

C.E. Charivari

Conferences, Conferences . . .

August, apart from being a wicked month, is traditionally a conference month, but September now seems to rival it judging by recent activities in NSW and WA. As I write this, Perth is hosting four such gatherings including the 6th National Special Libraries Conference whose focus is 'The Management of Resource Sharing'. No doubt, along with more serious matters, participants will be celebrating the relocation of a certain mineral resource previously confined to the New York Yacht Club. We look forward to reports of these gatherings in *InCite* and the newsletters of the sponsoring Divisions. Not all activity has been in the West, and, anticipating fuller accounts elsewhere, here are some brief notes on two conferences of national interest which were held in Sydney recently.

Automation of Acquisitions, 23rd September

Activities organised by the Acquisition Section are noteworthy for their substantial content and their plain speaking, with last Friday's conference being no exception. Billed as *Automation of Acquisitions: the transition phase*, it could just as well have been subtitled 'survival tactics'.

Guided, stimulated (and sometimes provoked) by an expert group of speakers, some 90 librarians, systems analysts, consultants and book trade representatives from around Australia reviewed developments, issues and experiences in the field. Papers from Tony Mays (Deakin University), Rod Walker (UNSW), Felicity McGregor (Wollongong University), Marilyn Beamish (Ryde Library) and Richard Anderson (Blackwell) ranged over the principles of systems design; the development and impact of operational systems and the potential for interfacing library-based and trade systems. Though somewhat dazzled by the data, no-one left with any doubts about the value of automation in streamlining and extending acquisitions operations.

Teaching and Technology

At the same time, a different kind of excitement was being generated at Kuring-gai

CAE where the *Education for Librarianship Section* was holding a *National Conference on Teaching and Technology 23-24 September*.

A commitment to chair the Acquisitions Section Seminar prevented me from attending the first day of the conference which examined teaching and learning strategies in adult education. Issues raised in Dr Alastair Crombie's opening paper were further explored in a series of workshops covering distance education, experiential learning and practicum and skills training.

Saturday's program was devoted to the integration of technology into adult education, and, along with about 35 others whose professional lives revolve around teaching, I spent an absorbing day exploring the possibilities of exploiting instructional technology in professional and paraprofessional education and development. Once again a lively opening paper was followed by a number of workshops. Resisting the temptations of computer-assisted learning and software development, I took myself off to a teleconferencing session, where, with the guidance of Roy Lundin (Brisbane CAE), we were introduced to the addictive delights of teleconferencing which links distant groups for productive discussions (with the aid of Telecom and landspeaker telephones). In an Association like ours with its scattered membership teleconferencing offers exciting and practical possibilities for making CE courses and other services widely accessible at moderate cost. More of this in another issue.

Visit of Dr Dennis Lewis, Director, Aslib

A noteworthy recent visitor was Dr Dennis Lewis, Director of Aslib since 1981. He was brought to Australia by the Special Libraries Section to act as the keynote speaker at their 6th Conference, but stopped in Sydney en route, thus giving some of us 'easterners' an opportunity to benefit from his ideas and views. Showing infinite stamina and humour, he led a decidedly thought-provoking seminar at LAA House on 21 September. Billed as 'The Future of the Information Professions', the session ranged much wider as both leader and participants debated the likely future of library and information workers given present financial and technological trends; and the implications of treating and managing information as a resource.

LAA/NZLA Conference 1984. Availability of overseas conference speakers for CE activities

Replies have now been received from all overseas speakers attending the 1984 Conference as guests of the LAA. A comprehensive bulletin concerning the general conditions, notes on the speakers' availability and application forms for Divisions who wish to sponsor CE activities involving these speakers, will be distributed to all Divisions in late October. Distribution of the material will be advertised in *InCite*.

Next column Costs or costs . . .

Marilyn Bryce
Continuing Education Office

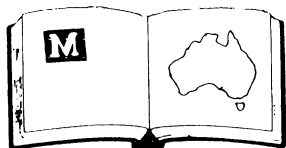
MORE ON OMS

THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL advance management institutes conducted by the Association of Research Libraries Office of Management Studies in Sydney and Melbourne last April generated considerable interest in increased co-operation between OMS and Australian libraries (*InCite* 27 May, 1983, p7).

The Advisory Committee, formed from CAUL, the State Librarians' Council, and other interests, has continued to explore possible collaborative links which might make available to Australian libraries the skill and expertise developed by OMS. These initiatives have received warm encouragement from Duane Webster, Director of OMS.

Specifically, a place was offered in the OMS Academic Library Consultant Training Program to be held from 25 September to 8 October, 1983, in Washington. The Advisory Committee unanimously agree that Mrs Margaret Trask, Head of the School of Library and Information Studies, Kuring-gai CAE, should be nominated.

Mrs Trask's involvement in the OMS Consultant Training Program is seen as the first step in the development of an Australian focus on management training, consultancy, staff development and other services to help libraries meet the challenges of change at all levels. The Advisory Committee is working towards the establishment of a specialist organisation to conduct such programs in Australia in co-operation with OMS and with Australian institutions.



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