

ACT

JULY 26 LAA Cataloguers Sect ACT Group Seminar 'Why isn't the Department of Transport under D? The Catalogue from the User's Viewpoint' **Burgmann College, ANU.** Contact: Peter Haddad (062) 62 1428.

JULY 27 LAA Continuing Education Programme 'Serials Automation Workshop' **Canberra College of TAFE, Small Theatre, Building J.** Morning, afternoon tea and lunch provided. Cost: \$45 members; \$64 others. Contact: Geraldine Mackard (062) 45 1734.

AUGUST 28-30 ACI Computer Services. AUSINET New User and Advanced User **Training Course.** Contact: Long Tjhia (062) 47 0988.

AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 2 SDC/Orbit **Training Courses** for New User, Advanced, Patents. **Canberra.** Contact: Katie Blake/Tina Reedman (02) 922 9308 or toll free (008) 22 6474.

A HISTORICAL EVENT

IT IS NOT often that one can report on an event of historical significance. But such was the Forum held at Monash University on 1 and 2 June. Sponsored by the Graduate School of Librarianship with the support of the History Department at Monash, the Forum attracted librarians from around Australia.

Historical studies of libraries and librarians have been presented at library conferences before, but this was the first one devoted exclusively to the past. And the presence of historians such as John Rickard, Graeme Davison and Marian Aveling added to the diversity of views. All three are engaged in the Bicentennial History Project, and their discussions of its difficulties, problems and progress were most enlightening and interesting.

On Friday, papers were presented on the establishment of different types of libraries in various colonies. Interesting contrasts in people and institutions came to light. For instance, the upper class people of Tasmania, in 1850, set up the Tasmanian Public Library. It was, in fact, a subscription library, with the collection based heavily on standard works by standard authors, but not including, for example Darwin's *Origin of the Species*. This library had ceased to exist by 1870 through lack of support, perhaps because the collection was not broad enough and of little use to most of the population. (John Levett, University of Tasmania School of Librarianship.)

Comparisons were drawn between that library and others set up in other colonies around the same time. What is now the State Library of Victoria, for instance. Founded by Sir Redmond Barry, who had followed closely the material published on the setting up of public libraries in England, and allowed full access to all those over the age of fourteen. The bookstock of this library, although slanted towards the educated and privileged was also aimed towards enlightenment and instruction so that the poor could educate themselves towards their democratic rights. (Margery Ram- say, formerly State Library of Victoria.)

Or the North Brisbane School of Arts, supported early by the Lang immigrants, but its administration racked by animosities and debates regarding Chartist ideals, and how the radical outlook of the early supporters was gradually supplanted by more conservative, middle class members. (Jim Cleary, University of Newcastle, Auchmuty Library.)

Such comparisons served to fuel a spirited debate on whether or not there was an element of middle class hegemony operating in colonial Australia, and if indeed there was, whether it was ultimately successful.

Saturday's proceedings were devoted more to publishing history, librarians themselves, and the profession as a whole. Once again the relevance of ideals of early organizations to the people they were supposed to serve was raised with regard to the short lived Library Association of Australasia. It was suggested that the Association did not meet the needs of the majority of its members at the time,

Working Party on Document Delivery

IN JULY 1983, the General Council of the Association set up a Working Party on Document Delivery to look at the question of document delivery in Australia.

The terms of reference of the Working Party are as follows:

- (a) To determine whether the problem is as acute as Foote and Douglas argue; if so
- (b) to review the cases proposed by Foote and Douglas, and to determine what other possibilities, if any, exist;
- (c) to evaluate these proposals, and to propose an LAA program to achieve the objectives of that proposal which the working party deems most appropriate.

The recommendations which came out of the National Interlending Conference held in Sydney in September 1983 were also referred to the Working Party.

The report of the Working Party is now being completed and will be formally presented at the August 1984 meeting of General Council in Brisbane.

The Working Party believes, however, that if delays in implementation are to be avoided, debate on the matter should be facilitated.

It has therefore recommended that an exposure draft be made available immediately to all interested parties.

Copies of the draft report are available on application to Jenny Angus, LAA House.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

THE PATENT SYSTEM: DOCUMENTATION AND RETRIEVAL

A seminar designed to assist librarians and patent searchers to understand how patents are created and used, the role of the Australian Patent Information Service (APIS) and the range of patent database services available. A visit to the Sydney Patent Office is included.

August 1, 1984, 1.00-5.00 pm,
Conference Room, Australian
Institute of International Affairs,
124 Kent Street Sydney.

\$10 LAA, \$15 NON-LAA, \$5 STUDENTS, payable to LAA Information Science Section (NSW).

Registration with payment to:
Andrew Mackenzie
CSR Information Services
1 O'Connell Street Sydney 2000
Tel (02) 235 8523

and that this was the reason that the competing Institutes Association survived and prospered, whilst the LAA did not. (Michael Talbot, Monash University, Graduate School of Librarianship.)

Finally, Jean Whyte echoed the thoughts of many when she stated that the study of history enables us to live in more than one world at once; that librarians are the custodians of humankind's memory and as such should be particularly concerned with our history. If this Forum, the first of its kind, encourages the profession to do so, then the effort was well worthwhile. It seems to me that the Forum was a singular success in bringing many different areas of research into focus, whilst allowing conflicting and sometimes controversial points of view to be considered.

Ann Brown

"HAWKESBURY HERITAGE" by Stan Stevens is a publication of Hawkesbury Shire Council and contains 180 photographs with over half in full colour. This 120 page, fully indexed book looks at the origin of many of the historic buildings in the Shire. The book also includes social commentary on many of the interesting personalities who have lived in these buildings.

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INSERTS

Inserts can be sent out with all mailings of *InCite* and the *Australian Library Journal*.

To take advantage of this opportunity, contact **Jenny Menzies** on (02) 692 9233.