Book Reviews

Fully recommended

Storytellers' encore: more Canadian stories to tell to children ed Irene Aubrey, Louise McDiarmid and Lorrie Andersen. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, 1984. 61p. (price not stated) ISBN 0 88802 179 8.

A pleasure to look at, to handle, to read and to review, this is a collection for any (or every) school or public library to purchase and use. A sampling of stories from Inuit, Indian and Euro-Canadian peoples together with some yarns and some poems.

The attractive paperback cover shows children playing in a variety of ways and the few full-page illustrations are excellent monochrome photographs of Canadian scenes. There is an index to titles, authors and subjects; story sources are given; and there are suggestions about age level and the time required for sharing.

Libarians working with young people often speak of the difficulties of finding Canadian material; here is a collection that I fully recommend, that should be easy to order and that should get wide use by parents, teachers and children as well as storytelling librarians.

I look forward to exploring it with children and others and only regret that it is not possible to give an audio-review. It would certainly have to include 'The ghost of the One Black Eye', which Infants and Primaries are sure to enjoy hearing *and* telling, and 'Big Joe Mufferaw', a marvellous ballad for singing or chanting and bound to bring in all for the chorus.

Patricia Scott

Follow up this material

The assessment of library performance: an Australian perspective of the British Inter-Library Comparison Project/J. R. Brockman. Perth: Western Australian Institute of Technology Library. 1984. 20pp. ISBN 0 908155 68 9

This item represents the latest addition to an increasing range of publications produced by the Library of the Western Australian Institute of Technology, covering the results of practical research and development studies carried out by members of the WAIT Library staff. The short pamphlet provides a brief description of Brockman's 1982 study leave project on the British Inter-Library Comparison Project for academic libraries.

The British Inter-Library Comparison Project work has not been widely reported, in part because of the nature of the Centre for Interfirm Comparison's work, in which the results of studies are usually confidential to participants, although there are now several British Library Research and Development Reports describing the Centre's work on public libraries.

Unfortunately Brockman's description adds little to the material already available, in limiting itself to a description of the British Library's Project. The extracts from the unpublished reports of the project are too brief for any analysis of the methodology used, while the collected observations of the university and polytechnic librarians who participated in the pilot study appear, perhaps inevitably, subjective and inconclusive, deriving from their varied views on utility of comparative quantitative data.

This is unfortunate, as the work of the Centre for Interfirm Comparison, now extending over twenty five years, has greatly enhanced the techniques of valid inter-institutional comparison in many different kinds of institutions, and there is little doubt that with further work more refined techniques will be developed for realistic comparison of the operations of both public and academic libraries.

The WAIT Library is therefore to be congratulated in trying to bring the CIFC work to the attention of a wider audience of Australian librarians, and those concerned with the collection of Australian inter-library statistical data would do well to follow up this material through the various reports published by the British Library Research and Development Division.

Eric Wainwright
University of Adelaide Library

Information on more than 1200 libraries

Directory of Special Libraries in Australia, compiled and edited by Jan Cree, Ultimo, New South Wales: Library Association of Australia Special Libraries Section, 6th edition, 1984. Non members $54; members $40 ISBN 0 86804 013 4

In the week before I was asked to write this review, I received two requests from other libraries for information which is contained in this directory. This surely illustrates the need for this useful tool and perhaps suggests that the earlier editions are not as well known as they should be. The addition of a title to the present anonymous spine might go some way to solving this problem by making the volume more identifiable on library shelves.

This edition contains information on over 1200 libraries. They illustrate the amazing range of special libraries in Australia, covering such diverse subjects as broadcasting, dairying, rehabilitation, wine research and fire prevention. As the editor points out in her introduction, this is a national resource that should not be neglected and this directory is an important aid to its exploitation. The entry for each library includes the address, telephone number, hours, staff and information about the nature and size of the collection and its accessibility. A list of any networks used is also provided. As is inevitable in a directory based on self reporting, there is some variation between entries, but the editor has been skilful in introducing comformity without trying to reduce the variability of special libraries to uniformity.

Some improvement in the subject indexing might have been achieved by the use of 'see' references or by indexing libraries under more terms. For example, searching 'physics' in the subject index does not lead the user to the library of the Department of Science and Technology Antarctic Division which is indexed under 'cosmic ray physics' and 'upper atmosphere physics' and nor does searching under 'atmospheric research'. The library name index should prove useful.

I am not sure of the purpose of the looseleaf format as there does not seem to be any intention to issue update pages between editions. A bound volume might reduce the risk of lost and misplaced pages. However the looseleaf binder is strong and should withstand the extensive use which I am sure will be the lot of this valuable reference tool.

Jean Dartnall
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Valuable comment for all libraries

Automated Systems at Four Ontario Universities: A Study Leave Report E. A. Spoor. Perth: The Library, Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT). 1984. 58pp. ISBN 0 908155 60 3.

The author describes a period of study leave at four Canadian universities during 1980. The principal aims of the visit, apart from a broadening and development of personal experience, were to study cost-benefit implications of automated systems; examine management information systems (MIS); and study patterns of change in automated systems. The institutions visited were the universities of Guelph, Western Ontario, York and Carleton.

The report begins with a librarian's personal view of automation developments at WAIT during the 1970s. A description of co-operative automation activities in Canadian libraries is followed by an outline of the computer systems in each of the four university libraries. Descriptions are oriented towards the management of automation, rather than being highly technical. Of the three major goals of the visits, the conclusion on MIS was that their value was somewhat debatable with the reaction to one system being that 'it seemed that the cost of running the system outweighed its usefulness'. This was for a manually operated system, however. No conclusions were drawn on cost-benefits of automation but quite detailed comments are given on different patterns of library automation experience and practices.

The report contains some valuable comments for all libraries. The Guelph experience is interesting in that it led to the development of a highly successful commercially produced package now sold by GEAC. There is also some useful general information on the four libraries, information that is hard to come by in published form. The staff structures of all four institutions are given, for instance, and details of the effect of a strike. However, much of the value of this report is limited by the delay in publishing. A lot has happened to library automation in the last four years and the report would have been much more valuable had it appeared sooner.

J. H. Petrie
Wollongong University Librarian

Advertisements for the Positions Wanted column will be accepted from LAA members at the special rate of $15 for 50 words, with additional words at the rate of $3 per 15 words. Advertisements will be run in two consecutive issues and must be prepaid.

A useful work for Australians

The Birth of Electronic Publishing: Legal and Economic Issues in Telephone, Cable and Over-the-Air Teletext and Videotext by Richard M. Neustadt. White Plains, Knowledge Industry Pub. Inc., 1982. 146 pp. US$32.95 ISBN 0 86729 030 7. Supplied by the James Bennett Group.

'Electronic publishing' can mean different things. For this reason the sub-title of this work is important. Written by a communications lawyer, it addresses the real problems. Not the technical ones of how to make a better mousetrap, but the much more difficult legal, economic and social questions concerning the effective and economic use by society of new technologies to the benefit of society at large.

The first page of the introduction sets it all in context. Mass distribution of information has historically been via publishing and broadcasting which have different technologies, economic structures, laws and regulations etc. The distribution of print-type information by electronic channels — TV, radio, cable TV and phone, ie electronic publishing, has brought together two media with historically different policy attitudes which society will need to reconcile. As yet, however, there is no US statute or regulation relating to electronic publishing and the first court decision in the US was in the fall of 1981.

A whole series of policy questions needs to be debated and resolved. Will electronic publishers have the freedom of print publishers or will they be controlled by government content regulations, as are broadcasters? Should technical standards be set by government or the market-place? Issues inevitably arise from privacy and copyright. Many of the questions are not new but need to be re-debated and this book seeks to facilitate that debate. Although many of the issues are legal, it is written for non-lawyers.

The basic technologies are outlined and the relevant US legislation explained with suggestions for future action. Inevitably, when written for another country, particularly one more advanced in the field, the situation is considered in the US context, legislation and current attitudes on various policy issues. While these are not necessarily equivalent in the Australian scene, it is not difficult for the Australian reader to extract the fundamental material and issues we also have to address, in the context of Australian legislation, social attitudes and government policy — if we are ever fortunate enough to be able to identify what this is.

This is a useful work for Australians as we take our second lumbering step into videotext technology and still try to make up 'our' mind about cable TV. Hopefully, before too long we will see an equivalent Australian text — equally, of course, we might hope that one day we will not only have a national information policy but also a national communications policy!

W. D. Richardson
University Librarian
University of Melbourne

Strongly recommended

Developing consumer health information services: ed by Alan M. Rees. NY/London Bowker 1982 296pp. US$42.50 ISBN 0 8352 1473 7.

In this preface, the editor, Alan M. Rees (who was brought to Australia in the early 1970s by the late Lesle Symes to give a seminar on Biomedical Information) states he is aiming to 'assist librarians and other health information providers in the development and management of consumer health information services, programs and networks'.

Although the consumer movement is well developed in this country there has been relatively little co-ordinated activity in the provision of consumer health information. Most medical librarians have seen their role as information providers to the medical and allied professions, because until recently, the only resources in their libraries were written by professionals for professionals able to interpret them. Librarians were unable to interpret medical information for patients. The pattern is now changing. A large volume of literature is now written for patients. Patients are gaining access to medical libraries (Moorabbin Hospital library in Victoria permits patient access.)

As one of the contributors to this volume Alan Gartner states 'it is the patient who is the key factor in producing his or her own return to (or maintenance of) good health.' Alan Rees makes the point that 'within the context of the doctor's office or even the hospital, it is clear that many questions remain unanswered or unasked'. Where does the patient find his answers?

The various contributors describe the major developments in the US and Canada. Most of the programmes are library based or are what might be described as library extension services. Some are centred on a public library with advisory boards of health professionals, lawyers, educators and others, one is based on a school of library and information science (Case Western Reserve, the editor's base) some are cooperative ventures between a hospital or medical school library and a public library, and one is based at a medical centre run by a health maintenance organization. The latter was opened in 1969 and was the first of its kind — a library offering A/V materials on health and medical subjects to the lay person.

The roles of the consumer, the librarian, and the library are defined. Special emphasis is given to the legal and ethical considerations in the provision of health information. Twenty years ago an action was taken against a hospital in the US for negligent injury resulting from treatment in the emergency room and it was partly based on the alleged inadequacy of the hospital library on which the doctors relied.

There is a very useful section on programme development and management including details such as evaluation of material, reference books, reference interviews, staff training and funding. The final section deals with networking.

Fortunately this book has become available at a time when many of us who work in medical libraries are involved in the establishment of patient education centres in our institutions. I strongly recommend it to all medical librarians, public librarians and health care professionals involved in patient education, together with its companion volume. (*The Consumer Health Information Source Book.* Rees, A.M. and Young, B.A. New York/London Bowker 1982. 450p. US$32.50).

Brenda Heagney
Westmead Centre AMA Library.

A model of effective planning

Censorship: a guide for successful workshop planning by Linda Schexnaydre, Nancy Burns and Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management. Phoenix, Arizona: Oryx Press. 1984. 114 pp ISBN 0 89774 093 9. Supplied by Bennetts.

This manual is a guide to organizing one-day workshops on censorship in school and public libraries. Suggested for consideration in such workshops is a wide range of issues which may influence selection policies, or cause trouble between librarians and patrons or governing authorities. These include sexism, discrimination against minorities, political and religious beliefs, criteria of literary excellence, pornography, violence, and sexual permissiveness. Guidelines are given for formulating selection policies, and for developing procedures and interpersonal skills for dealing with companies. As a step-by-step guide for the workshop planner, the manual is excellent. It includes a suggested programme, detailed advice on planning, a sample press release, imaginative ideas for role plays and discussions, bibliography and much more. There are even ideas for T-shirts.

The manual was written for an American audience — could it be used in Australia? The case studies, role plays and other activities could easily be adapted to an Australian context, and the policy statement from the American Library Association replaced by those of the LAA. More debatable is the question of the market for workshops on this topic in Australia. Censorship and intellectual freedom have aroused less interest and controversy among librarians here than in the United States. What interest there has been has often focused on territorial skirmishes with controlling authorities, rather than on the values we endorse, or impose, when we select library materials. Hence a part of the manual which might be particularly valuable for Australia is the consciousness-raising activities designed to help librarians identify their own values and assumptions. There is for example an *Intellectual Freedom Questionnaire,* in which we are asked to react to statements like 'Women should be primarily shown as housewives and mothers' and 'Books which show Indians, Blacks or Orientals in a derogatory way should be banned'.

The manual could have a further use in Australia. We pay lip service to the importance of staff development and continuing education activities for librarians, yet effective, imaginative programmes and appropriate training skills are in short supply. Schexnaydre and Burns provide a model of effective workshop design and planning. If you would like to mount a workshop but don't quite know how to start; if role playing makes you cringe; if you think library seminars are bound to be boring — this book could be for you.

Ida Vincent
University of New South Wales

A limited life — but recommended

Media and microcomputers in the library: a selected, annotated resource guide/Evelyn H. Daniel and Carol I. Notowitz. Phoenix, Arizona: Oryx Press. 1984. 157pp. US$24.95. ISBN 0 89774 117 X. Supplied by James Bennett.

This guide includes sources for current, accurate and practical information on computers and non-print media, and their use in libraries. It is aimed particularly at school library media specialists, but media librarians in public and academic libraries will also find it of some use.

The guide is divided into four sections. The first section includes general information on works that deal with all types of media. Sub sections are: Guides to the literature, Sources of material and equipment, Associations and organizations, and Periodicals and readings. References are selectively listed, based on the authors' personal judgement, and their ease of access.

Section two (Types of Media) includes guides, sources, readings, associations and periodicals dealing with audio, film, slides and other photographic, video, and computers. It

would have been useful to include prices for the periodicals and the recommended texts, as there is a wide variation in the cost of such items.

The third section (Functional Activities for all Media) deals with references on the selection, organisation, storage and care, production and operation, and instructional design of media. The annotations indicate that the articles would be of value even in the Australian context.

The final section deals with 'Special Issues' namely copyright, telecommunications and technological forecasts, and is of limited value to Australian librarians.

Unfortunately for the Australian reader, these references are predominantly American, and there is *no* Australian information contained in the publication.

In summary, the references included in the Resource Guide will be useful in increasing the current awareness of library staff in media and microcomputing areas, and the emphasis is pragmatic rather than esoteric. In view of the rapidly changing technology no material published prior to 1978 has been considered, but hurry if you want to buy this book — it will have a limited life! Recommended.

Mike Friganiotis
Darwin Community College

An attractive box of tricks

Borders, Layouts and Designs, by J. Slater, M. Coles and T. Paynter, Alpha Visuals, ISBN 0 959 2103 O X.

If you have ever been asked to review a box of tricks, you'd have some idea of the dilemma in which I find myself preparing this review of the above-named production.

The work cannot fall legitimately within the classification of a book, so I find it necessary to review it in two parts: that which will be used as an instruction manual and — to my mind at any rate — the more important part: the box of tricks!

The manual sets out very clearly and in an uncluttered way the steps to be taken for the preparation of any material which needs to be presented graphically with some eye-appeal and perhaps even a touch of class.

The tools of the trade (happily down to a minimum) are described, as well as some useful hints being offered on the use of photographs, borders and a collection of attractive cartoon characters.

The business end of this manual has been printed on one side of the page only in a good dense black, aimed at photocopying crisply and clearly. The image on one side only is a well-calculated move to avoid image creep-through and the obvious ill effects this could have on the photocopied subject. This latter section of tricks is also unfettered by Copyright Law and may therefore be used as frequently as necessary. Some of the borders have been produced on a clear acetate base which will no doubt enjoy a long life as well as reproducing very crisply.

The whole production has been skilfully done and is housed between a hardy three-ring binder to give rapid access to any page without the problem of folding which a conventionally bound book invariably presents.

Although the authors boast that no expensive typesetting has been used in the production of the manual (presumably as a recommendation to those operating on a tight budget), I believe that maybe this final blessing which has been denied would have set a seal of prestige which it presently lacks.

A great buy for librarians, teachers, church groups — in fact anyone who has a message to proclaim and wants to do it skilfully.

Noel Manly

The definitive work

College Librarianship/ed A Rennie McElroy London: Library Association. 1984 427pp $25.00 (LA Members $20.00) ISBN 0 85365 785 8.

Although this volume is one of a series *Handbooks on Library Practice* it is not about the practice of college librarianship. As the editor observes 'It seeks to identify and comment about the principal issues and objectives which drive colleges, their libraries and their librarians, rather than to record the daily routine of running the library'.

This aim is successfully pursued through twenty-five chapters by individual contributors — chapters which have a heavy British emphasis but which also provide for some examination of college librarianship elsewhere. Australia, like continental Europe and North America, rates a long separate chapter. Edward Reid-Smith surveys the Australian college scene well but it is a pity that the statistics quoted are no later than 1980. This suggests that, not surprisingly, the book was a long time in gestation. Our Canadian brethren by comparison rate a one-page addendum to the chapter on North America and there is nothing on college libraries in New Zealand. This highlights the difficulty of bringing into international focus the librarianship of the non-university sector of tertiary education, but does not detract unduly from the volume.

An Australian college librarian will recognise what is being said in *College Librarianship* and in particular the central theme, which is that college librarians have three major roles.

1 To contribute to the management of their institutions
2 To understand the needs, wishes, and problems, of their institutions
3 Sell the library to users.

These precepts are not necessarily understood by the graduate from library school and it is for this reason that anyone contemplating a career in any type of college library is advised to read and digest this book.

Similarly those already engaged in college librarianship will find much wisdom and experience in its chapters and will derive reinforcement and stimulation from them. To any non-college librarian who would cavil at the notion that there is such an entity as college librarianship, the response is to be found in this volume.

It is free of typographical error and is pleasant to read although some of the pages confirm this reviewer's aversion to slabs of text dominated by upper case acronyms. There is a useful glossary of abbreviations and acronyms but which would have been better placed at the front rather than the back of the volume. The index, from an examination of the Australian chapter, cannot be faulted.

College Librarianship is a substantial contribution to the literature. The editor, A Rennie McElroy, and the publisher, the Library Association, are to be congratulated on its production. It will remain as the definitive work on college librarianship as it is practised in countries such as the UK, Australia and New Zealand for some time.

Alan Bundy
SACAE

OUT NOW!

DIRECTORY OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES
6th Edition

Compiled and edited by Jan Cree

Sydney: Library Association of Australia, Special Libraries Section. 1984. 572 pages.

This is a completely updated and expanded version of this invaluable directory.

Produced in loose leaf format, it can be ordered as a refill only to fit the binder supplied with the previous edition, or complete with binder.

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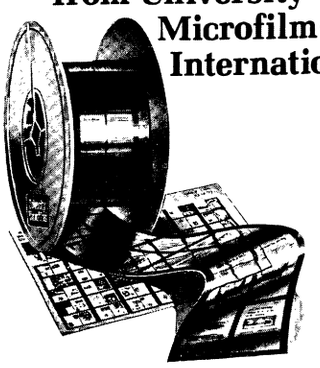
This publication is available in microform from University Microfilms International.



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Interesting analysis

Towards a manual of Australian Hospital Library Practice: a report of a feasibility study by Carmel Maguire and Eugenia Lovelace. Canberra, National Library of Australia 1983. ISBN 0 642 99305 X. A$5.95.

The aims of this study, sponsored by the National Library of Australia, and the School of Librarianship at the University of NSW were:

'• to identify the environment in which a manual of Australian hospital library practice might serve a useful purpose.
• to canvass the views of medical libraries generally, and of hospital librarians in particular on the form and content of such a manual.
• to recommend on the content level and format of such a manual.'

The results of interviews in NSW were used to compile an interim report and discussion document which appears as Appendix 4. Some very significant comments appear here; eg 'conditions vary from hospital to hospital, and thus only general guidelines would have general applicability', which would appear to be the best indicator that a manual is not necessary.

Three groups of potential users are identified, all with different needs.

- qualified librarians wth experience in hospital or medical librarianship (Q + E).
- qualified librarians with no experience in hospitals or other medical libraries (Q + NE).
- unqualified people in permanent or temporary charge of a hospital library (UQ).

It seems to me that the (Q + E) would not need it, the (Q + NE) might need it occasionally and the (UQ) would not need it because their numbers should be decreasing.

A common fear expressed by a number of respondents is that hospital administrators may see the manual as an excuse for not appointing qualified staff. The mini-census (p. 10, table 1) indicates that there are already at least 50 people without librarianship qualifications in charge of hospital libraries, mostly in Victoria. However, about 80% of qualified hospital librarians are working in NSW and Victoria. Unfortunately no replies were received from WA.

A look at the list of items suggested for inclusion in the manual astonishes old Q + E's like me. Many are non-specific to medical libraries, eg

- identifying subscription agents
- problems of the one-person library
- information about the LAA
- new data bases
- content and structure of files
- interlibrary loan procedures
- copyright

and could well be the basis of a further volume of the Manual of Australian library practice.

Many other topics are covered by existing courses or sources, eg

- medical terminology
- hospital administration
- medical education
- medical acronyms and initialisms

I agree with the respondent who asks for more courses in medical librarianship at the library schools, and I would add a plea for work experience placements in medical libraries for their students. More continuing education courses for graduates would also help.

The basic conclusion reached by the surveyors is that a manual, endorsed by the National Library and sanctioned by health and hospital authorities and the library profession should be produced by the Australian medical library community.

While not agreeing with the conclusion, I recommend this report to all medical librarians. Whether or not anything tangible results from it, it is a most interesting analysis of the present state of hospital librarianship in Australia and the problems we encounter working in this complicated system.

I suggest that what is really needed is a directory of information sources and services in medicine and allied health sciences, as proposed by the now defunct ADMIG Committee to the National Library some years ago.

Brenda Heagney
Westmead Centre AMA Library

Use this for elegant indexing

PRECIS: A manual of concept analysis and subject indexing/Derek Austin: with assistance from Mary Dykstra. 2nd ed. London: British Library, 1984. 397 pp. 0 7123 1008 8.

The second edition of the PRECIS Manual became necessary because of developments in the system over the last ten years which had not been documented in any publicly accessible form. The changes have occurred for two main reasons: in response to the interest in PRECIS by agencies working in languages other than English, which has revealed a need for some additional codes and procedures (some of which have proved to have some use in English Language Indexing) and, secondly, in response to needs for new codes to deal with certain indexing problems more effectively.

Perhaps the major, and certainly most obvious, change is in the differencing operators. Numbers are now used instead of letters and an additional routine is now available which allows a difference to be written as a separate word (using a 'space generating' operator) or as a part of a single word compound (using a 'close-up' operator). One suspects that this need first occurred in dealing with foreign language indexing, especially in German, but it does have some application in English. For example:

ACTIVE CHILDREN HYPER-ACTIVE CHILDREN

Hyper-active children

The terms 'direct' and 'indirect' difference are no longer used, instead the manual refers to 'levels' of differences, the level of a difference depending upon its 'distance from the focus'. Thus a direct difference is always a first level difference (coded 1) while an indirect difference may be any level from two to nine, depending upon the relationship to the focus of the difference which it qualifies. For example in the phrase *Box Girder bridges* 'Box' is a second level difference; in the phrase *Electro-plated Steel Knives* 'Electro-' is a third level difference.

Differencing codes now have to encapsulate three decisions: lead or non--lead, close-up or generate a space, and the level of difference. Two characters are required: the first specifies a combination of the first two decisions (e.g. 2 = lead, space generating) whilst the second specifies the level of difference. Thus *Box Girder bridges would be coded:*

Bridges $21 Girder $22 box

whilst *Electro-plated steel knives* would be be coded:

Knives $21 Steel $02 plated $33 electro-

It is not possible, within the space of the review, to note all the changes. One, however, which makes for more elegant indexing of some subjects, is the new provision for a downward reading substitute. Thus one can now, for example, readily index subjects which have a 'compound agent' where one wishes the 'compound agentive term' to be expressed in connected form in the display (ie, when the string is read downwards) but to be treated as separate elements when they appear in the lead. Thus *lung cancer related to cigarette smoking* may now be coded as

(1) lungs
(2) cancer
(sub 2) (2) lung cancer
(3) related to
(sub 2) (2) cigarette smoking
(1) cigarettes
(2) smoking

Two entries from the string, illustrating the effect of the substitutions, would be

LUNGS
Cancer *related to* cigarette smoking
CIGARETTES
Smoking *related to* lung cancer

The work generally follows the arrangement of the first edition. The text is easy to follow with clear explanation and abundant examples. One's only regret is that, except in the case of differences, changes to the system between the two editions are not indicated and the reason for one change at least (the introduction of the operator (u) for two way interaction) is not clear.

The work has an excellent index, with entries generated (as is only appropriate) by the use of PRECIS.

Michael J. Ramsden
Department of Librarianship, RMIT

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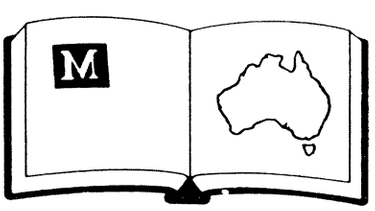

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News from the Divisions

TASMANIAN BRANCH

Branch activities for 1984 have mainly taken the form of evening meetings with guest speakers. The year opened with Laurie Brown (State Librarian) speaking on the topic 'A decade in the State Library' — a very informative and well-received address. In March we held our annual 'Welcome to new members dinner' with Warren Horton as guest speaker and this has since been followed up with a 'Welcome to students' evening in October with Jenny Adams as the guest speaker.

Open meetings have been held to discuss the important issues of Continuing Education, the Structure of the LAA, the Report of the Futures Committee and the paper on 'Library technicians — their place in libraries'.

A new venture this year has been the introduction of lunchtime meetings at a Hobart hotel, where a meal is provided and a speaker addresses the meeting. Speakers so far have been Marita Hargraves on the topic of 'Choosing a computer for the State Library' and John Bailey with a comparison of libraries and librarianship between the United Kingdom and France.

This year has also seen the publication by the Branch of *Library Services for the Print Handicapped: proceedings of a seminar held at the University of Tasmania, Hobart, 30th September 1983.* Copies are available from the Branch Secretary c/- State Library of Tasmania at a cost of $6.00 for members and $9.00 for non-members.

Activities arranged for the final part of the year include a talk by George Cates of the Patents Office, and a family barbecue at a beachside location for the Christmas function in December.

Jane Coatman
Branch Secretary

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION (WA)

It's always go in WA School Libraries Section. This term members have enjoyed the post-conference dinner in September; a workshop on computers in school libraries in October; and the WA Young Readers' Book Award presentation night in November.

Now we're looking forward to our sundowner Christmas party at Irina Dillon's (12 Tully Court, Bullcreek) at 4.45pm on Friday, December 8. This should be a great gathering, with champagne and chicken sandwiches (the champagne's in a glass — the chicken's in the sandwiches) and a chance to catch up with friends.

The post conference dinner provided an opportunity to farewell a friend. President Margaret Phillips presented a big bowl of flowers to Maxine Walker to mark Maxine's retirement from the position of Senior Lecturer in School and Children's Librarianship.

Maxine's knowledge of children and children's literature is matched only by her warmth and generosity of spirit; and her good, practical, down-to-earth approach to the problems of living. This was typified by her decision to spend one day a week in voluntary duty at the local high school library. She needed to do it, she explained, to keep in touch with the kids and what they were reading. For Maxine, school librarianship was never empty theory.

Margaret spoke for us all when she thanked Maxine for igniting a spark that flared to become a torch for children's literature. For some, it really is a burning passion. Thanks, Maxine, and enjoy your idyllic days among the flowers and birds at Toodyay. *Alison Gregg*

ONLINE USERS GROUP NSW

The NSW LAA Online Users Group held two meetings in September, the first a demonstration of INKA — Databases in Science and Technology by Dr B.C. Keonig.

Guest speaker at the second meeting was Mr J.P. Chillag, Head Librarian, Special Acquisitions, British Library Lending Division. He discussed BLLD services, SIGLE — System for Grey Literature in Europe, the British Library on Prestel, Automated Request Transmission (ART) International Service for document ordering and Urgent Action Service (UAS) International Facsimile.

A further meeting on October 30 provided a demonstration of the world's first online dictionary *The Macquarie Dictionary* by Computing 2000 Pty Ltd.

For a copy of the newsletter *Online Australia* which details these meetings, write to: The Editor, *Online Australia* 34 Ferndale Street, Newtown NSW 2042

The next meeting will be the Christmas Party on Tuesday 11 December, 6-6.30pm at ACI Computer Services, 57 Anzac Parade, Kensington. As well as Christmas fare, ACI will conduct a downloading demonstration.

Amanda Russell Convenor OLUG

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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Children's Libraries' Section, Victorian Group, invite you to celebrate MARVELLOUS MELBOURNE – 150th Anniversary and Christmas! A special Christmas meeting at Prahran Library Meeting Room, 177 Greville Street, Prahran, on Tuesday, 4th December 1984 at 8pm. Donation: $2; supper provided. Contact person: Margaret Aitken 669 9830.

G. Benness.

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