

## FEEDBACK

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION SA BRANCH

#### Special library visits

On 13 April, the Public Libraries Section, SA Group went on a tour of the Adult Migrant Education Centre library. Ann Beaumont, the librarian, gave an explanation of the services offered by the centre. Of particular interest to public libraries was the lending of cassettes and booklet kits to libraries as a bulk loan for indefinite periods. These kits are especially designed for people who wish to learn to speak English or for use by voluntary tutors in the community.

We were all fascinated by a touch screen video television which allowed students to determine which line of conversation they wish to pursue by touching an item on the screen when the action stopped. The setting was of a typical Aussie barbecue at someone's house with a range of invited guests. The user needs to ring the doorbell before entering the house, touches the heads of the people he/she wishes to speak to and is able to learn how to assimilate into normal social activity and conversations.

The library is well equipped, mainly with cassette/booklet kits, some foreign language books and plenty of audio visual equipment to assist those doing courses. The library is specifically for use by students doing courses through the Adult Migrant Education Centre

and those who attended the visit enjoyed the opportunity of seeing the resources offered by the library.

A tour of Department of Environment and Planning library was held on 15 June. We had to arrange another tour on 27 July to accommodate the number of people who responded positively. The librarian, Margaret Cottington, spent time showing us the library and demonstrated ABN which has all their holdings. Naturally, their first priority is to service departmental staff, however they do assist the public with enquiries. Interlibrary loans (ILL) are available through public libraries and the State Library using the LAA voucher system.

The shop front of their department is the Community Information Centre where most general public enquiries are received. The Technical Services Branch produces departmental publications which include maps, plans, reports and free brochures. A wide range of material is available, some free and some priced, including national parks material (there are 240 in SA), heritage information (including Aboriginal, European and maritime heritage) and pollution material.

Information on future planning developments in the state is also available with environmental impact reports, eg the proposed Wilpena Station resort, and the cable car on Mount Lofty.

We were particularly intrigued by the live black snake on display (in a case!) in the Community Information Centre.

*Julie Morgon*  
Secretary

### CATALOGUERS SECTION QLD GROUP

The Cataloguers Section (Qld Group) has been active throughout the first part of the year. On 14 March Elisabeth Bunker, an ergonomist from the National Safety Council, spoke of her profession in relation to library work. According to Elisabeth, ergonomics links design engineering with human anatomy, physiology and psychology and is also concerned with environmental issues such as adequate lighting, air flow and noise. She

demonstrated her own workstation specially designed for a library work environment. Posture, variation of activity and reduction of stress are all important aspects contributing to an efficient and comfortable work situation.

On 13 May, committee members met to discuss papers relating to the Australian Libraries Summit. Input was sent to the Queensland Branch on user representation in ABN, decentralisation and autonomy of ABN among other issues.

The Public Libraries Section joined us to present 'OPAC on ORACLE' at the State Library. Stan Bastow outlined the history of the development of the modules. This was followed by a demonstration by Ann Huthwaite, showing examples of search strategies and the corresponding assistance strategies ORACLE implements on OPAC. Anne Raunik, Public Libraries Section, State Library, then outlined the means by which outside institutions can access OPAC through Auspac.

Our last activity to date was a talk by Queensland State Archivist, Lee McGregor, on 4 July, on 'Arrangement of Archival Material'. Lee gave examples of correspondence from a late 19th century citizens' group concerned with maintaining moral standards in Queensland and showed how their material had been collated from files of various police departments and parliamentary records as well as that of the original group. The concepts of maintenance of original arrangement and provenance were shown to be most valid in the handling of these materials. The talk was both entertaining and informative. Another activity is planned for the Group's AGM in November and details will appear in *InCite*.

*Jocelyn de Glas*  
Publicity Officer

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION VIC GROUP

#### Minister predicts budget

The Victorian Government has accepted the Power Committee recommendations including its recommendation that no library will be worse off under the new funding arrangements. This was Arts Minister Ian Cathie's assurance in an address to a meeting at Bendigo Library on 19 July. The meeting of librarians, chaired by LAA Public Libraries Section, Victorian Group, Jane King, was jointly organised by the Victorian Group, the Chief Librarians' Council and Minterlib.

The Minister was unable to specify exactly what the State Government's contribution for 1988/89 would be as the Budget had yet to be brought down. Moreover, acceptance of the report of the Library Funding Review Working Party (the Power Report), which includes the new funding formula and the recommendation that the 1988/89 allocation be based on the 1987/88 amount with a 6 percent indexation, gave rise to cautious optimism. Triennial funding as recommended by the Power Report was specifically mentioned by the Minister: 'I believe that the Treasurer would consider libraries' case for three-year funding in the context of funding to a whole range of (government) agencies.'

The Minister also addressed the issue of a public libraries advisory body, which would include both local government and library representation, having direct access to the Minister over funding matters. Mr Cathie recognised the efficacy of this but until the Libraries Bill is passed in the Spring

*continued ?*

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parliamentary session, he has appointed the Power Committee to act as interim advisor.

While there can be no doubt that the State Government's share of costs for public libraries has been eroded over the past five years (from 39 percent in 1982/83 to 28 percent in 1987/88), the Minister's assurances on the 1988/89 allocation, triennial funding and the general acceptance of the Power Committee's recommendations give libraries some hope that the present level of services will be maintained.

*Ross Gibbs*

## AUSTRALIAN SERIALS SIG

### Attacking Serials in '88

Having a problem with serials? Some of them may be solved at the forthcoming seminar 'Attacking Serials in '88'. It is a joint seminar sponsored by the Australian Serials Special Interest Group (ASSIG), UCLS, New England Regional Group with assistance from the Acquisitions Section, NSW Group.

The topics are as follows:

- Exclusive agencies in serials supply — Val Hemmingway, Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services.
- Currencies, issues and trends — Bill Kelly, DA Books.
- Budgeting — Lionel Robson, University of NSW.
- Cancellations and rationalisation — Alan Ventress, State Library of NSW.
- Issues in serials automation — Marion Bate, University of NSW.

The seminar will be held on Friday, 30 September at the Library, University of NSW and repeated on Monday, 17 October at the Armidale City Council Chambers. The cost is \$50 for LAA members and \$65 for non-members.

Registration forms may be obtained from Patricia Baigent, (02) 922 5600; Rhonda Barry (02) 234 9840 or Jean McBride (067) 73 8630.

*Rhonda Barry*  
Committee member

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## NSW BRANCH

### Desktop publishing seminar

How much do you know about desktop publishing? What is the difference between desktop publishing and word processing? Will desktop publishing be of use to you?

Find out the answers to these questions and many more at the desktop publishing seminar on Wednesday, 12 October (see 'Happenings' for details). The speaker is Tony Webster, who has been involved in the computer business for 24 years, publishing for the last 10, and has written widely about PCs. He will be demonstrating Ventura Publisher and Page-Maker.

The cost will be \$12 LAA members and \$15 non-members. Reservations, by 5 October are essential. Contact Judy Engall (02) 764 3099 during business hours. Cheques should be made payable to LAA NSW Branch Council and sent c/- 188 Castle Hill Road, West Pasant Hills, NSW 2120.

*Judy Engall*

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION SA GROUP

The first half of 1988 has gone by very quickly and our group has been extremely busy. The year's first event, which combined social and educational activities, was a luncheon talk by Joan Brewer entitled 'Getting our acts together — SA Specials on the official agenda' held at Petty Sessions Restaurant on 2 March. Our next event was a short seminar on networking and special libraries, held on 20 April. Fifty-one librarians attended this successful program, where four special librarians representing different kinds of libraries spoke of how they use networks in their libraries. On 25 June, the Special Libraries Section was represented at the Career Show. On 4 August, we organised a visit to the Bray Reference Library with demonstrations of CD-ROM, Press COM and an introduction to the information services available to special libraries through the State Library. Numbers had to be limited to 30 and the program was so heavily subscribed to that a repeat performance will be held in September.

Aside from organising these events the Special Libraries Section Committee has been investigating the closure of some special libraries in the state and looking at guidelines for standards in special libraries. Because we have representatives from medical and law libraries on the committee this year, we have been able to reach out and involve many of these librarians in our programs. And because of extensive advertising of the new admission rules for LAA membership, we have had a number of new enrolments.

*Ingrid M. Zuesse*  
Secretary.

### Call for Nominations

#### Library Technicians Section, NSW Group

The Library Technicians Section (NSW Group) wishes to call for nominations for 1989 Division office bearers. The term of office for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, in addition to eight other committee members, is one year. Please send nominations for the above listed positions to Marian Morgan, PO Box N250, Grosvenor Street, Sydney 2000 6 October 1988.

#### School Libraries Section, NSW Group

The School Libraries Section (NSW Group) will meet on 12 October to examine nominations for 1989 Committee. The contact person is Sheila Hawkins (02) 439 5200.

### LIBRARIAN/INFORMATION OFFICER READER SERVICES/ LIBRARY SYSTEMS

**Qualifications essential.**

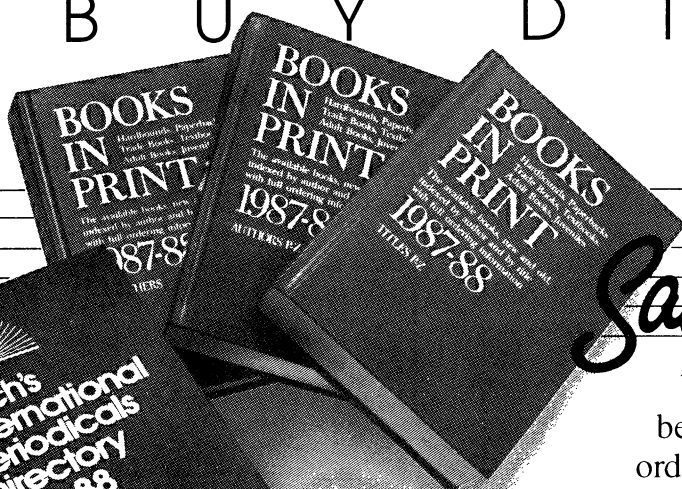
**Desirable:** Information skills. Experience, aptitude or training for automated systems, online searches, reference work.

Salary: \$20,988 — \$27,898 pa

Written applications: Employee Services Manager, St Vincent's Hospital, NSW 2010.

**Enquiries:** B. Sullivan (02) 361 2260.

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