

Information Services to Science Parks

During April, May and June 1988, I travelled through the US and England visiting science parks and associated university libraries. The visits were funded by an LAA Study Grant, with assistance from the South Australia Institute of Technology and Technology Park, Adelaide.

The purpose of the visits was to review information services to science park companies and to survey the perceived information needs of those companies. In the light of this review, recommendations have been made for the provision of an information service to Technological Park, Adelaide. These recommendations also have wider application throughout Australia.

While the intention was to look at situations similar to our own in Adelaide, at places such as Texas A and M University and the University of North Carolina, it became apparent that some libraries are so large that providing a service to companies on science parks is not difficult. The number of academic staff and students requiring service make any other requests seem insignificant. While policies have to be laid down, provision of service is not a problem.

In the US, the closest comparison was the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York. In England, Aston University, Birmingham and the South Bank Polytechnic, London, were of most relevance. These libraries realised that they had a responsibility to provide a service to their associated science park and were attempting in different ways to achieve that. I have drawn on their experiences, particularly in making recommendations on the service that the South Australia Institute of Technology library should provide to Technology Park, Adelaide.

While in the US, I also visited the Library of Congress, Washington DC, where I was given an escorted tour of the Madison Building by Mary Pietris, Chief of the Subject Cataloging Division. Another point of interest was the New York Public Library. I was amazed to find that at midday the steps lead-



New York City Public Library at lunch time.

ing to the library were crowded with people having their lunch break - eating sandwiches, reading books or playing chess. However, two brass railings have been erected in the centre of the steps by administration allowing library users to access the building during lunch hours.

The libraries and science parks varied enormously in size and environment. There was also a large variation in the relationship between the university and the science park. Those developed by a university as an opportunity for entrepreneurial development by academic staff tended to have a closer relationship than those developed by outside funding.

All the libraries I visited were most helpful, willing to share their experiences and interested to learn about Australian libraries. The welcome was less warm in the science parks, partly I suppose, because they could not see their immediate benefit from the survey and partly because they had been over-exposed (science parks seem to be a popular place to visit at the moment). Margaret Thatcher was at the Cambridge Science Park the week before I was there!

Overall the tour was interesting, informative and enjoyable. I have completed a more detailed article which may be published in the near future, however, copies of the report are available from LAA Head Office.

Linda Luther

Library Manager of the Year

New South Wales State Librarian, Alison Crook, received the LAA's Library Manager of the Year Award for 1988.

This award, which is sponsored by ACI Computer Services, recognises good management practices within Australian library and information services. It aims to encourage the development of an organisational climate which promotes innovation and effective working relationships between managers and their staff.

As State Librarian, Alison Crook has provided an atmosphere where innovative approaches are encouraged, opening up the organisation to new ideas, methods and procedures. Held in high esteem by her staff, she is regarded as dynamic, flexible, clear thinking and results-oriented. Alison has given new direction to the State Library of New South Wales. These include the establishment of LIBNET, formation of a new Preservation Department, and spearheading national initiatives on the preservation of paper-based materials and machine-readable records. The

State Library has introduced a Special Needs Centre for people with disabilities, placed strong emphasis on its outreach role and the provision of indirect services to people throughout NSW and developed extended film, video and audio services.

A significant achievement has been the establishment of the State Library Foundation, which has obtained corporate sponsorship of almost \$1 million. Under Alison's management the State Library of NSW has received much media attention. The opening of the new building, attended by over 10,000 members of the public, was a great success.

In accepting this award Alison stressed that it was a 'shared' honour: 'As every manager knows, achieving desired results and providing effective service is, ultimately, a matter of how well your staff perform. I am very pleased to receive this award as a mark of recognition for the enormous effort the staff at the State Library of NSW have put in the past year.'



THE METCALFE MEDALLION

JOHN METCALFE was responsible for establishing the basis of the profession of librarianship in Australia and was the dominating influence in the profession in this country until his retirement in the 1960s. John Metcalfe and his contribution to librarianship and library education are commemorated by the Library Association of Australia through the Metcalfe Medallion.

The award is for the most outstanding essay or other piece of work on any topic in the areas of librarianship, information science or archives administration, submitted by a student undertaking a first award course in librarianship or archives administration.

Students are invited to submit entries for the 1989 award. There is no specified form or style of entry — essays, AV or other items may be submitted. They should be pieces of work of publishable or reproducible standard.

A panel of several distinguished members of the profession will select the winning entry, which it is anticipated will be published in the *Australian Library Journal* or another suitable publication, or reproduced by the Association. The Association reserves the right not to make an award in any year.

Entries should be placed in a sealed envelope, marked only with the title of the work. This envelope, together with a covering letter indicating the title and the identity of the writer, should be sent to the LAA office. The outer envelope should be marked 'Metcalfe Medallion'.

There must be no identification on the entries themselves, and only one may be submitted by each entrant.

Send entries to Assistant Executive Director, Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo 2007. Entries close 1 December 1988. For further information contact the LAA Head Office (02) 692 9233 or toll free (008) 22 1481; Fax (02) 692 0689.

Now in stock! David Jones' *The Source Book: reviews of reference material for Australian libraries and information services*. \$18 members and \$27 non-members (plus \$1.50 postage). Source at your fingertips! Send in your cheque to LAA Head Office, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007.

IFLA/LAA Lost and Found

A camera was handed in at the conference and has yet to be claimed. If it is yours please contact Dulcie Stretton and Associates, 70 Glenmore Road, Paddington NSW 2021, phone (02) 357 6862. You will need to supply a detailed description of the item.