



## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Executive Director has already written several columns about the Brisbane Conference, and I do not wish to canvass the same territory that she has covered. I am personally very pleased at the opportunity to be involved in the major review and development of the corporate plan for the Association which General Council has initiated, and I look forward to working on it with many members in the next fifteen months.

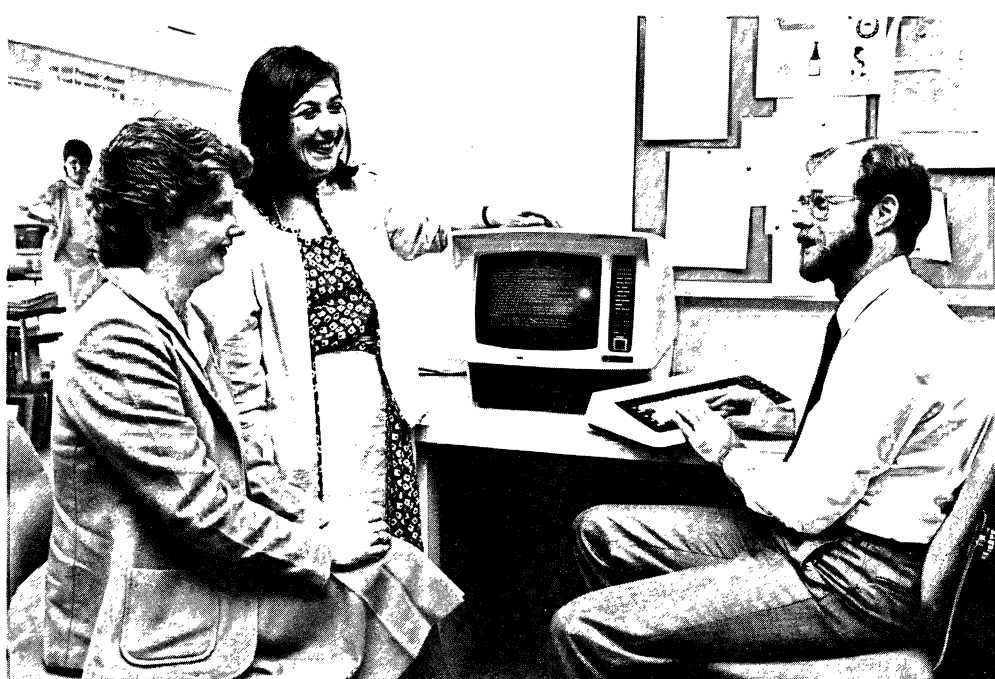
Some members who were not in Brisbane have asked me to comment on the debate at the Annual General Meeting of the Association about the IFLA Conference, and in particular why I made various rulings from the Chair and what is now happening. I have therefore set out below, for those not familiar with them, a brief summary of how the AGM rules work and what happened at the meeting concerning IFLA.

The rules for the conduct of the Annual General Meeting were published in *InCite*, 1 June, 1984. They stated that motions for discussion at the AGM needed to be forwarded in writing by 13 July, and that they could be brought forward by either individuals or on behalf of a division of the Association. All such motions were published in the AGM Agenda in the 17 August issue. The only one referring to IFLA was from the ACT Branch, and stated:

- That the membership of the LAA should be provided no later than the end of 1984 with
- full details of the cost and implications of the IFLA Conference to the Association; and
  - the effect of the IFLA Conference on the 1988 National Conference.

The rules further provide that the only other items that may be raised under General Business are those of an informal nature and those within the scope of business already laid down. Those of a substantial nature relating to items not covered in the notice of meeting will not be allowed, but the Chairman has the power to accept without notice an item of urgency which is not within the business of the meeting.

When the IFLA motion was reached I allowed considerable latitude in the discussion, since I took the view that the motion requested information to be given to all members and all those present had a right to know the reasons on which the ACT Branch and others based their arguments for requesting the information. This meant that many of the issues which have been canvassed in correspondence in *InCite* in the last few months were discussed at some length. However, in considering what amendments might be allowed to the motion I was very conscious that the Chairman's rulings on the conduct of the meeting are guided by Joske's *The Law and Procedure of Meetings in Australia and New Zealand*, Sixth Edition, 1976. Joske quite clearly states that amendments may not be moved to the motion where they would have the effect of altering the intent of the original motion. The intent of the ACT motion was to request that full information be supplied to members, but not to test the decision to mount the IFLA Conference in Australia. These rules, which have been in force at LAA Annual General Meetings for some considerable time, clearly take account of the fact that members can nominate proxies for the AGM and that they therefore desirably should know the business which will be before the meeting.



I therefore accepted some amendments which would clarify and/or add to the intent of the ACT Branch motion, but declined to accept amendments which would alter its thrust to be a test of the decision on holding IFLA in Australia. The motion as eventually carried at the meeting was:

- That the membership of the LAA should be provided no later than the end of 1984 with
- full details of the proposed cost and implications of the IFLA Conference to the Association; and
  - the likely effect of the IFLA Conference on the 1988 National Conference.

I would remind all members that it was open to every division and individual member of the Association to bring forward other motions concerning IFLA if they had so wished. No division, apart from the ACT Branch, and no individual chose to bring forward any such motion. The Executive Director will of course be putting all available information before members before the end of the year in terms of this amended motion which was carried at the AGM.

In *InCite* of 27 July, I published a long report on the background to the IFLA decision, in which I stated that under IFLA procedures the formal invitation for the 1988 Conference in Sydney would not be presented until 1986 at the earliest. I further said that:

I know that those entrusted by General Council with its organisation are aware of the necessary dictates of financial prudence in developing firm plans for the Conference, and I do not believe that future General Councillors would be so irresponsible as to proceed with these plans if the Association was to find itself in a position of possible financial risk. Government and corporate support for the Conference is of course to be actively pursued, but it is of course too early to comment on this.

I believe that all members of the Association have had ample opportunity for the time being to question the IFLA decision. It is of interest that, quite apart from the opportunity to bring forward motions to the AGM, no division brought any adverse comment to the recent General Council meeting in Brisbane. The New South Wales General Councillor expressed the firm support of that Branch for IFLA being held in Sydney in 1988. The IFLA Committee and the Executive Director are committed to inform members at the appropriate times of full details of IFLA proposals, and in these circumstances I suggest it would be sensible that they should now be given time to get on with

The *Australian Financial Review* is Australia's first newspaper to be mounted electronically in full text on a public database service, ACI's Ausinet system. This follows two years of distribution of the newspaper on Ausinet in an abstract index form.

Announcing the new service Mr Leigh Baker, Manager of ACICS Information Retrieval Service, said that the electronic availability of the *Australian Financial Review* would revolutionise the way business and government could use information from Australia's only national daily business paper in their decision making.

Mr Baker said that the *Financial Review* project represented only the first of a number of electronic publishing projects currently under development for Ausinet.

## URICA at Phillip Institute of Technology

The AWA URICA system was recently installed in the Library at Phillip Institute of Technology. The central configuration hardware was delivered on 15 August 1984 and the first URICA modules were operational by 4 September. The Bundooro Campus Library catalogue comprising 35,000 Blackwell North America machine readable records has been loaded and input of the 70,000 Coburg Campus Library titles has commenced. The system will support 32 terminals.

Phillip Institute purchased the complete URICA system which comprises the acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation control, OPAC and serials modules. The acquisitions module will be fully operational in January 1985, the OPAC and circulation control modules will be operational in February 1985 and the serials module in June 1985.

The Phillip Institute system will be linked with other URICA systems in the northern region of Melbourne at La Trobe University, Preston College of TAFE and Preston Municipal Library. This online link will make use of AWA's QUEST software and will form the basis of a northern resource sharing network.

The Phillip Institute hardware configuration includes:

- A SEQUEL 9052 including CPU with 512 K bytes memory, 260 Mbytes disc drive and controller, 1600/3200 bpi streaming magnetic tape unit and controller.
- A Printrex P300, 300 lpm dot matrix printer
- 24 x ADM 11/R Video Terminals.

W. T. Cations  
Institute Librarian

this job without continued arguments over the initial decision.

Warren Horton  
President