

The future in nursing education

Developments in nursing education were the subject of a seminar held on October 24 at the Chisholm Institute of Technology (Frankston Campus) in Melbourne.

Organised by Institute Librarian, Don Schauder and Academic Services Librarian, Megan Lilly the seminar was entitled 'The transfer of Nursing Education from hospitals to colleges: the implications for libraries'.

The 50 participants included hospital and college based nurse educators. Speakers covered the following issues:

- (1) Background: the transfer of nursing from hospitals to the education sector.

Mike Selway (VPSEC) and *Kevin McMahon* (Victorian Nursing Council).

- (2) Nurse Education: will the style and methods change?

Alison George (Alfred Hospital) and *Lidda Hebestreit* (Phillip Institute of Technology).

- (3) Implications of the effect on nurse education of the transfer: what does it mean for information services?

Joan Martin (Brownless Medical Library, University of Melbourne).

- (4) Information networks in nursing and its related disciplines: types of coverage, priorities, is there a core collection?

Joan Leith (School of Nursing Library, Lincoln Institute) and *Barbara Jacoby* (Biomedical Library, Monash University).

- (5) Effecting the transfer — what we did and how we did it.

Vicki Williamson (Armidale CAE).

- (6) Possibilities for co-operation.

Kathleen Gray (Queen Victoria Medical Centre).

- (7) Information needs of nurses after training: equipping them during training and providing access afterwards.

Jacquie Houston (Queen Victoria Medical Centre) and *Audrey Grant* (Lincoln Institute).

A small working party has been formed to bring the issues and concerns about libraries to the attention of the state funding authority. Proceedings from the seminar will be made available. Congratulations to the organisers and to Chisholm Institute for the opportunity to seek a common approach to a range of complex issues.

Vicki Williamson
Senior Librarian

SECOND CENSUS OF AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY SERVICES

In April 1985 AACOBS published the results of the Second Census of Australian Library Services. The Second Census covers, by library sector, the area of stock, library users and loans, staff and expenditure for the year 1982.

The AACOBS Task Force on Library Statistics continued the work of Dietrich Borchardt with the First Census and the Census represents the only comprehensive set of national statistics on libraries in Australia.

At a time when there is renewed discussion on the collection of library statistics it is worthwhile noting some of the problems faced by the Task Force.

Aggregated data is only as valid as the individual cases and inaccuracies in the Second Census arise from three main sources:

- i) Incomplete response from the library population. There is currently no complete listing of libraries in Australia so the first step of identifying the survey population was difficult. It was further complicated by a lack of definition as to what constitutes a Library.
- ii) Responding libraries often simply do not collect the data requested. In the case

of small libraries expenditure is hidden within the budget of the parent organisation and in large libraries, for historical reasons, data on collections may not be available.

- iii) Data is kept in different forms and related definitions vary considerably from between library sectors and often within sectors. This is often for perfectly valid reasons.

To resolve these problems librarians throughout Australia need to be convinced of the value of a set of national statistics and that the work involved in keeping data in a form that may not be of use for in-house operations is a worthwhile exercise. This has certainly not happened to date and raises the question: 'why collect aggregated national statistics on libraries?'. A clear understanding of the purposes for which the data will be used must be the first step in any future work on national library statistics.

Limited copies of the Second Census are available from:

Mrs Marion Newman
Secretary AACOBS
PO Box E202
Queen Victoria Terrace
ACT 2600

Nick Mayman
Convenor

AACOBS Task Force on Library Statistics



An illustration from Sepik Diary. More details on page 15.

NBC holds women and writing day

The NSW Branch of the National Book Council held a very successful function at the Q Theatre Penrith, on November 17.

The programme, called 'Women — Right!' was a celebration of women's writing. The speakers included Kate Grenville, writer of the Australian/Vogel award-winning *Lilian's Story* and Stephanie Dowrick whose first novel *Running Backwards Through Sand* was published earlier this year.

Both women talked about their work and their approach to it, and read excerpts from their books. These extremely stimulating sessions brought a number of questions and lively discussion from the audience.

After a break in the very pleasant and relaxing atmosphere of the bar and foyer of Q Theatre, columnist and broadcaster Robir Robertson presented a very entertaining piece, and the afternoon ended with Doreer Warburton, the driving force behind the Q Theatre, giving some readings from nineteenth-century letters from women then newly arrived in Australia.

The programme was so successful that it is hoped to be able to repeat it in Sydney early next year.

Further outreach programmes are planned on a regular basis and it is hoped to hold another event at the Q Theatre in the second part of 1986.

This NBC function was co-ordinated by Brenda Pittard, Kath Hawke and Kate Scott.

Meanwhile, Sydneysiders already preparing for the varied activities of the Sydney Festival — these days January's such a great month in Sydney that no one wants to go away — should look out for details of Writers Week. The NBC's Tom Thompson is co-ordinating activities for 16-19 January and full details will be published in the national press.

Enquiries to Brenda Pittard (02) 692 9233.

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