

# Library & information research foundation

THE GENERAL COUNCIL of the Library Association of Australia has approved in principle the establishment of an Australian Library and Information Research Foundation. A proposal outlining the need for such a foundation and the role the LAA could play in establishing it, was presented for Council's consideration at its last meeting.

Funds for conducting research in Australia into library and information science are traditionally scarce. Those that do become available are usually on an ad hoc basis, limited in size and from the public sector, for example the Tertiary Education Commission, National Library, teaching institutions, AACOBS and the LAA.

There is little opportunity for practising librarians to be released from duties to conduct a research project with full financial support. No one organisation has accepted the responsibility of assessing overall research needs in the provision of library and information services.

The need for increased research into the provision of library and information services is now paramount as the affects of technological change and innovation on these services are largely unknown.

The provision of these services to Australian industry and the private sector in general, is gradually being recognised by industry as an integral part of their contribution to the economy. The time is appropriate

to investigate a greater contribution by the private sector to research into library and information services. This is essential if the public and private sectors are to be properly serviced in the future.

The basic objects of the LAA are to promote, establish and improve libraries and library services and to improve the standard of librarianship and the status of the library profession. The establishment of a Research Foundation under the auspices of the LAA would be an important factor in realising these objects for members, the profession at large and, most importantly, our users.

The objectives of such a Foundation would be broad and could include such items as 'To stimulate and support library and information research and all its branches in Australia', and 'To promote the application of the results of the research for the benefits of library and information services as a whole, with the ultimate goal of making efficient and satisfactory services available to the public'.

The proposed Foundation will be a non-profit organisation, supported by a range of sponsors in the public and private sectors. It would be established as a company with limited liability under the LAA's control. Major administrative control would rest with a Board broadly representative of categories of interested parties, funding bodies and the LAA. A number of sub-committees may be necessary, for example a Finance Commit-

tee and a Research Committee. The day-to-day affairs of the Foundation would be managed by a secretariat. The scale of administration would depend on the levels of funding and in the first instance would be established as another department in the LAA office.

General Council resolved that the Executive Director be directed to develop the proposal further, in particular incorporating comments from Councillors and other interested persons, obtain further information from the Commissioner of Taxation, hold discussions with the Association's accountants and solicitor to prepare a Foundation Deed, discuss procedures with other research organisations, discuss the proposal with appropriate ministers to ensure support, and establish likely support from companies, government and members of the profession (individual and institutional) and divisions of the Association, and publicise the proposal in *InCite*.

The full proposal is being circulated to divisions and interested parties for comment. Members are welcome to request copies from the LAA office, and are encouraged to comment and offer suggestions on this exciting concept. Comments to reach the LAA office by 31 January 1984.

Susan Acutt  
Executive Director

## The LAA and the future

THE LAA Futures Committee was formed after the Association's Biennial Conference in Canberra in 1979. The theme of that conference was 'Alternative Futures', and the Committee was established to follow-up the implications of this theme for the association.

Several attempts have been made by the Committee to form a view of the future of library and information science and to suggest what action the Association should take to ensure its place in that future. The Committee commissioned a number of discussion papers to encourage members and the profession generally to think about the alternatives, but response was poor and interest difficult to foster.

The Committee decided, therefore, to hold a search conference with invited participants from both within and outside the library profession. The proposal was supported by General Council, although it was unable to make funds available for travel or accommodation for the participants.

The group which assembled at LAA House on the weekend of 6 and 7 August included representatives of a wide range of library and information science interests - practitioners, educators, managers.

The programme was hectic, beginning on Friday evening and continuing until late on Sunday afternoon. Discussion focused on a number of areas - the changing marketplace for library and information services, the changing means of providing such services, and the changing nature of the profession. Participants examined the social and economic indicators of change; issues such as freedom of information, transborder data flow, the public and private sectors, manpower considerations and de-institutionalisation of the profession. Several sessions related to telecommunications and the new technologies, and what impact these might have on services. Education in its broadest

sense, as well as in the more familiar professional areas, was a constant theme. A 1979 Delphi survey had been updated for the conference, and a survey undertaken of functions performed in library and information work.

A number of recommendations were made for action by the Association and for reassessment of its objectives. A report on the conference is being prepared for consideration by General Council at its November meeting. Further details will appear in *InCite* after that meeting.

Sue Phillips  
Assistant Executive Director



### CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Selected papers from LAA22,  
August 1982.

Seven papers of particular value and interest to School Librarians. Published by the National Committee of School Libraries Section, LAA.

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### Australian Library Journal

Contributions would be welcomed for consideration for publication in the *Australian Library Journal*. Articles, which should be typed in double spacing, should be sent to Mr John Levett, Editor, Australian Library Journal, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007.

### NATIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM NOTICE FOR MEMBERS IN NORTHERN TERRITORY A.C.T. SOUTH AUSTRALIA TIME MANAGEMENT

This program has already been run successfully in Queensland and N.S.W. and will be offered in your State on the dates listed below.

The course will demonstrate how individuals can apply the principles and techniques of time management to use their work time more productively and with less stress. It will assist participants to analyse, plan and monitor the way that they use their work time, and introduce techniques for dealing with specific time management problems.

Topics to be covered include:

- Time Managements - personal and expert approaches.
- Time Management - methods.
- Controlling "time wasters".

Preliminary work is required

Darwin 8 October, 1983

Canberra 28 October, 1983

Adelaide 4 November, 1983

For details see *Happenings* elsewhere in this issue.