Communications . . . but not yet

LIBRARIES are likely to wait some time yet to use Telecom's AUSTPAC service for data communications but, when they do, access to MIDAS via AUSTPAC should be administratively easy. A Teletex service is also likely to be made available within Australia in 1984 but an international telex will take longer to implement.

Telecom Australia recently held a meeting of its Data Communications Consultative Group at which reports were made on several new services.

The Digital Data Service (DDS) commenced late in 1982. The resulting high demand has strained resources considerably and sustained high demand will result in a tight supply situation throughout 1983 and 1984. Nevertheless, improvements will be made in the service during 1983 and firm plans for the geographic extension of the service will be announced soon. Overall, DDS performance is quite reasonable and close to target standards.

The AUSTPAC service also began in late 1982 and currently has about 12 customers. There are still some technical problems with the capacity and availability of the service and until they are solved, its use will be limited primarily to equipment suppliers and service companies for testing equipment and software. A full commercial service will be offered later this year.

OTC has set tariffs for MIDAS through AUSTPAC and the link has been tested. Telecom is likely to be reimbursed by OTC for MIDAS access to AUSTPAC so that customers receive only one bill for the service. However, because of uncertainties regarding AUSTPAC demand and network capacity, a decision has not yet been made on when the MIDAS service may be accessed via AUSTPAC by customers such as libraries.

A high level study of Teletex technology and its potential application in Australia is currently being carried out by Telecom. Present indications are that the initial Teletex offering in Australia will be based on the switched telephone network. A Telex/Teletex interface is likely to be added shortly afterwards. Many problems remain to be resolved before a large scale international Teletex could be introduced because of the different facilities and standards used in the different national networks.

Doreen Parker

Member AACOBS/LAA Joint Committee on Information Technology

LAA Study Grant Award

THE LIBRARY Association of Australia will make funds available each year to support practising librarians wishing to undertake a study or research project. The number of awards in any year will depend upon the funds available and the estimated costs of proposals received.

The Association's intention in offering study grants is to provide an opportunity for librarians to undertake projects they would otherwise be unable to do because of the time and costs involved.

Conditions

- Available to a practising librarian in a supervisory or middle management position, with a minimum of three years' experience in library and information work.
- For the purpose of undertaking a study project on a selected library/information issue or problem of present and future relevance to the development and improvement of library and information services in Australia. The study is to include opportunity for preliminary reading, local or overseas visits/consultations, and is to culminate in a written report, a copy of which is to be provided to the Association within an agreed period after completion of the study project.
- It is expected that the study project will provide an opportunity for self development as well as benefit to the successful applicant's institution and present position.

- Applicants should complete an application form which gives:
 - A brief description of the study project, including aims; benefits to the individual and to the institution; possible outcomes of a project.
 - Identification and justification for visits/consultations involved.
 - Itinerary, timetable, travel/accommodation costs involved.
 - Details of any other funds or facilities being provided for the study project.
 - 2 referees' reports.

Application forms are available from LAA House and applications for an award in 1984 should reach the Assistant Executive Director, LAA House, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 by 31 August 1983.



Library Services in Distance Education

Proceedings of a national workshop.
Sydney: LAA 1982

Edited by Christine Crocker.
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Available from the LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007, or through Bennetts and Mannings.

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