

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION

6th BIENNIAL
AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL
LIBRARIANS' CONFERENCE

Regent Hotel, Melbourne
August 25-29, 1985

MEDICAL LIBRARIES
— NEW DIRECTIONS

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Conference Planning Committee would like to hear from persons interested in presenting papers at the Biennial Conference.

Some of the topics to be covered in the Conference are:

History of health science libraries in Australia

Management in the health libraries of the 90s

Peer review and continuing education

Library systems under change

Medical library design and planning

Electronic age for booksellers and publishers

Medlars III — the friendly system.

If you wish to present a paper please send a 200 word summary, including the title and an estimate of desired reading time, to the Conference Committee by 28th February, 1985.

LAA Medical Libraries Section
Conference Planning Committee
P.O. Box 103
South Yarra, Victoria
Australia, 3141.

Another NBC Success

On October 16 the NSW committee of the National Book Council organised a preview of Betty Roland's widely publicised book *The Eye of the Beholder* published by Hale and Iremonger.

Maurice Saxby, chairman of the NSW committee of the National Book Council, opened the proceedings with his customary charm, followed by the NBC President Morris West who shared with the audience some recollections of Betty Roland as well as giving some food for thought on the importance of oral history. Betty Roland then gave some fascinating glimpses into the background of her life in Montsalvat and observations of the remarkable people she lived with there who make up the story of her book.

Many more such functions are planned by the NBC in all states — another good reason for joining the organisation that promotes books and reading. Enquiries to the National Book Council, Book House, 199 Cardigan Street, Carlton Vic 3053. (03) 347 6465.

WANTED: Unemployed Librarians and Library Technicians in the Sydney Metropolitan Area

At its meeting on October 17, the NSW Branch of the LAA decided to establish an employment service for unemployed librarians and library technicians in the Sydney Metropolitan area.

The Service will operate from LAA headquarters but, as it is a self-help scheme, modelled on the Library Employment Group in South Australia, persons registering with the Service in addition to being LAA members, will be required to put their names on a roster for duty at LAA House.

Those rostered for duty will be required to answer phone calls for the employment service and to notify suitable applicants about job vacancies. The amount of time required for roster duty will depend on the number of persons registering with the Service but it should not be too onerous.

The NSW Branch has written to the major employers of library staff in the Sydney Metropolitan area, advising them that it will be maintaining a register of unemployed librarians, library technicians and requesting that they contact the employment service if a full-time, part-time or temporary vacancy for library staff arises in their organisation.

The decision to establish an employment service was prompted by the number of

enquiries received by the LAA from unemployed librarians and library technicians as well as employers wishing to place library staff. As an employment register has not been kept recently, it has been difficult to assist these people. To some extent the scheme is experimental and its success is dependent upon the response from both library staff and employers. If it proves to be successful it is hoped that it may be possible to establish similar schemes in other States. It may also be possible to extend operations outside the Sydney Metropolitan area.

The NSW Branch has been given permission to use LAA House for this project so that the Industrial Information Officer may have an opportunity to assess the project and to assist other States to establish such a scheme if the NSW experiment is successful. States interested in the project can contact the Industrial Information and Research Officer for further details.

If you are an unemployed librarian or library technician who is looking for work in Sydney, or an employer who has a vacancy for library staff, please register with the employment service by ringing (02) 692 9233.

Louise Lansley

Industrial Information and Research Officer

LAA Document Delivery Meeting

The Library Association of Australia Document Delivery Meeting, which was authorised by General Council in August (*InCite* V. 5 No. 16), will meet at the Australian National University on 19/20 November 1984.

The Report of the Vice President on Document Delivery has been given wide circulation and comment has been sought not only from within the LAA but also from a wide range of library related groups and institutions.

The meeting will be attended by 42 participants, including representatives of ALIC, ASLA, CAUL, ALCAE, LAA and AACOBS, from all types of libraries.

The meeting will address the following issues in relation to the Report of the Document Delivery Working Party.

1. Is the LAA Document Delivery report a valid model in which to work?
2. Identification of participants who would support the Document Delivery Report.
3. Assuming that the report is a valid model, is there other data which needs to be tested prior to further planning?
4. Are there alternate valid models which should also be considered?
5. Is there information related to these alternate models which requires testing before there can be agreement on their validity?
6. Consideration of the question of cost recovery of alternative cost models.

It is hoped that the meeting will provide a mechanism to allow the library profession to draw up a definitive plan for document delivery in the near future.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

OBITUARY Isabel Constance Spurway,

B.A., R.R.L., A.L.A., A.L.A.A.

Constance Spurway, a former Chairman of the NSW Division of the Special Libraries Section, died on August 6, 1984, after a long illness.

Miss Spurway was a graduate of the University of Western Australia, and held qualifications as a medical records librarian, as well as Associateship of the Library Association of Australia. She had worked in libraries in Western Australia (University of W.A. 1944-48, W.A. Dept. of Public Health 1949-50) and in Tasmania (State Library of Tasmania, 1951), before coming to Sydney in 1952 when she became the Librarian at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (1952-60). She worked in the office of the Library Association of Australia in 1962/63, before joining the staff of the NSW Dept. of Technical Education, where she remained until her retirement in 1978.

Miss Spurway made a number of professional visits overseas. She was a World Health Organisation Consultant in Uganda in 1961/62, and was Librarian of the United Nations Conference on Trade Development in Geneva in 1970/71. She received a Fulbright Travel Grant in 1959 and a University of Sydney Travelling Fellowship in 1960. She was a guest lecturer on medical records in the University of New South Wales School of Hospital Administration from 1957 to 1965.

Miss Spurway was a member of the committee of the NSW Group of the Special Libraries Section for many years, from the late 1960s until 1980 when illness did not allow her to continue. She was Chairman of the Committee from 1968 to 1970, was the NSW Special representative on Branch Council in 1975, and its representative on the Technical College Library Course Advisory Committee, also in 1975.

Jean M. Murray

Note: This obituary was first published in the September 1984 issue of *Australian Special Libraries News* and is reprinted by permission of the author.

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