

FEEDBACK

AUSTRALIAN SERIALS SIG

Be a corresponding member!

The Australian Serials Special Interest Group (ASSIG) has been functioning for just over a year now. To date the executive and committee members have come from three mainland eastern states of Australia.

The Group is keen to have as wide a representation as possible in order to fulfill its objective as a national or even Australasian group. To this end ASSIG seeks corresponding membership from people interested in contributing to the committee but who may feel unable to nominate for positions because of location. In particular, ASSIG seeks corresponding members from the Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand.

If you are interested, please contact Patricia Baignent, Bennett-Ebsco Subscription Services, 35 Mitchell Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060.

The ASSIG Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Group. It includes a 'Letters' section. So, please feel welcome to forward your letters, comments or problems of any nature regarding serials. It is hoped that this section in the Newsletter can provide an opportunity for discussion of any issue or problem you have in serials management.

Please send letters to Pearl Champion, Editor, ASSIG Newsletter, Serials Section, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic. 3052.

Rhonda Barry
Committee member

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES SECTION WA GROUP

Key to success

There are few rewards for librarians whose aspirations exclude climbing the organisational ladder. Yet these librarians can be successful.

'Success is what you make of it', said one participant in the Round Table discussion organised by University and College Libraries Section (UCLS), WA Group, on the theme 'How to Succeed in Librarianship: conflict between personal and employer expectations'

The discussion, led by Geoff Allen and chaired by Chris Mulder, defined success in many ways, including reaching the top of the organisational ladder, earning a good salary, achieving professional excellence, and balancing professional life... but they recognised that peers, employers, families and friends may use quite different criteria to measure success.

Because there are few opportunities for 'advancement' up the organisational ladder in our hierarchical profession, there should be formal recognition of achievements by those who do not pursue a vertical career path, according to some participants.

Other topics covered in the discussion included tips on how to succeed if one decides that success is on the corporate ladder, the relevance of higher degrees in the fields such as business administration, and the role of professional and political mentors.

And what was the consensus? That to succeed one has to 'make the effort'...

Jane Klobas
Secretary/Treasurer

CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS SIG

Microfilming - a preservation tool

'Microfilming as a Preservation Measure' was the topic of discussion at the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Conservation of Library Mate-

rials' general meeting at the State Library of NSW, recently.

The meeting was chaired by Helen Price, LAA's Bicentennial Conservator, with a panel of four speakers. Alan Davies, State Library of NSW, gave a brief historical background of the publication of newspapers in NSW. He explained that the early newspapers had tiny circulations, owing to the small population and low rate of literacy. In the later 19th century, the higher level of education led to greater circulation. Wood pulp paper which is highly acidic was used for these newspapers and with age turned into fragments. The aim, explained Alan, is to try to preserve the information contained in the publications which reflects the life of the people, immaterial to the papers' physical format.

For this purpose, the Bicentennial Authority allocated \$270,000 to microfilm newspapers within NSW; however, only about 10 percent of these newspaper holdings could be microfilmed for that amount of funds. The aim therefore is to concentrate on country newspapers. As a result of the preservation campaign, some towns are becoming aware of their local history for the first time. Not all newspapers are in English, microfilms of non-English newspapers are being sent to ethnic organisations.

Bob Wahl, Production Manager from the commercial photography firm W and F Pascoe Pty, explained his work photographing historical documents and older newspapers. He sees the basic problems of transferring information to a medium which can readily be available and be preserved for a long time.

Microfilming is one of the methods which is long lasting, cheapest to produce and in a form readily available to everybody. Much work is required to ensure that the material is camera-ready. A careful check on quality is necessary to make sure all relevant material has been photographed and is readable. A master negative is produced and is stored in a temperature-regulated vault. Duplicate negatives of high quality are run off for customers at a low cost. Bob explained that Pascoe's were investigating a variety of new techniques such as recordings on laser discs to keep abreast of modern technology.

Jennifer Alison, Fisher Library, University of Sydney, described the nature of the large microfilm collection used mainly for research by students. Newspapers from many countries are included, eg the *Manchester Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Financial Times*, *Straits Times*, Indian and Indonesian newspapers, and *The Times* from as far back as 1785. Australian newspapers in the collection vary from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Bulletin*, to the *Barrier Times*. Government publications include the HMSO Colonial publications and those of the US Government Printing Office. Other categories are the Australian parliamentary papers, pictorial collections, Architecture, the Arts, manuscripts of authors, publishers' archives and a genealogical section.

The collection was acquired to obtain material in readily available form, not archival material as such. Microfiche of newspapers enabled hard copy to be stored.

Jennifer addressed the question of what should be attempted now, to discharge the responsibility of present workers in the field. University theses and publications produced on inferior paper required microfilming; also manuscript material should be copied for similar reasons. A national preservation project is needed, priorities decided and a plan devised to organise the necessary work. This material, to be available, should be on ABN.

Many of the items of books in the Ferguson collection should be considered for copying as much is vulnerable.

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The fourth speaker, Barbara Reed, consultant archivist, explained that archivists have to be a 'jack of all trades', making decisions 'off your own bat' as to whether to preserve each item considered. The archivist should be aware of the possibilities of microfilming original records and the advisability of doing so in each case.

She emphasised that microfilming was used to protect the original record, to make the material more available and ensure preservation of information. A range of technical procedures were described to ensure adequate preservation: assessment of priorities in relation to cost, need for adequate finding aids, photographic preparation, specification of type and quality of product, microfilming and regular monitoring.

Points made in the discussion highlighted the limitations of microfiche readers, which cannot cope with low reduction. The state of old newspapers is also a limitation on the format of the microfilm product. It was pointed out that the retrieval system is the weak link in the chain of preservation by microfilming.

The National Library is considering compiling a catalogue showing where master negatives are held, and making a cold store available for rent. The committee of the SIG on Conservation of Library Materials was invited to give consideration to the need to preserve books listed in the Ferguson bibliography.

Helen Price
LAA Bicentennial Conservator

ously Merlin) Hotel, in its Foyer Bar. Non-early risers who do not attend the AGM at 7.00 am that same day will gain Brownie points by coming along to the Sundowner. Sundowners will recommence on 27 January 1989. Judy Morrissey can be contacted for more information on (09) 328 2844.

Update, update... Information for the Nation

The **Information for the Nation** campaign aims to increase public awareness of the benefits of library and information services for all sectors of the community. The IFLA/LAA conference was our first real opportunity to promote **Information for the Nation** to the profession, and every opportunity was taken to do so. Alan Bundy's Presidential Address at the Association's Annual General meeting focused on the campaign, encouraging us to build on our strengths, our assets, our supporters and our users, as well as our co-operative national network of library and information services. The LAA stand in the conference exhibition featured campaign material, and our big yellow barrel attracted some interesting comments.

It is proposed that this will be a three-year campaign, and in the first year the focus will be on information services to the manufacturing sector. The Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce has contributed \$50,000 to the campaign and has asked us to examine the information services provided to industry by state library services, to look at the role of the National Industry Extension Service (NIES) in this area and to establish in all states a link between these bodies, so that (NIES) becomes a point of access for industry to library services nationwide. Elizabeth Swan, formerly of ACI Information Services, has been engaged as a consultant to carry out this survey in NSW and Victoria, and to establish a methodology for surveying the other states and territories. The Campaign Director will cover these, and a report should be ready for the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce before the end of the year.

Members and *InCite* subscribers will have received our first promotional brochure outlining the campaign, and seeking your support and suggestions on activities and on issues that the campaign should address. A competition sponsored by Time-Life Books was run in conjunction with the distribution of this brochure,

and the winner was Brian Tyrrell of Sunshine-Melton Library Service in Melbourne. A number of imaginative ideas and offers of support for the campaign came from this mailing.

A sponsors brochure is about to be produced, and this will be forwarded to potential corporate sponsors, with a launch to be held in Sydney in November.

Discussions have been held between the Convener of the National Campaign Committee, Anne Hazell; the Campaign Director and the Executive Officer of the Australian Council of Library and Information Services (ACLIS), Gordon Bower about co-operative action by the two bodies in promoting library and information services. The support of bodies such as ACLIS, ASLA and ALPC is important if the campaign is to show our full potential as information providers.

Divisions will shortly be asked to become involved in the campaign, by establishing local committees, identifying potential sponsors, and distributing campaign materials. A communications kit prepared by Alex Byrne is about to be published. It contains a wealth of information and ideas on lobbying and promotion, and will be a must for all divisions and libraries wishing not only to support but to publicise and market their services.

Watch *InCite* for the next update on **Information for the Nation**, or call me at the LAA office if you would like further details.

Sue Phillips
Campaign Director

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION WA GROUP

Sundowner success

Amongst the many successful activities organised by the Special Libraries Section (WA Group), this year, has been the monthly Sundowner. Held on the last Friday of each month for the last four months, the Sundowner has been a wonderful opportunity for special librarians to get together socially. Conversation has been lively and has also provided a means for 'airing grievances' for those working in professional isolation — as many special librarians do.

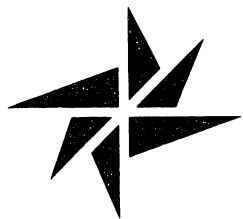
The last Sundowner for the year will be held on 25 November at 5.30 pm at the Hyatt (previ-

Correction Elections 1988

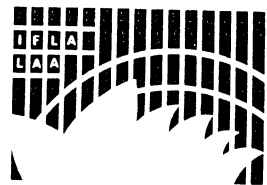
The election brochure and ballot paper for the 1988 election of Vice-President (President Elect) and members of the Board of Education distributed with *InCite* no.17, 7 October, incorrectly refers to Margareta Nicholas, a nominee for the Board of Education, as Margaret Nicholas.

Margareta is database manager, South Australian CAE Library. The Association apologises for this error.

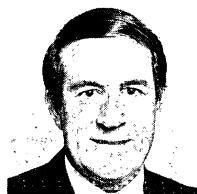
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IFLA/LAA SYDNEY 1988



Alan Bundy, President of the LAA, and Sue Kosse, Executive Director of the LAA, wish to express the LAA's appreciation and gratitude to all those individuals and institutions who so willingly and generously supported the LAA in hosting the 1988 IFLA/LAA Conference. Without you the LAA could not have done it.



Alan Bundy
President

THANK YOU

Sue Kosse
Executive
Director